

The Haltonian Magazine

Volume 10 No. 1

Summer 1938

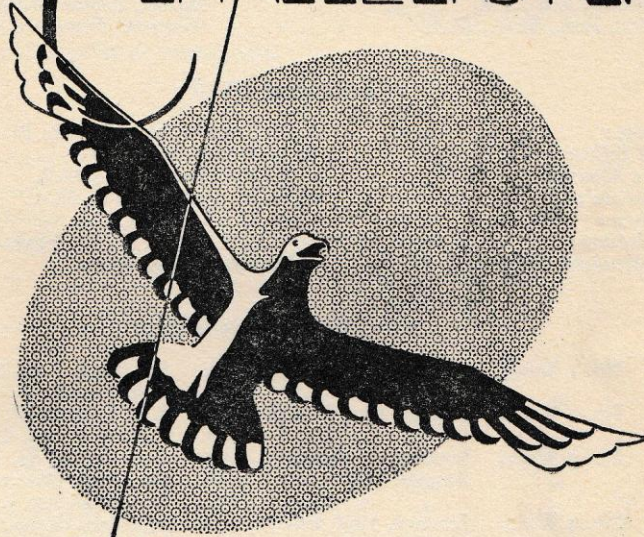
(Scroll down)

THE
HALTON
MAGAZINE



SUMMER 1938

THE HALTON



MAGAZINE

OWELLS

VOL. X, No. 1

SUMMER, 1938



"SUMMER is i-cumen in" sang the unknown bard of old, and proceeded to expatiate on the beauties of the countryside, burgeoning under the benign rays of the sun in Cancer. Summertime at Halton, however, leaves little opportunity for the contemplation of the beauties of Nature, filled as it is with Final and Intermediate Examinations, Trade Tests, all manner of games and competitions, Empire Air Day, Parents' Invitation Day and a host of other events of major importance.

The claims of these upon the time and energy of all service and civilian personnel on this Station have considerably complicated the production of this issue of *The Halton Magazine*. So many who would otherwise have been willing contributors and collaborators have been caught up in the hustle and bustle of other matters, what time your Editor has, with wrinkled brow and prematurely greying hair, wrestled with his problems for the most part in silence and alone. We can, however, claim that the policy announced in the Christmas 1937 issue of making these pages more fully representative of Halton life and activity is beginning, albeit slowly, to show signs of bearing some fruit, and from the large mass of contributions—many, unfortunately, received too late, or in too unpolished a form for inclusion—we have with difficulty selected those which we trust will be of the greatest interest to our readers at home and abroad. There is still room for much improvement, and that improvement can only be brought about by the enthusiastic co-operation of all who have the interests of perhaps the most important Station activity (we say it without a blush) genuinely at heart.

* * * * *

WE regret to hear the news of the impending departure of the Air Officer Commanding, Air Commodore G. R. M. Reid, D.S.O., M.C., who has been posted to Aden to command. During his two-year command of this Station he has had the exceptionally difficult task of handling the expansion of Halton from a three-Wing to a five-Wing School of Technical Training. Notwithstanding all the preoccupations this task has involved he has taken more than a keen interest in all phases of life at Halton. We wish him and

Mrs. Reid the very best of good fortune and a successful tour of duty abroad. We shall shortly be privileged to welcome Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, D.S.O., in his place, who is transferred from temporarily commanding No. 25 (Armament) Group.

* * * * *

MANY postings at this time of the year rob us of old familiar faces, and it is customary, as it is indeed due, to wish those who are leaving us good luck in their new surroundings, and to thank them for their contributions in the past to many of our activities and interests here.

Wing Commander Ryder Young has already left us, having been posted during May to No. 6 (Auxiliary) Group Headquarters for special duties in connection with the more rapid production of aircraft. Wing Commander S. P. Simpson, M.C., is departing shortly to assume command of R.A.F. Station, Thornaby, and Wing Commander P. F. Fullard, D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., has already taken up duties on the Air Staff at Headquarters, Maintenance Command.

