

Royal High School Sporting Achievement

Sport has played a huge part in the education of Royal High Pupils over the ages, but it was not always thus...

The 1974 History quotes that for the first time (in 1696) a play period was officially allocated ‘...prior to this period any relaxation for sport or games was unknown...it was recommended that - every fourth day the scholars be allowed to play and refresh themselves one whole afternoon’. Thus began the High Schools love of sport.

In 1851, Saturday classes stopped, allowing the development of athletics and School games.

Work to Rule in the 1970's, and Teachers Industrial Action of the 1980's reportedly caused a reduction in sport activities due to the withdrawal of Teacher support, but others believe that changes in social habits were to blame. If the Wider Achievement Ceremony is anything to go by, the trend has certainly been reversed.

Until 2010, the Sports Prizes were awarded first at the Annual Prize Giving, and unlike now, the Prize List was at the very back of the Annual Report). From 2018, the Prize Giving included very few Sports Prizes.

This edition (2022) of the digital history contains detail level for the Wider Achievement ceremonies of 2013 to 2018, and extracts of other sports and pastimes from the Annual Reports from 2007-2008 to the present day. Further information is available on the RHS Club website at for the Royal High School Rugby Club history 1868-2001, and at http://archive.royalhigh.co.uk/new_page_11.htm for a wide range of sporting photographs from 1884 to 2013. Extracts from Schola Regia and a number of other sources will appear here in due course. Some Schola Regia editions will be digitised, and made available within the history. As a taster, the following are pages from the Summer 1922 Schola Regia featuring results from the Annual Games, and a cartoon pastiche of some notable sporting sixth-formers. If the text is too small, try using your browser magnifier.

Event.	First.	Second.	Third.	Time or Dist.	Medal.
1. Drop Kick, open	J. W. Hay.	—	—	49 yds. 3 in.	—
2. " under 15	A. Anderson.	W. Stoker.	W. Adamson.	S. Small.	All Merit.
3. " under 13	J. Smith.	W. Gunn.	—	34 yds. 2 ft.	Merit.
4. Throwing Cricket Ball, open	J. W. Hay.	W. G. Ferguson (58½ yds.).	—	85 ft. 6 in.	1 Ex. 1 Merit.
5. " under 15	W. Adamson.	W. Brown.	I. Alison.	70 yds. 10 in.	1 Merit.
6. " under 13	I. Suttholnd.	J. Murdoch.	J. Jordan.	54½ yds.	—
7. Putting the Weight, open	J. W. Hay.	A. Porter.	L. Arnott.	30 ft. 7 in.	1 Merit.
8. Long Leap, open	J. W. Hay.	W. G. Ferguson	I. C. Robson.	18 ft. 5 in.	1 Merit.
9. High Leap, under 16	W. Stoker.	—	—	4 ft. 4½ in.	—
10. " under 14	W. Adamson.	W. Gunn.	—	4 ft. 5½ in.	1 Ex.
11. " Open	W. G. Ferguson.	C. Taylor.	M. C. Whyte.	—	—
12. Long Leap, under 16	J. W. Bryce.	W. Stoker.	J. T. Neill.	15 ft.	—
13. " under 14	W. Gunn.	W. Adamson.	G. Lindner.	12 ft. 11 in.	—
14. 100 Yards, open	C. Taylor.	J. W. Hay.	C. H. Burrows.	1½ sec.	—
15. " under 16	R. Trotter.	J. B. Morrison.	W. Whyte.	—	—
16. " under 15	J. W. Bryce.	D. Miller.	W. M. Ross.	1½ sec.	—
17. " under 14	D. Cousland.	G. Lindner.	W. Walkinshaw	1½ sec.	—
18. " under 13	I. Cousland.	J. Smith.	F. Higgins.	14 sec.	—
19. " under 12	G. Gunn.	A. Jackson.	R. Mathers.	14 sec.	—
20. " under 11	R. Whyte.	—	W. Kennett.	14½ sec.	—
21. " (H'cap, under 10	C. A. Stephen.	G. A. Smith.	C. I. Miller.	W. S. Bell.	—

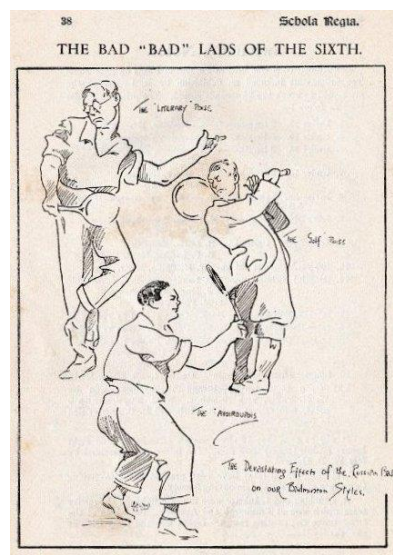
Note the drop kick open (event 1) – amazingly 49 yards 3 inches even with the heavy leather ball

Event.	First.	Second.	Third.	Time or Dist.	Medal.
22. 80 yards (H'cap), under 9	G. A. Smith.	J. Watt.	E. L. Thomson.	4. E. I. Golligly.	5. R. R. Mill.
23. " (H'cap) under 8	I. Milne.	E. Lindsay.	W. Thom.	4. E. Elson.	5. A. F. Lennox.
24. " (H'cap) under 7	G. Brown.	K. Fairgrieve.	J. Waddell.	M. Cowan.	J. H. Johnston.
25. 300 Yards, F.P.	P. T. Hutton.	J. Ballour.	—	—	—
26. " under 14	W. Murray.	A. Wilson.	G. Gunn.	G. Lindner.	D. Cousland.
27. One Mile, open	C. D. C. Golligly.	L. W. Arnott.	J. T. Patrick.	8 min. 34 sec.	2 Ex. 3 Merit
28. Half-mile, under 16	A. Keppie.	A. Whyte.	K. Lindner.	2 min. 34 sec.	1 Ex. 2 Merit
29. Quarter, open	L. W. Arnott.	C. H. Burrows.	J. W. Hay.	61 sec.	—
30. 120 Yards (H'cap), F.P.	E. A. Manson (1)	R. D. Young (sc.)	P. T. Hutton (sc.)	1½ sec.	—
31. 120 Yards Hurdles, open	J. W. Hay.	K. Cousland.	W. G. Ferguson.	10½ sec.	2 Merit.
32. " under 16	D. S. Cornsack.	A. Whyte.	K. M. Lindner.	22½ sec.	—
33. Relay Race, open	Picta.	Britons.	Angles.	—	—
34. Relay Race, under 15	Angles.	Scots.	Britons.	1 min. 59 sec.	—
35. " under 12	Angles.	Britons.	Picta.	62 sec.	—
36. Tug-of-War, open	Picta.	—	—	—	—
37. " under 15	Picta.	—	—	—	—
38. " under 12	Scots.	—	—	—	—
39. Sack Race, under 14	G. Gunn.	T. McDonald.	A. M. Blyth.	—	—
40. Obstacle Race, open	J. D. Home.	R. D. Murray.	G. Gunn.	—	—
SCHOOL CHAMPION and Winner of Medal	J. W. Hay.	—	—	No. of Points	24
RUNNER UP	W. G. Ferguson.	—	—	No. of Points	12

Note the FP's involvement (events 25 and 30), and a tug of War for three age groups (events 36, 37 and 38)

School Records.	
The following list of Records made at the School Games has been compiled by Mr Davis, who would welcome any correction or addition.	
Drop Kick . . . W. Robinson.	63 yds. 27 in. 1893
Throwing the Cricket Ball . . . J. Strachan.	109 yds. 1903
Putting the Weight . . . P. P. Nimmo.	32 ft. 1913
High Leap . . . G. M. Brierley.	5 ft. 4 in. 1887
Long Leap . . . A. E. McFarlane.	19 ft. 3 in. 1912
100 Yards . . . (A. Johnston.)	10½ secs. 1884
440 Yards . . . T. Catto.	56 sec. 1911
880 Yards . . . J. S. S. Lumsden.	5 min. 31 sec. 1884
One Mile . . . C. D. C. Golligly.	18 sec. 1921
120 Yards Hurdle . . . T. Catto.	—
Under 14.	
High Leap . . . A. McGeorge.	4 ft. 9 in. 1920
Long Leap . . . J. W. Hay.	17 ft. 2 in. 1921
100 Yards . . . A. McGeorge.	11 sec. 1920
Half-Mile . . . R. H. Westwater.	2 min. 28½ sec. 1921
Under 15.	
High Leap . . . W. Adamson.	4 ft. 5½ in. 1922
Long Leap . . . A. McGeorge.	16 ft. 1 in. 1919
100 Yards . . . A. McGeorge.	11½ sec. 1919
300 Yards . . . A. McGeorge.	40½ sec. 1919
Stanzas.	
A dusky sky with silver snow; An elfish, horned moon; A breeze that strayed with gentle moon Upon the broad lagoon; A bird that sang with tender tones, And ceased—Oh! all too soon.	It was a maiden young and fair, Her eyes were dark and bright. She came upon me unaware— I marvelled at the sight— To see her lustrous, silky hair Under the dim half-light.
The lapping of a lile tide Where myriad pebbles lie; A few tall lilies, in their pride Uprising to the sky; Out of the darkness by my side A tall form wandered by.	She passed me with a noiseless tread And drifted on her way; And in my heart were sudden dread, Quick wonder, and dismay, For why should she be wandering Beside the moonlit bay?
H. H. W.	

Enduring school sports records – note the drop kick of 64 yards – perhaps downwind?



Evidently some respected – or perhaps vilified sixth formers

Wider Achievement Ceremonies

The commencement of the Wider Achievement Ceremony (WAC) a few years ago signalled an end to Sports Awards at the Annual Prize Giving, but made way for a complex event featuring dance and Music along with an extensive Prize Giving with a diverse range of Awards. Prize Winners from all seven WAC ceremonies are included in this history, just after the photographs. The 2019 Ceremony will be described in more detail in a future edition.

The 2018 WAC is shown as an example, and was a showcase of Drama, Dance and Sport for the school. The keynote speaker was Hearts Don Cowie, who not only presented the prizes, but also delivered a hugely impressive speech explaining his attitude to sport, encompassing training, timekeeping, attitude and lifestyle. The programme is accessible later, but our photographic team recorded a few images for posterity.

2018 WAC photos



The 2018 German exchange



The Badminton winners



Duke of Edinburgh award winners



Small lad, huge trophy



The Senior Dance team perform



The SPOTY announcement

Annual Reports entries.

Annual Reports have for many years provided an in-depth review of Sports and other extra-curricular activities. The following are extracts covering 2007-2017 onwards from the reports.

2016/2017

Active Schools

Welcome to the Active Schools and Royal High School Health and Well Being Sports Report for the 2016/2017 session. This year saw, once again, a number of incredible achievements from the pupils of the Royal High School. In addition to a variety of successes, the number of pupils participating in the sporting opportunities offered at The Royal High School has increased for the third straight year. This is a testament to the enthusiasm of the pupils, staff, parents and club coaches volunteering and participating to make the Royal High School programme one of the best on offer in the city.

Below you will read a number of brief reports on the fantastic range of opportunities available, and accolades achieved, from those at The Royal High School across the previous session;

Athletics

Continuing to build on Brian Winning's Legacy, our Royal High Panthers Athletics programme grows year on year under the watchful eye of our Head Coach, Keith Ridley, and our Student Coach of the Year, Eilidh Thores. The club not only provides sessions for our High School pupils but also a development programme from P3 upwards for all pupils attending our local catchment primaries. Enjoying our continued link with Edinburgh Athletics Club, Royal High Panthers sent a total of 25 athletes to the Edinburgh Athletics Championships and 10 to the Scottish Schools Indoor, Outdoor and Cross Country Championships. Medals, many gold, were taken in a number of disciplines. Congratulations to our all our Athletes, especially our medallists and Royal High School Traditional Award Winners.

Badminton

Off the back of our Under 19 Mixed League Winning Season our senior team continued their progress, narrowly exiting the Edinburgh Schools Knockout Shield at the semi-final stage. Our Under 14 and Under 16 boy's teams showed excellent resolve throughout the year, taking a number of wins coupled with some narrow losses to both George Watson's and Firrhill High School in the knockout stages. Our school club continues to be one of our most popular with over 40 pupils attending each week.

Football

As one of The Royal High's most popular sports, we fielded boy's teams at five age groups, alongside our junior girls' team. Excellent performances from both our S1 and S2 boys saw lengthy cup runs and high league finishes, both narrowly missing out on the top three positions. Our S4's enjoyed a goal laden season, scoring more than any team in the league but unfortunately just being pipped into second place in the last few games of the calendar. Our first eleven boys represented the school fantastically and, as always, set a great example for our younger groups. Congratulations to our junior girls' team who participated in all the Edinburgh Girls Festivals available to them. Regularly facing teams older than themselves the group used a fantastic team spirit to win the majority of their matches. We look forward to this group continuing to participate in the hope of entering the Scottish Cup in the near future.

Hockey

Led by Miss Lea and our excellent Student Coaches, Alexander Douglas and Josh McCulloch, our junior team have literally gone from strength to strength, adding in extra conditioning sessions in addition to their regular on the field training. A Scottish Inspire Hockey Cup run unfortunately ended prematurely for our seniors but with an excellent coaching structure in place for next year we hope to see runs for both our juniors and seniors.

Netball

Another excellent season for another of Royal High's most popular activities. Our S1's continue to turn out in huge numbers, we look forward to seeing these girls participate in next year's Scottish Cup having built an excellent team spirit this year. Both our S2 and Open Teams enjoyed fantastic cup runs, our S2's losing in the Quarter Finals and our Open Squad, after winning all their group matches, being knocked out by the eventual winners by only one goal in an enthralling encounter. Our standout team of the year was our S3's. Congratulations to all involved after their victory in the Scottish Cup Bronze Final. A phenomenal achievement, a first national title in Netball for The Royal High, we are very proud of this group of girls who are a credit to themselves and the school. Well done! We continue to enjoy

great club links with Barnton and Dunedin Netball Clubs through our coaches Joanne Campbell and Kay Farquhar, we're excited to see what next season brings.