Among the many postings to the new School of Technical Training at Cosford, Squadron Leader J. F. Tadman, C.G.M., and Wing Commander C. F. Chinery leave us to take up technical duties there, while Captain B. A. Smith, M.A., No. 2 Wing Education Officer, becomes Senior Education Officer at the same establishment. To these, and to all other staff accompanying them, we regretfully bid farewell.

* * * * *

WE are pleased to record the two visits paid to Halton by the recently appointed Secretary of State for Air, the Right Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P. On the occasion of Empire Air Day, May 28th, Sir Kingsley included a brief visit to the Station in his afternoon's tour of a number of R.A.F. Stations within a fifty-mile radius of London. Apparently interested in what he saw on this occasion (although, alas, rain fell in torrents all the time) he made a second visit on Sunday, June 19th, accompanied by the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Inskip, K.C., M.P., Minister for Co-ordination of Defence. He spent some time inspecting the School, the workshops, and a number of barrack blocks. We trust that he will have occasion to visit us again in the future, for we do sincerely appreciate the interest taken in our welfare by those responsible for the administration of our Service.

* * * * *

WE offer our congratulations to our Principal Education officer, Dr. A. H. Robson, M.C., on the distinction conferred on him by being appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List. Since he came to Halton six years ago, he has interested himself not only in the educational training of the thousands of aircraft apprentices trained here, but in every kind of sporting activity on the Station, and, in addition to all this, both the Halton Magazine and the Halton Society owe much to his enthusiasm and direction.

* * * * *

THE Annual R.A.F. Display, one of the most spectacular exhibitions ever staged, is now no more. Many will regret its passing, but all will welcome, in its stead, a bigger and better Empire Air Day than was possible in previous years when Hendon stole most of the thunder of R.A.F. publicity.

Empire Air Day was celebrated this year on Saturday, May 28th, and, in common with other R.A.F. Stations in the country, Halton laid itself out to entertain the thousands of visitors who flocked by car, 'bus and train from many miles around, in spite of most unsettled weather conditions. Although some parts of the flying programme at the Aerodrome had perforce to be curtailed, there was no lack of interest shown in the many buildings opened to public inspection—workshops, power house, bakery, schools, barrack blocks, hospital, hangars—nor in the magnificent massed physical training display given on the Canal fields.

The handling of so much unusual traffic and such large crowds must at times have sorely tried all those responsible for maintaining orderly movement and avoiding congestion, but even to our prejudiced and experienced eyes there appeared as few flaws in the organisation of the event as there were in the enjoyment of the interested public.

* * * * *

ON June 2nd we were privileged to welcome to Halton the French Air Force Mission, who, as guests of the Royal Air Force, were being shown round a number of R.A.F. Stations in England. The members of the French Air Force were General de Division J. Vuillemin, the Chief of General Staff and Vice-President of the French Air Council, General de Brigade B. G. J. d'Harcourt, Colonel M. M. J. N. Astruc, Inspector General, Commandant J. B. J. A. Lorient, Capitaine G. J. P. Fayet, and Capitaine A. L. F. Cros. They were accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel P. Fournier, French Air Attaché in London.

Their tour of inspection included visits to workshops, schools and barracks, and General Vuillemin took the salute as the apprentices marched up to barracks.

* * * * *

OVER thirty journalists, representing a large number of daily and weekly newspapers, visited Halton on March 31st and made a comprehensive tour of the Station. We were pleased to note the complimentary reports which appeared during the following few days in most of the leading newspapers, accompanied in many cases by photographs depicting various phases of an aircraft apprentice's day.