Rugby

One of our core sporting programmes at The Royal High sees us classed as one of Scotland's few Schools of Rugby. Our Rugby Development Officer, school staff and a huge number of parents and former pupils continue to contribute to make the programme unrivalled in the local area. Students wishing to commit to the programme are offered core rugby sessions from S3 onwards, strength and conditioning and nutritional support as well as bi weekly on pitch training sessions with our coaching staff. Next year is an exciting one as we will begin to benefit from additional coaching and development support across the full school community. We once again fielded 5 boys age group teams this year, in addition to supporting a number of standout girls who teamed with Liberton/Lismore to reach the Under 15 Scottish Shield Final.

Swimming

A legacy of swimming at The Royal High continues with this year's standout squad. Sending a number of Swimmers, many training with local club Heart of Midlothian, to the Edinburgh and Scottish Schools Individual and Team Championships is an excellent achievement, congratulations to all. A number of individuals have also progressed to the Scottish National Age Group Championships after taking medals in the Scottish Schools Championships. Well done to all our Royal High Traditional Swimming Award Winners, we look forward to your continued success next year.

2015/2016 – no Sports entries (this will hopefully be remedied in due course).

2014/2015

We have had many sporting success this year across a wider range of sports. In rugby, Charlie Shiel and Ross McCann represented Scotland at U18 level, our U16s won the regional Brewin Dolphin Plate and were runners up in the final of the National Plate competition and the school retained the Edinburgh Seven aside trophy. There was also a highly successful rugby tour to South Africa and we have been awarded 'School of Rugby' status by the SRU. In athletics there was great success at both Edinburgh Schools, Scottish Schools and Ellie McGinty, Calum Batho and Cal McLennan are all now representing at International Level. Badminton continues to flourish in school and Julie MacPherson, Gemma Wright, Michael Farnood and Lily Farnood are all representing at National Level and competing against the top players in the UK. In curling Lily Davidson was part of the team to take home the Edinburgh Schools Curling Trophy - 'The Crabbie Cup' and the Army Careers Trophy. Dance continues to grow in the school with hundreds of girls involved both in and out with school with very impressive choreographed routines being put on throughout the year and excellent SQA results at all levels. The football teams performed well in all age groups and became a real force in Edinburgh. Our S2 students won the league and the cup trophy and our senior boys finished second but were undefeated all year! One of our leavers, Craig Russell, is off to the states on a 'soccer scholarship'. In gymnastics Erin Gallacher was asked to represent Scotland at U16 level. Our hockey team has been victorious against all state schools in Edinburgh with outstanding performances from Rhona Fraser, Alexander Douglas and Alanis Campbell. The hockey team will be playing in the Independent League next year. Netball also had an outstanding year with both S2 and S3 teams making it in to the national finals and Catherine Bough, Lois Shiel and Lauren Pollock have all been selected at National Level. In Squash Pietro Gagliardini, James Riches and David Riches were all part of East of Scotland Team to win Scottish Inter-Regionals. In swimming Rory Young, Daniel Parker, Alice Walker Stewart, James Lowder and Yesim Walton all achieved top results at the Edinburgh Schools and Scottish Schools. In table tennis, Jake Somerville is representing at National Level. Josh Haggart continues to impress in Tae Kwon Do and he became the Scottish Junior Black belt Middle Weight Champion this year. Claudia Henry continues to represent Scotland in volleyball and will take her volleyball career further as she leaves school. And finally American Football, Basketball, Cycling, Cheerleading and Cricket also continue to offer recreational and competitive opportunities at extra-curricular levels.

Our first residential of the session was a very successful ski trip to Les Deux Alpes in France. Over 60 students attended Hillend over the course of the year and received certificates for improvement in their ski ability. We had a very successful U13/U14 Football Trip to London in May. Trips to the Dounans Outdoor Centre saw Students taking part in a wide range of activities such as canoeing, rock-climbing, And finally our South African rugby tour wielded a very impressive 5/7 tour wins. All these opportunities created fantastic memories for students and staff

and make a huge contribution to the life of the school. They would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of staff.

2013/2014

Rugby

It has been a positive season for The Royal High School rugby senior program, but with some disappointments along the way.

Our S1-1st XV squads retained the Edinburgh Schools' Sevens Series in some style for an impressive 3rd year in a row. This is a fantastic achievement.

The U16 programme has also had a very successful year with the boys competing at both School and Club, representing Royal High. In the school programme, the boys were unbeaten in their season whilst also competing in the Brewin Dolphin Plate Competition, where they won the Edinburgh regional final and had the honour of playing in the National Plate finals. They faced good opposition in Queen Anne's HS from Dunfermline and St. Columba's from Glasgow before playing Queen Victoria HS from Dunblane in the final and managing to run out as victors to be crowned the National Plate Champions.

In the club competition the U16 squad won their regional league and again won through to the national competition where they played Jed Thistle and were due to play eventual champions, Ayr; however the team had to forfeit the game and were denied the opportunity for the U16 group to do something very special.

The 1st XV unfortunately had a very sporadic season of fixtures, which was frustrating for the players; however it is testament to this particular group of boys that they did continue to commit to training even though games were infrequent. Again the 1st XV were entered into the Brewin Dolphin Plate competition where the highlight of the season was winning the regional final versus Boroughmuir. This earned the chance to play in the national final where they played eventual winners Glenalmond College, who were too strong for us on the day. Other notable performances came in the Edinburgh Regional Seven a side tournament where the 1st VII managed to overcome some very strong opposition to run out winners, which affords the whole school the opportunity to retain the series title, which they have won in two out of the last three years. On a personal note we have had some fantastic progress, with many players being selected for regional programmes. Ross McCann and Charlie Shiel have been selected to play for Scotland U16 and are also progressing forward to the next stage by being selected into the Regional Academy programme run by Scottish Rugby. Chris Pringle was selected into the regional player development programme run by City of Edinburgh Council and Luca Vita was selected into the Edinburgh U17 squad. Overall a very strong season, building on the strong foundations already in place and in front of what will be the biggest season of rugby Royal High has experienced in its recent history, with the focus of a Tour to South Africa planned for June 2015.

Football

We have been running four football teams in the Edinburgh & Lothian Schools competition (13s, 14s, 16s and 18s) with each enjoying some measure of success.

Coached by former pupils Andrew Watson and Richie Laurie, the under 13's have had a fantastic season. The boys finished second in the league behind a Broughton team fielding elite players and at the time of writing have reached the regional final of a 7 a-side tournament. Details of their success will be on the website. A bright future is predicted for this team.

The Under 14's, under the leadership of parent volunteer, Chris MacArthur, and senior pupils, Scott McRory-Irving and Tony Hepburn, continue to make good progress. The boys drew five of their fixtures and with a little luck would have finished further up the table.

The Under 16's, coached by former pupil Liam Wilson, continue to go from strength to strength. The team finished fourth in the league and narrowly lost a Lothian Cup semi-final at the hands of Newbattle. The success of the team this year bodes well for next season's senior team.

The seniors under the guidance of Mr Tilston and Mr Watson contained a good mix of S5 and S6 boys. The team contested the league up to the very end and finished fourth. There was individual success in the shape of Harry Oliff who has been representing the Lothian Schools at district level.

RHS Snowsports Club

This year the Snowsports Club nearly doubled in membership - we had 45 pupils who attended weekly ski lessons at the Midlothian Snowsports Centre on Tuesday evenings. We had four ability groups who all made huge progress over the year. We hope to continue to run our ski lessons next session as there has been so much interest from the

pupils. Many thanks to Katherine Henry and Holly Davidson, who consistently helped out with running the club this year.

We also ran a ski trip to Les Deux Alpes in March. Twenty pupils from RHS along with 13 pupils from Craigmount spent a week developing their confidence, skiing ability and communication skills on the ski slopes in France. Mrs Shearer returned to assist with the trip and her help and enthusiasm were much appreciated. The pupils all had an amazing time and learned a lot from the experience. We stayed in a hotel a short walk from the slopes and enjoyed three hot meals there every day to keep us full of energy. Our ski instructors were brilliant and made sure that everyone was enjoying themselves, and the weather was just perfect with lots of sunshine – we were even sunbathing in our lunch breaks! By the end of the trip, the pupils were exhausted but had had an amazing experience.

RHS Netball Club

Our school netball club expanded again this year and had a very successful year. Our new S1 intake were already very experienced in playing competitive matches and were very keen to play as much as possible. We also had most of the previous members returning so we had a huge number of girls coming to our weekly training sessions. We entered the S1 and a S2/3 team in the local league and had mixed success throughout the year in our Sunday morning matches.

Our S1 and S2 teams also entered into the Scottish Cup this year. The S2 team came third in the local round so progressed into the Silver section of the cup, then had a convincing win against Bishopbriggs followed by a nail-biting win against Hamilton College in the quarter finals. This set up a semi-final clash against Firrhill High School, which unfortunately the girls lost by 4 points. The S1's were top of the local group then stormed their way to the final of the Gold section with fantastic wins against St Peter the Apostle, High School of Dundee and Notre Dame. We had a very exciting trip to Motherwell to play in the Scottish Cup Final where unfortunately we lost to Peebles. The girls loved every minute of it and plan to play in the tournament again next year.

Finally a massive “thank you” needs to go out to Lorraine Doig (5P2) for being so committed to helping out this year – she's now a fully qualified umpire and coach and is ready for even more expansion of the club next year.

Hockey

The junior hockey team have had a good season. This year we have seen the number of pupils training on a Monday rise to over 30, which is great. There has been clear progress evident in match fixtures, notable victories include winning 9-0 against Forrester High School, a 5-0 win against Firrhill High and some great performances in the Tynecastle tournaments. It is also encouraging that a number of pupils are playing for local clubs.

Athletics

The newly created Royal High Athletics Club has offered terrific opportunities for all local young people to get involved with athletics. The club is part of the Royal High Sports Hub and offers training sessions across the week. A number of our senior students give up their time as volunteers to help the club coaches deliver the training programme.

At the time of writing, we have two squads of athletes entered into the Edinburgh Schools Championships at Meadowbank and the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth and Hampden. As with previous years we hope there will be a number of medals won!

Calum Batho (S4) has had another successful year having been selected to compete for Scotland in the pentathlon, winning the under 16 Scottish Combined Events Championships, as well as representing Edinburgh Athletics Club in a number of competitions across the year and helping Scotland take second place at the UK development league finals. Ellie McGinty (S5) has also had an impressive season. She also represented Scotland in the pentathlon competition, is ranked top 10 in her age group across a number of events and has been selected to train with the Scottish sprint relay squad. She has won a range of medals during the season in a number of UK competitions, including the national finals of the UK development league where she won gold, silver and two bronze medals.

Cross Country

In cross country, our S4/5/6 boys' team won the local Edinburgh League with the S1/2 girls' team also winning their title. The Senior girls took third place in their competition. Robert Bough (S6) won the individual Edinburgh title and was selected to represent Scotland in the London Mini Marathon for the third time. Huge thanks go to Jill Shepherdson, another of our volunteer parents, for helping to organise the squads and races this year.

Badminton

The RHS team, once again supported by a volunteer parent, Lynne Wright, performed very well and retained the Edinburgh Schools Cup in the under 19 category. This led to them once again representing Edinburgh at the Scottish Cup Finals, where they finished as joint runners up.

A number of our pupils continue to enjoy success with various national squads and individual competition wins. Julie MacPherson (S5) represented Scotland at the under 19 World Junior Championships and took third place at the Under 17 European Junior Championships, as well as winning a range of UK titles across the year. Lily Farnood (S2) has also been picked for National squads at Under 15 level and has won medals at a number of tournaments, with Gemma Wright (S4) also winning medals at national events this year.

In conclusion

As always, the school owes a huge debt of thanks to all the staff, students, former pupils and parents who give up their own time to help with our sporting programme. Many of the roles are undertaken behind the scenes without any expectation of reward, so we take this opportunity here to say a very big “thank you” to you all.

2012/2013

Sports Clubs

The school has had considerable team and individual success this academic year, as we continued to support and expand the range of activities offered to young people in school. As in previous years, team sports such as rugby and football are well established and continue to attract players, but there are a many more sports clubs available, which help maintain the school’s rich tradition of participation within our students.

The Royal High School has recently been designated as the city’s third school based Community Sports Hub (Forrester HS and Broughton HS are the others). The Community Sports Hub will not be officially launched until August 2013 but the summer term saw a range of athletics, cricket and adventure activities opened up to the local primary and S1 groups. There will be a number of exciting opportunities available to the local community in the coming months and we look forward to working with SportScotland, The City of Edinburgh Council Sports Unit and a number of local sports clubs on this new initiative.

As always, the school owes a huge debt of thanks to all the staff, students, former pupils and parents who give up their own time to help with our sporting programme. Many of the roles are undertaken behind the scenes without any expectation of reward, so we take this opportunity here to say a very big “thank you” to you all. Without this army of helpers we would struggle to provide these opportunities for our students.

We would always like to provide more sporting opportunities and experiences for our pupils, so if you would like to get involved then please don’t hesitate to get in touch with the school. We would be delighted to speak to you about how you can help in the coming year. *Mr Neil Russell (Active Schools Co-ordinator)*

Football

In football, we ran four teams (Under 13, 14, 16 and 18) with each enjoying some measure of success. The 13s, who this year were coached by two volunteer parents, Ian Ashcroft and Callum Percy, finished mid-table in the league. The under 16s and the under 18s also finished mid-table under the guidance of Mr Serhani, Mr Brower, Mr Tilston and Mr Watson.

The real success came with the Under 14s who won their league championship for the first time in almost 25 years. Two former pupils, Andrew Watson and Richie Laurie, guided the team to great success.

Girls’ football is continuing to develop and grow, with a number of pupils playing for various Edinburgh clubs. There will be a new focus on girls football next year with new opportunities about to be developed with the assistance of the SFA and City of Edinburgh Council Sports Unit.

Rugby

This season has been one of success and progress for all rugby teams at The Royal High School. The school has once again been awarded the SRU Gold award for rugby development as well as retaining the prestigious Edinburgh School’s 7s Series. This success is a product of the fantastic coaching set-up directed by RHC Cougars development officer, Steven Leckie, and supported by FPs and parent coaches.