* * * * *

HALTON this year appears to be exceptionally rich in sporting talent, and this fact cannot be passed by without some reference in these pages. Both Flight Lieutenant C. H. Beamish and Flying Officer J. O. Groves played in R.A.F. Rugby teams on more than one occasion, while Mr. C. G. Gilthorpe obtained a trial cap in the England v. the Rest games, and was reserve for the international match against Wales. Mr. A. H. Woolcock, the former Cambridge goalkeeper, kept goal in amateur international Soccer trials, and was selected for the match between England and Wales, in addition to turning out frequently for the Corinthians and Casuals and playing in many representative amateur sides. Flight Lieutenant G. H. White has recently made useful scores for the R.A.F. Cricket team. Sergeant J. Wilby was placed third in the light-heavyweight class of the British Empire Games Championships at Sydney, N.S.W., in January, and was a member of the R.A.F. Boxing team in South Africa (May-June), a tour which was so tragically curtailed.

We offer our congratulations to all these, and our best wishes for their continued success.

IN the R.A.F. Rifle Association's Eighteenth Annual Meeting, held at Bisley from May 30th to June 3rd, 1938, a number of successes were gained by Halton teams which may be deemed worthy of special comment. They were as follows :—

Match 1. 2nd F/O E. J. A. Knight, Halton.

Rifle XX Cup. 3rd F/O E. J. A. Knight.

The Apprentices' Match. 1st, "The Bonham-Carter-Wyer" Cup, the R.A.F.R.A. silver medal, and 4 small silver medals : No. 3 Wing, "C" Squadron, Halton.

2nd, The R.A.F.R.A. bronze medal and 4 R.A.F.R.A. small bronze medals : "A" Squadron, No. 1 Wing, Halton.

Apprentice Champion, 1938. 1st, Winner of the R.A.F.R.A. small silver medal : A.A. James, "B" Squadron, No. 4 Wing, Halton.

2nd, Winner of the R.A.F.R.A. small bronze medal : L.A.A. Sleeman, "A" Squadron, No. 1 Wing, Halton.

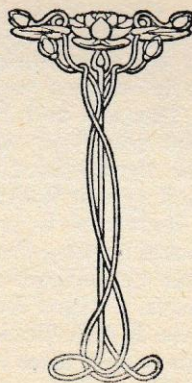
The Nobel Cup, 2nd Stage. 1st, The "Nobel" Cup and 8 R.A.F.R.A. small silver medals : No. 1 (Apprentices) Wing, Halton.

2nd, 8 R.A.F.R.A. small bronze medals : No. 2 (Apprentices) Wing, Halton.

Our congratulations to all concerned in these successes on the excellence of their marksmanship.

* * * * *

THE August 1935 Entry pass out from Halton at the end of this month. They were the first of the large entries under the expansion scheme to be trained at Halton, and have a record of sound progress in work and no little ability in games. They take with them our best wishes for a happy and successful service career.





To face page 48.

WING NOTES

No. 1 Wing

THE following report tells no more than is necessary of our splendid season of sport. News of our juniors is very encouraging, and we hope for more successes in the future.

We were sorry to lose Flying Officer Newing from our Wing, after his untiring efforts for the sport of the Wing; we welcome Squadron Leader Crowe, M.C., D.F.C., his successor.

On the retirement at Easter of Mr. H. A. Cox, O.B.E., Major J. W. Collinson, M.A., was posted as Wing Education Officer, on transfer from the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, where he has been Lecturer in Science for many years. We offer him a cordial welcome.

In the sphere of athletics, our thanks must be recorded to the officers and N.C.O.'s who assisted so ably in organising and training for this season. We must also congratulate the Wing Shooting team on their fine success in the "Nobel" Shooting Cup Competition.

We have bidden farewell to Warrant Officer Collard, and wish him every success on his new station; and we extend a hearty welcome to Warrant Officer F. Smith, an old R.A.F. Soccer player, whose wide experience of sport will, we trust, enable us to rise to even greater heights.

To the August 1935 Entry we wish every success on their new stations. C.A.A. Bowles, who has been the mainstay of our athletic team for the past two years, is leaving us when this entry passes out, and we wish him the best of luck. We shall watch his future with keen interest.

SOCCKER :—Thanks to the efforts of Flying Officer Newing, Sergt. Player and Corpl. Frost, quite a large number of fixtures were obtained for both Senior and Junior teams.