The S1 squad was able to field 2 teams at various points throughout the season. Thanks to the enthusiasm of coaches, Fergus Henderson and Ross Hanning, and the hard work of the boys, they took some notable scalps in

George Watson's and Boroughmuir. The season culminated in winning the S1 Edinburgh 7s and a bright future is predicted for this team.

The S2 squad continues to go from strength to strength and their performances in both training and matches point to a team who have the ability to make real strides in the years ahead. Under the guidance of Steven Leckie the S2 team won the Edinburgh 7s and will go on to achieve greater success.

The S3 team had a good year, under the leadership of Ewan Morrison and Gavin McLeod, making good progress as a squad. Again, they won the vast majority of their games and capped off the season by winning the S3 Edinburgh 7s. Their target for next season will be to win the Brewin Dolphin National Shield event – something they are capable of achieving.

The S4 team had an excellent season, continuing to set the bench mark for rugby at The Royal High School. Their commitment, desire and ability have been nurtured by Scotland 7s coach, Graham Shiel. The boys produced some stunning rugby to reach the final of the Edinburgh U16 Plate where they narrowly lost to a strong Portobello side. The S4s also finished the season by winning the S4 Edinburgh 7s and there was individual success in the shape of Ross McCann who was selected in the Scotland U16 training squad.

The 1st XV had a difficult year. A very small pool of players meant that any injuries and study commitments made it difficult to field a full 15 at times, though the boys battled valiantly in the both the National Shield and Edinburgh 7s events. A number of S6 players took the chance to shine for the RHC Cougars 1st XV including Scott Simpson, Douglas Sutherland, Gil Whitton and Niall Brady. This bodes well for the future links between club and school and we look forward to a successful 2013-14 season. *Mr Ewan Brodie*

Athletics

Our new summer term athletics club is growing in success and is furthering the development of students interested in trying athletics as well as providing extra practice for our successful Edinburgh and Scottish Schools representatives.

At the time of writing, we also have two squads of athletes entered into the Edinburgh Schools Championships at Meadowbank and the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth.

In cross country, our S5/6 team won the local Edinburgh League with the S1/2 team and boys S3/4 team finishing third in their competitions. Robert Bough (S5) was selected recently to represent Scotland in the British Schools Cross Country Championships in Wales. Robert was also selected to represent Scotland in the London Mini Marathon for the third time on 21st April.

Badminton

Badminton continues to attract decent numbers, and there is a mix of practice and competitive sessions. The RHS team, supported by a volunteer parent Lynne Wright, performed very well and won the Edinburgh Schools Cup in the open age category. This led to them representing Edinburgh at the Scottish Cup Finals where they finished a very creditable fourth place.

A number of our pupils continue to enjoy success with various national squads and individual competition wins. Heather MacPherson (S6), Julie MacPherson (S5), Gemma Wright (S3) and Lily Farnood (S1) have all performed to an exceptional standard throughout the year winning titles at the Scottish Schools Championships. Heather and Julie have also been selected for the Scottish Team for the Junior World Championships in Thailand later this year.

Cricket

Summer term saw the coaches from RHC Cricket Club delivering curriculum cricket sessions to the S1 year groups. Michael Kelly (S5) and Alasdair Sadler (S4) train with the Edinburgh Sports Academy Squad and represent the City and their clubs with distinction.

Hockey

The junior hockey team have had a successful year; there has been a great turn out of S1/S2 pupils every Monday afternoon. This year the focus was primarily on the development of skill, team strategy and fitness. We were very fortunate to have fabulous captains in Alexander Douglas and Rhona Fraser. Prizes were awarded in the last training session and they include best S2 player Alex Douglas, most improved S2 player Cara McDonnell, best S1 player Freya Bryce and Kian Gallacher (joint). The most improved S1 player was Matthew Ross. Well done to all those who participated in the club this year. Games have already been scheduled for next year so please keep up to date with fixtures.

Tennis

Both the boys and girls tennis teams were entered into the Scottish Schools Tennis Championships, keen to defend their titles for a 3rd year in a row. The year started on a high when we were awarded the Tloc Prophit Trophy from the East of Scotland LTA in recognition of winning the Scottish Schools Tennis Championship in 2011 and 2012 – the ‘double double’. An incredible historic first!

However, it wasn't to be this year. Although both teams did very well, finishing in joint 3rd place after losing tough semi – finals against Beaconsfield School (girls) and Merchiston (boys), both tennis academies.

Well done to all players, you fought hard and did Royal High proud. The players were Euan McIntosh (captain) S6, Reuben Henry S6, Yassine Ghenima S2, Ross Clarke S6, Ross Witney-Hunter S2, Millie Stretton S4, Claudia Henry S3, Claire Duncan S4, Heather MacPherson S6, Julie MacPherson S6.

Euan McIntosh performed to a very high standard all year ending up ranked second in the UK under 18s rankings. We wish him continued success with his tennis career as he takes up a University tennis scholarship next year in the USA.

Mountain Biking

Mr Davenport (Science staff) continues to lead the cycling club where a range of activities from local cycle rides, mountain biking and indoor cycle racing have taken place throughout the year. *Mr Ben Davenport*

RHS Netball Club

Our school netball club expanded again this year with an intake of S1s who were enthusiastic and committed to playing competitively for the school team. We entered an S1 and an S2/3 team in the local league and had mixed success throughout the year in our Sunday morning matches. Our S1 team also entered into the Scottish Cup for the first time this year. We got off to a shaky start with a loss against Craigmount, but then responded with a fantastic home win against Firrhill to get through to the Silver knock-out round. We then had away wins against Lomond and St Luke's, followed by a well-supported home semi-final win against Hermitage. We had a very exciting trip to Motherwell to play in the Scottish Cup Final where unfortunately we lost to Grove Academy. The girls loved every minute of it and plan to play in the tournament again next year. We are also looking forward to our new S1s arriving as the local primary schools have had excellent netball teams this year. Finally a massive thank you needs to go out to our netball captain Catriona Salton (6A2) for being an inspiration to the squad and to Lorraine Doig (4P2) for being so committed to helping out this year. *Miss Joanne Simpson*

RHS Snowsports Club

This year saw the creation of a new snowsports after-school club. We had 24 members who attended weekly ski lessons at the Midlothian Snowsports Centre at Hillend on Tuesday evenings. We had two ability groups who both made huge progress over the year. We hope to continue to run our ski lessons next session as there has been so much interest from the pupils. Many thanks to Janette Shearer and Fiona MacMillan who supported the running of the club this year.