Both teams have brought credit to No. 1 Wing, the seniors only being defeated once in eighteen games, whilst the juniors remained undefeated throughout the whole season.

With the departure of the January 1935 Entry at Christmas many opinions were expressed as to whether the senior team, now mainly composed of the August 1935 Entry, would be able to keep up the winning tradition. They more than maintained that tradition with the exception of one fixture with the R.A.F. Station, Bicester, but in fairness to the team it should be noted that four of the first eleven were unable to play on that particular occasion.

Two of the most outstanding players, Roberts and Brown, were chosen to represent Halton in Spartan League matches and it is common knowledge that they well justified their selection.

Finally, we thank our Commanding Officer, Wing Commander R. S. Sugden, A.F.C., for the great interest he has shown in our teams.

RUGBY :—The Senior Rugby team has maintained a very high standard of ruggar this season. Several gaps caused by the departure of the January 1935 Entry were filled by capable players from the Junior Entries.

The Wing has again been well represented in Station and Station Apprentices' teams, for A.A.'s Stirling, King, Gash, Taylor, Watt, Rich and

Smith have all played regularly for the apprentices, while A.A.'s Davies, Rennie and Nichols have appeared frequently for the Station Team.

The Junior XV have played with admirable spirit against much older and more experienced teams. Their talents are such that we feel confident that the Wing will do well in the future. We owe thanks to Sergeant Tillman for his unfailing interest, which is largely responsible for their success.

The Squadron Cup this year was won by "C" Squadron, who defeated a strong "A" Squadron team in the final. The Squadron League has helped considerably towards promoting a better standard of play and a keener team spirit. The Flight League was discontinued this year, but we hope to see it revived next season.

It was with great regret we noted the retirement of Mr. H. A. Cox, who for many years played an active part in coaching the Wing teams.

Finally we should like to thank Flying Officer Newing and Flight Sergt. Payne for their valuable help in organising and coaching.

HOCKEY :—During the past season the Wing Hockey Team has met with outstanding success. Twenty-three games have been played, out of which two have been drawn and the remainder won. Seventy-five goals were scored for us and only twenty-two against.

We won the Senior B.K. Competition with considerable ease, the only real opposition coming from No. 3 Wing, with whom we drew. The Juniors were unlucky to draw for the Trophy with No. 3 Wing.

The Wing has been well represented in the Station Team, L.A.A.'s Glanville, Sinnott and Hore and A.A. Kemp being regular players, while C.A.A. Hills and L.A.A. Lowe have also played.

Flight Sergt. Jones has been responsible for the organisation of the teams and we consider him mainly responsible for the very successful season.

CROSS COUNTRY :—The Wing Senior Team has had only moderate success during the past season. C.A.A. Bowles, who captained the team, was the individual winner of the B.K. race, but No. 4 Wing, whose team running was better than ours, in spite of the fact that we have a large proportion of Station representatives, won the Trophy from us. C.A.A. Bowles, L.A.A.'s Rix and France, A.A.'s Toogood, Beck, Bastin, Croote and L.H. Ward have all represented the Station, while C.A.A. Bowles and L.A.A. France have also been included in the R.A.F. Teams. A.A. Toogood qualified for a trial in the R.A.F. Team for the Inter-Services race.

The season for juniors was on the whole successful, although owing to a lack of fixtures the Junior Team had little opportunity of showing their paces. Many of them represented the Wing in fixtures with Uxbridge and Ruislip, and a good team was fielded in the B.K. Junior, all members running quite promisingly. The team gained third place, but if they can settle down to serious training early next season, they should form quite a formidable pack.

ATHLETICS :—The brilliancy of the Wing's achievements during the present athletic season has been slightly marred by the loss of the B.K. Non-success in this Trophy can be attributed to the Wing depending too much upon individuality to win events where team unity is essential. The Wing had great stalwarts in Bowles (their Captain), Keevil, Plowman, Eales, Robinson, Sharpe and Browne who, incidentally, are all in the passing-out entry. But they leave behind such juniors as Jones, Houghton, Ratcliffe, Hall, Minns and Hammond to form the nucleus of future Wing teams.