We also ran a ski trip to Les Deux Alpes in March. Ten pupils from RHS along with 17 pupils from Craigmount spent a week developing their confidence, skiing ability and communication skills on the ski slopes in France. The pupils all had an amazing time and learned a lot from the experience. We stayed in a hotel a short walk from the slopes and enjoyed three hot meals there everyday to keep us full of energy. Our ski instructors were brilliant and made sure that everyone was enjoying themselves, and the weather was just perfect with lots of fresh powder and sunshine. By the end of the trip, the girls had made some lasting friendships with the pupils from Craigmount, and made a massive leap forward in their skiing ability. *Miss Joanne Simpson*

Cheerleading Club

The S2 cheerleading group train once a week on a Tuesday after school. This year we have performed in our own ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ night and also in the *Summer Fling*. The group has been dedicated to improving their skills in both the dance and gymnastic elements of cheerleading. *Miss Heather Brown*

Ice skating Club

Our new ice-skating club has had a very successful first term; we began training at Murrayfield in March and completed a five week block of coaching. The focus was on developing basic skills on the ice such as moving forwards and backwards, standing up (after a fall), sculling, stopping and rotation. The pupils were working towards their

UKCC Learn to Skate awards and even after only 5 weeks some members already achieved Levels 1 and 2. Claudia Charwood received the Best Junior Award for achieving Level 2 and Georgia Kirkwood received the Most Improved Award for her determination and skill progression. The Club has laid solid foundations and we hope to build upon this in the first term after the summer holidays. *Miss Anna Kotowska and Miss Nicola Bissett*

2011/2012

Sports Clubs

The school has had considerable team and individual success this academic year, as we continued to support and expand the range of activities offered to young people in school. As in previous years, team sports such as rugby and football are well established, and continue to attract players, but the new clubs like mountain biking, cheerleading, netball, basketball and kickboxing also help maintain the school's rich success of participation within our students.

Football

In football, we ran four teams (Under 13, 14, 16 and 18) with each enjoying some measure of success. The 13s, who were expertly coached by Cameron McCulloch and Sean Veitch, finished mid-table in the league with a strong finish to the season that saw them win five out of their last six games. The 14s and the 16s also finished mid-table under the guidance of some former pupils of the school.

The real success came with the Under 18s who won the league championship under the expert guidance of Robert Watson. A number of the players were in fifth year at school so hopefully this success can continue next year as well.

There were also individual successes in football. Both Calum Cowan and Craig Russell were regulars for the Edinburgh Schools Under 15s squad, who narrowly missed out on glory within the National competition as they got beat in the semi finals of the competition, although getting to that stage was an achievement in itself.

In addition, it is pleasing to report that Blair Carswell will leave school this summer to pursue a full time professional contract with Hearts football club. We would like to wish him every success.

The commitment and dedication from the girls' football team continues to impress and grow. The school club has proved to be a stepping stone to some girls participating at a higher level in Edinburgh clubs. This has given the girls an opportunity to excel even further. The school team had some great scores and wins against good opponents and it is hoped that next year will be even more successful with more players joining.

Rugby

In rugby, we ran four teams (S1, S2, S3 and 1st XV) as well as having a strong number of S1-4 girls training regularly. The teams all enjoyed a full card of fixtures against many of our established opponents. The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Cup competition saw the seniors go out to a strong Peebles side, though progress next season should be made through this experience.

The sevens season is underway and the teams will be working hard to ensure Royal High retain their sevens series crown. The school has again been awarded 'gold' status for our rugby for a third consecutive year.

Lucy Park (S4) continues to be a regular for the Scotland training camps and teams and is an integral member of the squad with other girls now going for trials at National level.

Andrew Cramond (S6) achieved wonderful personal recognition for his talent by representing Scotland at U18 level against Ireland, England and Wales. Andrew was selected for the U18 squad for the FIRA championship in Madrid where he performed brilliantly. We wish him all the best for the future.

Athletics

Our new summer term athletics club is growing in success and is furthering the development of students interested in trying athletics as well as providing extra practice for our successful Edinburgh and Scottish Schools representatives.

At the time of writing, we also have two squads of athletes entered into the Edinburgh Schools Championships at Meadowbank and the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth.

Our S1/S2 girls this year won the Edinburgh Schools Cross Country with Amy Armstrong winning the race. The other members were Ciara McFarlane, Eilidh Thores and Jess McFadden.

Badminton

Badminton continues to attract decent numbers, and there is a mix of practice and competitive sessions. The RHS team was narrowly defeated in the Edinburgh Schools Cup this year, but have a young squad so the future looks bright.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading is a new club set up this year by Miss Brown for S1-S3 and has proved to be extremely successful. The group have developed and improved dramatically over the year and worked towards performing in the school's Strictly Come Dancing show in December and the Spring Fling in March. The girls also participated in a dance competition at Broughton High School.

Cricket

Summer term saw the school-club link established further, with the coaches from RHC Cricket Club delivering curriculum cricket sessions to the S1 and S2 year groups. Following the success of this, we are hoping to expand this provision to include after school sessions and a representative team as well as a nation tournament.

Hockey

Hockey has continued to grow in numbers, with a lot of new S1 pupils joining. Unfortunately there is not a lot of scope for fixtures but the teams performed well in the matches they played. The seniors finished the year with an impressive win against Craigmount and the juniors have a tournament coming up in June.

Tennis

Both the boys and girls teams won the Scottish Schools Championships in June 2011, and subsequently were named Tennis Scotland's team of the year in December. This year both teams again won through to the National Finals and successfully defended their titles in June. To win both titles in consecutive years is a historic first and we are enormously proud of our teams. There have also been a number of notable individual successes in Scotland and abroad by Scott Duncan, Reuben Henry, Euan McIntosh, Millie Stretton and Hannah Watson.

Mountain Biking

Mr Davenport (Science staff) has initiated a mountain bike club with students regularly attending to go on rides and learn about looking after bikes. This has been particularly successful for engaging all students.

Netball

After a difficult start due to the temporary lack of training facilities, the Royal High School managed to present two teams of dedicated junior and senior pupils in the local school league, thanks to our highly committed coach, Catriona Salton (S6). We were also lucky to be joined in the course of the year by Miss Simpson, new Maths teacher and Holyrood Netball club coach. We had a promising season and hope that next year will bring us new members to join our cheerful teams.

As always, the school owe a huge debt of thanks to all the staff, students, former pupils and parents who give up their own time to help with our sporting programme. Many of the roles are undertaken behind the scenes without any expectation of reward, so we take this opportunity here to say a very big "thank you" to you all. Without this army of helpers we would struggle to provide these opportunities for our students. Neil Russell continues to drive extra curricular activities at the school and deserves a huge thanks from us all.

We would always like to provide more sporting opportunities and experiences for our pupils, so if you would like to get involved then please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school. We would be delighted to speak to you about how you can help in the coming year.

2010/2011

Rugby We ran four teams – S1, S2, S3 and Seniors - and they all enjoyed a full card of fixtures against many of our established opponents. The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Cup competition saw the seniors get to the plate semi-finals, being beaten narrowly by Glasgow High School. The U16 team in the same competition reached the quarter finals. The sevens season saw the seniors and S1 narrowly losing in the final of the Edinburgh schools while the S3 and S2 sevens team won the State School Sevens Cup. This then gives RHS the Edinburgh State Sevens Series. We are the only school in Edinburgh to be awarded 'gold' status for our rugby for a second consecutive year. Finally, in a fitting conclusion to a successful season, the primary schools and S1 and S2 rugby teams came together recently for a "community sevens" festival. The weather was miserable but it was a wonderful event and a great example of what the primary pupils can expect when they come to the high school.

Chris Barnett and Andrew Cramond furthered their thriving rugby careers by representing Edinburgh at U17 and U18.