Considering the short time given for training in field events introduced recently into the B.K. Competition, the Wing did very well to win the

Senior Pole Vault and the Junior Discus ; and we hope that next season even a better attempt will be made to train long and hard for these events.

The Wing was well represented in the Bucks County Championships by Sergt. Tillman and C.A.A. Bowles who won the shot-put and 880 yards respectively, the shot-put being a new County record. Others obtaining medals were S.A.A. Keevil and C.A.A. Eales.

The Wing's latest success has been to retain the Athletic Trophy in the Station Sports. C.A.A. Bowles secured the Victor Ludorum Cup for the second year in succession, winning the quarter, half and mile races. L.A.A. Plowman was third in the 440 yards, Sergt. Tillman won the shot-put and took second place in the discus, and A.A.'s Wakefield, Webster and Worthington were the first three home in the two miles walk.

WALKING :—At the time of writing No. 1 Wing can claim to have played the major part in the development of this new sport.

The Wing Team easily secured the highest places in the 7-mile Road Walk, while in the Station 2-mile Track event, six out of the first seven places fell to us.

It is to be hoped that the Junior Entries will maintain this position by lending their support during the coming season.

SWIMMING :—Owing to alteration and reconstruction work on the swimming bath, which continued until June, no practice was possible for many months. In spite of this, however, swimming in the Wing is in a flourishing condition, as the Swimming Sports show. L.A.A. Preston, C.A.A. Keeley and A.A. Batt were prominent among the Seniors, while the Junior events showed that there are some very good younger swimmers coming along to fill the places of our August 1935 stalwarts. "C" Squadron were winners of the Inter-Squadron Trophy, "A" Squadron being close runners-up.

No. 2 Wing

THERE have been various changes in personnel since the last edition of the *Halton Magazine* was published. Flight Lieutenant D. C. Prance has been promoted to Squadron Leader and has left us for Leuchars. We congratulate him on his promotion and wish him every success.

We also congratulate Squadron Leader J. F. Tadman, C.G.M., on his promotion, but regret that we shall be losing him shortly ; we are sure, however, that he will continue the Halton traditions at Cosford.

Our congratulations are also due to Warrant Officer Picton on his promotion.

We are glad to welcome Flight Lieutenant J. F. R. Massy-Westropp, M.B.E., who will command "C" Squadron, and also Flying Officer F. C. Freemantle and Flying Officer H. Stanway.

As we go to press, we learn with regret of the posting of our C.O., Wing Commander S. P. Simpson, M.C., to command the R.A.F. Station, Thornaby. His interest in every aspect of the work and welfare of the Wing has never flagged, and our best wishes go with him to his new command.

Our Wing Education Officer too, Captain B. A. Smith, M.A., has been posted elsewhere—to be Senior Education Officer of the new School of Technical Training, Cosford. To him also we wish bon voyage.

BOXING :—The Wing had a very successful season, and although we did not actually score any major success, our boxers fought well in all their contests.

Our first fixture, against Ruislip, resulted in a win for Ruislip by one point, but this defeat was avenged in the Apprentices' Championships.

In the Junior B.K. No. 3 Wing beat us by one point, and in the Senior B.K. we lost to No. 1 Wing by 4 points. To be runners-up in both events with four wings competing was quite a good performance.

In the Apprentices' Championships we were runners-up to Cranwell, beating both our previous victors, No. 3 Wing and No. 1 Wing, convincingly.

Special mention must be made of several substitutes who were called in at the last minute owing to casualties, and performed very creditably. One of these, A.A. Maingat, won at Ruislip, in the B.K. Competition, and finally in the Apprentices' Championship.

In the juniors who remain with us we have the nucleus of a useful team for next year.

RUGBY :—The Wing Rugby XV had a most successful season of matches against some good service and civilian teams ; but our outstanding achievement was in hauling down the colours of No. 1 Wing in the Senior and Junior B.K. matches. We won the Senior B.K. Trophy but had to be content with second place to an excellent team from No. 3 Wing in the Junior Trophy.

This month we say good-bye to one of the best teams that this Wing has had for a number of years. We wish them all good sport in their new Stations. The prospects for next season are not at the moment very bright as our next entry in order of seniority is eighteen months younger than the senior entry now leaving us. However, we have some promising youngsters who, with more experience, will do their best to uphold the reputation of No. 2 Wing.

HOCKEY :—Although bad weather prevailed throughout the season and many grounds were rendered unserviceable, we completed our Fixture List with only 3 games cancelled.

The 1st XI won 15, drew 7 and lost 4 games.

The 2nd XI won 7, drew 2 and lost 3.

In the B.K. Competition both Seniors and Juniors finished 3rd. We were perhaps unfortunate in the final game of the Senior Competition in having one of our defence off the field for the greater part of the game, but the issue was in doubt right up to the final whistle, and No. 4 Wing thoroughly deserved their victory.

A.A. Lovenbury was first choice at outside left for the Station XI in all their matches.

BASEBALL :—Great enthusiasm is being shown for this sport this season, and although we have no outstanding teams, we have plenty of average talent. S.A.A. Sharman is our outstanding player and regularly represents the Station.

In the Babington Trophy we are meeting with fair success. We were, perhaps, rather ambitious in starting an Inter-Flight Competition, but hope, by playing in the evenings, to get it completed before Summer Leave.

SHOOTING :—The Wing Team have enjoyed a very good season at .22 shooting, being winners of the Station League, second in the two Bucks County Winter Leagues and second in the "Nobel" Cup for R.A.F. Teams.

At the Station Christmas Meeting we were well represented in the prize lists. The .22 revolver championship was won by Corporal Nee. No. 2 Wing Teams obtained five points out of eight in the B.K. Competition—a commendable effort.

The most notable individual effort of the season was that of L.A.A. Bagshaw in winning the Bucks County .22 Championship.

The Wing had Corporal Nee, L.A.A.'s Rowell and Bagshaw in the R.A.F. .22 Team which won the Inter-Services event.

In .303 shooting the Wing was prominent. Flight Sergt. Sear won the championship, and other Wing representatives did well to figure in the prize list.

SOCCER :—C.A.A. Douglas was selected to play in the Station Team at right back. He played throughout the season without missing a game.

An Inter-Flight Knock-out Competition in the Wing was brought to a successful conclusion, No. 3 Flight, "C" Squadron, the winners, being presented with Medals by Wing Commander S. P. Simpson.

ATHLETICS :—The Wing have had a most successful season, winning both the Senior and Junior B.K. Competitions, a performance which has not been equalled for some years.

In the Inter-Squadron Athletic Sports "C" Squadron won the Senior Cup for the first time since 1929, "B" Squadron winning the Junior Cup.

In the annual meeting between the R.N. (Chatham) Artificers and R.A.F. (Halton) Apprentices, the Wing was well represented, having a large number of athletes in the winning Halton team.

At the Station Athletic Sports after a hard fight we were narrowly beaten into second place by No. 1 Wing.

FENCING :—The great measure of success enjoyed by No. 2 Wing Apprentices' Fencing Team during the past season has been due mainly to the regular attendance at evening classes.

Matches were fought against the R.A.F. Bicester, No. 1 Wing, R.A.F. Upper Heyford, No. 3 Wing, R.A.F. Apprentices (Ruislip) and the Amersham Fencing Club. All of these were won except a second match against Amersham, which was lost after a fight-off.

"C" Squadron Team were runners-up in the Royal Air Force Apprentices' Team Championships, being narrowly beaten in the final match by Cranwell "B" Team.

CROSS-COUNTRY :—In the Senior B.K. Competition the Wing Team were last, but in individual placing L.A.A. Holmes of "C" Squadron was fifth. L.A.A. Holmes ran in the R.A.F. Championships and finished twenty-first, just failing to qualify for the R.A.F. Team in the Inter-Services Race.