In **football**, we ran four teams - Under 13, 14, 15 and 18 - with each enjoying some measure of success. The 13s, who were expertly coached by some S6 pupils, got to the semi finals of the league cup and finished mid-table in the league. The 14s had a great run in the Scottish cup and were put out by the eventual finalists in the last 16 stage of the competition. They also finished mid-table. The 15s reached the semi finals of the league cup like their younger counterparts and also finished mid-table under the guidance of some former pupils of the school.

There were individual successes in football as well. Both Calum Liddle and Jamie Clark were regulars for the Lothian Senior squad and just missed out on full national honours as they unfortunately did not make it through the final Scotland trials at under 18s level, although getting to that stage was an achievement in itself.

It is pleasing to report that Dale Finnie will leave school this summer to pursue a full time professional contract with Cowdenbeath football club. We would like to wish him every success.

There have also been a number of games arranged and tournaments that our girls' teams have participated in and under the guidance of Claire Crosbie, our probationer in Physical Education; they have enjoyed some success over the course of the year and are well placed to make a real impact next session.

Athletics: although athletics is not one of the sports to feature in the extra-curricular programme, we have a number of pupils who take part on both the local and national stage. These pupils also represent the school throughout the year at the Edinburgh and Scottish Schools events.

The team of athletes who took part in the Indoor Schools Championships at the Kelvin Hall competed very well. Particular mention goes to Caitlin O'Neil who finished runner-up in the over 16 girls' high jump event with a personal best performance. Robert Bough also received National status this year. Many congratulations.

At the time of writing, we also have two squads of athletes entered into the Edinburgh Schools Championships at Meadowbank and the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth.

Badminton continues to attract decent numbers, and there is a mix of practice and competitive sessions. The RHS team was narrowly defeated in the Edinburgh Schools Cup final this year, but have a young squad so the future looks bright. Fraser Wright, Julie MacPherson and Gemma Wright will be participating in a 4 person Edinburgh Badminton team in the International Children's Games in Lanarkshire.

Hockey has continued to grow in numbers, with between 40 – 50 pupils turning up to weekly sessions. Unfortunately there is not a lot of scope for fixtures, but the teams performed well in the matches they played. Robbie Shepherdson for a second year in a row received national recognition in the U16 squad.

Tennis: In a historic double, both the girls' and boys' teams from The Royal High School won the Scottish Schools Tennis Team Championship Finals in June. The teams were Euan McIntosh, Scott Duncan, Reuben Henry, Calum Batho, Ross Clarke, Millie Stretton, Claudia Henry, Hannah Watson, Claire Duncan and Catriona McIntosh. There have also been a number of notable individual successes in Scotland and abroad by several of these young players.

Swimming: as with athletics, there are a number of pupils taking part in swimming, and these swimmers represent the school where possible. Our girls relay team won the Edinburgh Schools title this year, and we have a range of age group teams heading to Glasgow in June for the National Relay Championships.

Netball: this year we introduced netball for the S1-3 age group. Assisted by members of the Edinburgh University Netball club, Mrs Kaplan looked after a dedicated group of junior pupils who took part in the local schools league. We are hoping to expand this group in the coming year and hopefully we will be able to enter more age group teams in August.

Cricket: the summer term saw a new school-club link established, with the coaches from RHC Cricket Club delivering curriculum cricket sessions to the S1 and S2 year groups. Following this successful pilot, we are hoping to expand this provision next year to include after school sessions and a representative team.

Cross Country: Mr Marshall took charge of another successful cross country season. The S3/4 boys team took the gold medal in the Edinburgh Schools League, with a silver medal for the Girls Open Relay, and bronze medals for the S1-3 and S4-6 girls teams. In addition, Matthew Young (2A1) won the S2 Secondary Schools Race at Inverleith. Finally, as well as performing strongly across the year, Robert Bough (3P2) was also selected to represent Scotland in the Home Internationals held in Northern Ireland.

In addition to the sports mentioned above, we have a number of pupils excelling in a wide range of sports outside of school. Congratulations to all our athletes who have excelled as the school is extremely proud of them.

2009/2010

Sporting Success

There have been numerous sporting achievements over the session, some by teams and many others by individuals. These include

- ❖ Winning through to the semi-finals of Brewin Dolphin Scottish Schools Plate. The match, against Linlithgow, was a close-run event with RHS almost snatching victory from Linlithgow in the closing minutes.
- ❖ The S2 7s team winning the Edinburgh 7s tournament at Portobello in May.
- ❖ The S3 Golf Team winning the BAA Youth Games Golf Championship. The team beat Firrhill High School by a shot in the final.
- ❖ Success in the Edinburgh Schools' Cross Country League, with Gold going to the Senior Boys team (Euan Arnott, Lyle Griffin, Robbie Shepherdson, Thomas Docherty) and Silver to the Junior Girls team (Millie Stretton, Samantha Cruse, Stephanie Hogg, Clare Kelly, Billie Armstrong and Isabelle Bough). Individual Silver Medals were also awarded to Robert Bough and Millie Stretton, and Bronze Medals to Robbie Shepherdson and Isabelle Bough.

- ❖ A stunning performance by our athletes at the Scottish Schools Athletics Competition in June against stiff competition from the best athletes in Scotland. Bethany Valente took silver in the javelin and came 5th in the discus. Ellie McGinty also took silver in the Long Jump and qualified for the final of the 75 Hurdles. Jamie Batho won a silver medal in the 80m hurdles and bronze in the 100m finals. Emma McGinty qualified for the final of the 75m Hurdles and Robert Bough finished 6th out of 12 in the final of the 1500m after coming 2nd in his heat.
- ❖ Outstanding success in the Edinburgh Schools Athletics Championships where RHS athletes won a total of 19 medals: 13 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze. Faye Kearney won Gold in the 300m and Gold in 4X100m Relay; Bethany Valente won Gold in the Discus, Gold in the Javelin and Gold in 4X100m Relay; Caitlin O'Neil took Gold in the High Jump, Silver in Hurdles and Gold 4X100m Relay; Isabelle Bough won Gold in the 800m and Gold in 4X100m Relay; Emma McGinty took Gold in the 100m, Gold in Hurdles and Silver in Long Jump; Ellie McGinty won Gold in Hurdles, Silver in High Jump and Bronze in Long Jump; Samantha Higgs took Gold in Discus and Gold in Javelin; Jamie Batho won Gold in Hurdles and Silver 100m; Robert Bough was awarded Gold in 1500m; Luca Vita took Bronze in 100m.
- ❖ Jamie Batho, Emma McGinty and Samantha Higgs have all been selected to represent Edinburgh District in the Scottish Schools Inter Areas Athletics Championships.
- ❖ Jamie Batho achieved silver at the Scottish Schools Pentathlon and has been selected for the Scottish Squad. Bethany Valente has also been selected to represent Scotland in Javelin.
- ❖ At Murrayfield in June, the Royal High School rugby teams scooped an amazing four awards: Edinburgh and Midlothian U16 'A' League Winners; Edinburgh and Midlothian U15 'A' League Winners; Edinburgh and Midlothian S2 7's Winners; and Rugby Champion – Gold Award (- the Royal High School is one of only two schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians to achieve this award).