The Junior B.K. Team were more successful and won the competition easily, A.A. Twite of "B" Squadron being the individual winner over the new B.K. course. This achievement secured him a place in the Station Team.

In the Inter-Apprentices' Championships our Junior Team were second to Cranwell, losing the event by only one point. The team were also selected to represent the Station against Stowe School and won easily. In Wing matches the Junior Team beat Upper Heyford and Ruislip but lost to the R.A.F. Depot Recruits from Uxbridge.

As I was going down Maitland Road
(Maitland Road was dirty)
A Singer passed me, very fast,
Doing over thirty.
"Little man in little van,
Keep your wits about you!
Don't plead your speedo needle's wrong,
The S.P.'s sure to doubt you."

No. 3 Wing

WE are all sorry to lose our Commanding Officer, Wing Commander P. F. Fullard, D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., who formed this Wing in 1936, and by his enthusiasm and example has laid the foundations of a great tradition in the standard and efficiency of the Wing. We wish him the best of luck in new tour of duty at Maintenance Command Headquarters.

We are sorry also to lose Major G. Lees, O.B.E., our Wing Education Officer, posted to Market Drayton, but we welcome Lieut-Col. R. K. Pillers, O.B.E., in his place, and also Flight Lieut. W. T. Clyde, an ex-Indian Army Officer, a newcomer to the Wing.

It is with much regret that we have to record the sudden death of Flight Sergt. D. T. Luke, who will be sadly missed as one of the most efficient and conscientious N.C.O.'s who did so much for the Wing.

Sergt. A. Bell, whose services for Soccer for the Wing have been splendid, has left us.

We congratulate Flying Officer H. Baines and Flying Officer J. C. Green on their promotion, also Warrant Officer C. A. Streeter and Warrant Officer B. Crane.

Space forbids further references to the many personnel who have done so much for the Wing, in the course of the season.

The Wing is "Flag Wing" for the period of the half-year, and this is a great achievement of which we may all be proud.

SOCCKER :—The soccer season has been a happy one, the Wing teams having won the Junior B.K., and finished third in the Senior. Several apprentices were selected for the Station team and performed creditably.

No. 19 Flight, "C" Squadron, won the Wing Soccer League, and our outside fixtures with civilian teams resulted in a number of wins for No. 3 Wing.

RUGGER :—Apprentices have been keen and the general standard is above the average. We won the Junior B.K., and did well in the Senior. The Wing team excelled in beating R.A.F. Ruislip and S.H.Q. Halton. Toward the end of the season a large proportion of the Apprentices' XV was recruited from 3 Wing. The Inter-Squadron League was not completed owing to the hard ground, but it is expected that the final game will be played early in the coming season between "C" and "B" Squadrons.

BOXING :—In the B.K. Competition we won the Junior Cup and tied for second place in the Seniors. In the Barton Cup we tied with No. 2 Wing, and thus became joint holders. In the Apprentices' Championships, honours go to L.A.A. Leach and L.A.A. Keogh in winning the light-heavy and mosquito weights respectively.

An annual competition was decided on between R.A.F. Ruislip and No. 3 Wing. It was held for the first time in March, No. 3 Wing being the winners.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING :—The season 1937-1938 was not quite so successful as the previous one, but quite good considering that more than half of the Junior running team were transferred to other Wings half-way through the season. C.A.A. Bownes, L.A.A. Knight, A.A. Warren of "C" Squadron and A.A. Warren of "A" Squadron ran quite well in the B.K. event. It was very pleasing to note that quite a number of last year's No. 3 Wing Cross-Country team were very successful this year for their new Wings.

HOCKEY :—We were rather fortunate in the interchange with No. 4 Wing. Although losing very promising Juniors, we gained several Seniors. We gambled over the composition of the Junior team, and the gamble nearly came off, the Juniors only losing the B.K. on goal average by 0.14 goals. The Seniors also did well to finish second to No. 1 Wing.