2008/2009

In **rugby**, the S2 and Under 16 teams won their respective 7-a-side tournaments at Inverleith Park, as part of the city-wide State School Sevens events, in which we came second overall. We have launched a girls' training scheme for rugby, under the direction of the tirelessly committed parent Eddie Wilson and they have played (and won !) their first game. Overall, the teams fared moderately well, winning, overall more games than they lost, and we hope to continue to develop our players here next season. There are plans afoot for summer training, so that the teams are ready to compete in the newly-formed Edinburgh and Midlothian Schools leagues in the autumn. Once more we are

indebted to our parent coaches and the teaching staff here, who continue to enthuse and support our players, and there are grounds for optimism about next season's senior team, who will be mainly S5.

In **football**, the 13s were runners up in their league, and played attractive flowing football, lacking only in clinical and accurate finishing. As stated in previous newsletters, we had very young coaches in Kenny Irvine and Ryan Stewart, last summer's leavers, plus Patrick Sadler of S6 and Nico Gibson of S5, and the energy, commitment and enthusiasm for the game that these young people displayed rubbed off on the team with considerable results. The 15s had 3 Edinburgh players – Dean Carse, Dale Finnie and Fraser Hunter, and Niall Doherty and Dean played for Scotland Boys' Clubs during the season.

The 16s continue to flourish under the same FPs who have been with them for about 5 years now, and many of these players will play in next year's Under 18s team, with current S5 players. Due to other commitments, the 18s team only played in the Lothian and Scottish Cups, where they reached the third round in each case, and Charlie Mackenzie, Ross Downie and Nico Gibson represented Lothian Schools in the Senior National Trophy, reaching the semi-final. It is particularly pleasing to note here that Nico has been signed by Aberdeen FC on a professional contract this summer, and he joins Paul Willis (left 2007) in the professional ranks. Paul has completed two successful years at Dunfermline Athletic FC, and has been rewarded with a new two-year deal. When we add Iain Thomson of the PE staff, currently at Stenhousemuir FC, we are beginning to make inroads into professional football in this country – not bad for a traditional rugby school !

In **cricket**, we have links with the RHC Lions, who train here on Tuesdays between 6 and 7.30, and Michael Kelly of S1 has played for the Lothian Schools team in a series of matches against local private schools. Patrick Sadler, an age-group international cricket player for some years now, has now broken through into 'open' cricket, and played recently for a Scotland Select against a touring England youth team. We look forward to hearing more of these players as they develop over the years.

In **athletics**, we gather momentum with each passing year, and our recent entry of 21 athletes in 34 events in the Edinburgh Schools Championships was rewarded with a haul of 17 medals – 4 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze – our best yet. It was a great effort, and the athletes thoroughly enjoyed their 'day in the sun' at Meadowbank. At the time of writing, we have 11 athletes taking part on 18 events at the Scottish Schools Championships at Grangemouth ; it is hoped that we will secure more medals in these championships as well.

In **curling**, Richard Wood has enjoyed considerable success, being part of the rink who won the Scottish Under 15 Championships at Braehead in March.

In **tennis**, Euan McIntosh continues to impress, and after winning the Under 14 Waverley Club tournament during the Easter holidays, he has, for the third year running, secured a place in the national 'Road to Wimbledon' competition finals held at the home of British tennis during August. In order to do this, he had to win the East of Scotland competition – which he duly did. In previous years, other tournament commitments have prevented Euan from taking his place, but this year he is determined to take part in the national finals at Wimbledon, and the school wishes him well.

In addition, our girls team of Hannah Watson, Catriona McIntosh, Eileen Dempsey and Katie Ghaemi put in a most creditable performance in losing to eventual finalists St Margaret's School in Aberdeen in the second round of the Scottish Schools Championships in January

Mark Steeples and Anna Sless, in **swimming** and **diving** respectively, continue where they left off last year, by medalling in national championships, and Heather Macpherson continues to perform at the highest level in her age group at **badminton**, where the school continues to provide a good level of involvement through the Thursday club in the games Hall.

2007/2008

Football We have 4 teams every week in Edinburgh and Lothian Leagues – 14s, 15s, 16s and 18s.

We have one player – Jordan Bruce - in the Edinburgh 15s select team, and, for the first time ever, The Royal High School has three players in the Lothian Senior team, with all three – Steven Cameron, Nico Gibson and Kenny Irvine - being on the pitch together in the recent game against Forth Valley - a great achievement. We have three players

involved in the under 14 SFA Elite Training squad – the boys that are expected to turn professional in time. One of last years Under 18s players, Paul Willis, has already made his first team debut with Dunfermline, having left school only last June, and Nicky Anderson, from last year's S5, is a full-time player with Hibs. Patrick Clarke (left 2003) continues his career at Clyde FC. Iain Thomson of the PE Department continues his career with a summer move from Berwick Rangers FC to Stenhousemuir FC.

Athletics Our small team of five girls returned from the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships at Grangemouth in June with 2 silver (Bethany Valente) and 1 bronze medal (Amy Rogers), and at the recent SSAA Indoor Championships at Kelvin Hall our two athletes returned with a silver and a bronze – a very good return from such a small team. In the Edinburgh Schools Athletics Championships at Meadowbank, we won 6 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals – 9 medals from a team of 11 athletes.

Rugby We have been running 4 teams this year, with the Under 15s being the most successful, with a last 8 place in the BLW Cup. We are intending to run 5 teams next season, with Union Park hosting some school games for the first time. It is also hoped that through our links with the RHS Club, we can offer rugby to girls in the new season. We won the 7s tournaments at Balerno and Preston Lodge, and two S2 tournaments held at Inverleith Park, with two players attending a presentation at Murrayfield with national coach Frank Hadden

Swimming We have a national champion in the boys 200m backstroke in Mark Steeples.

Badminton We have the east of Scotland under 19 boys singles champion – Graham Sless. In cricket, Patrick Sadler – a name we will hear much of in future, I feel sure – was the only Scottish schools player to be picked for the MCC Under 17 squad who played in India over the Easter holidays. He is also a better-than-average goalkeeper for the Under 18 team, and will trial for next season's Lothian squad.

Tennis We retained the Meadows Cup for the third time, and also reached the last 8 of the Scottish Schools Boys Team Championships.

Squash/Bowling Through a FP contact, some of our pupils have played for the first time, at the Edinburgh Sports Club, and we are competing for the first time this year in the Edinburgh Schools Bowling Championships.

Martial Arts Philip Baillie has continued the trend established by Stephanie Rodden in Martial Arts a couple of years ago by winning the gold medal in British Tae Kwon Do Championships for 12 – 15 year-olds in Perth, and will now take part in the European Championships.

Sport continues to do well, but we are always looking for help with coaching transportation, equipment and support. It is important that all our youngsters get chances to taste different sports – thereafter, we can do so much here, and that may involve passing them on to clubs and coaches outside the school. But the big thing is to get youngsters taking part, getting a start; thereafter, it is down to talent, dedication and a huge amount of luck. As always, we are grateful to the army of parents, FPs and staff who give of their time to offer the opportunities – without them the school could not offer as much as they do.