FENCING :—Very little can be said of this sport, as, owing to inadequate accommodation, only two matches took place, both with Amersham Fencing Club, which resulted on both occasions in wins for No. 3 Wing. The spirit of interest is present, however, and we are looking forward to a good season next year.

ATHLETICS :—Bad luck through sickness marred our chances in the B.K. Athletics Meeting, but individually some of our competitors were quite brilliant, notably C.A.A. Sewell, L.A.A. Samuel and A.A. Knowles. A.A. Groves, who, with a reasonable amount of luck, would no doubt have won the Pole Vault, was unfortunate to break his arm during training. L.A.A. Marlow and L.A.A. Keogh were also unable to compete, the former through sickness and the latter through an injured foot. Again, as in the Cross-Country Running, quite a number of former No. 3 Wing runners performed excellently in the B.K. Athletic Meeting.

CRICKET :—Owing to the splitting up of the Wing, our capabilities at Cricket, until recently, were unknown. However, various trials have taken place, as a result of which much hidden talent has been brought to light. Only one B.K. match has been played (against No. 4 Wing) in the Senior Division, which resulted in a win for our team by 3 wickets. Low scoring was the order of the day, and it is to be hoped that with a little more practice this fault will be remedied, and success in the B.K. Competition will continue.

BASEBALL :—This game has become very popular with No. 3 Wing this season, and two matches have been played against High Wycombe, both resulting in wins. The B.K. fixtures have not yet started, but in the Babington Trophy "A" Squadron are playing magnificently, having won all of the eight matches played to date.

SWIMMING :—The Wing Swimming Sports reached a successful conclusion on Tuesday, June 14th, "C" Squadron retaining the Inter-Squadron Cup, the final placings being :—

"C" Squadron, 174 points,

"B" Squadron, 73 points,

"A" Squadron, 69 points.

At the conclusion of the sports, the prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. F. H. Shales.

We are looking forward to the B.K. Swimming, and hope to be as successful in this as in other branches of sport. Several of our swimmers have been selected to represent the Station, and have given a good account of themselves.

We feel confident that more will be heard of No. 3 Wing in this connection in the near future.

SHOOTING :—This has been an exceptionally good season for us, and we have many successes to record. At the Eighth Annual Meeting at Kimble, "B" Squadron won the Inter-Wing Squadron team match, "C" Squadron the Apprentices' team match, and No. 3 Wing won the Junior B.K. At Bisley, "C" Squadron won the Apprentices' Challenge Cup, and S.A.A. Moore and A.A. Manvell have been selected to represent the Station at Bisley in the King's Prize. We wish them "good shooting."

INDOOR GAMES :—" C " Squadron won by a handsome margin the Inter-Wing Squadron Apprentices' Billiard League, now in its second year, only losing one match out of a total of twenty-two played.

Table Tennis has gone with a swing, and some exceptionally good play was seen in the final, which was won by " A " Squadron.

MODEL AIRCRAFT SECTION :—A good deal of flying was possible in the early months of the year, and quite good flights were made by the older members.

Soon after Xmas a petrol-driven model was started by one of the members. Two others caught the craze, and at the time of going to press, there are four petrol models, two of which have been flown on the aerodrome with quite satisfactory results.

The heavier class of model built to the Wakefield Cup Specifications has caught the eye of the older members, A.A.'s Clinch, Cotton and Finney, and we are hoping they will be able to compete in the Wakefield Cup Eliminating Competition on July 3rd.

At the end of last season A.A. Clinch won the Wing duration cup with a flight of 165 seconds and A.A. Titterton, with a model of his own design, has broken this record with a flight of 180 seconds. The machine was actually in the air for 237 seconds, but was only officially timed for 180 seconds.

By the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, the club was able to stage a display of models on Empire Air Day in the Reference Library of the Wing Institute. Thanks are due to the Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader F. H. Shales, Officers of the Wing, W.O. Streeter and Sergt. Longley for their support and interest which has made the club such a flourishing activity.

Two competitions have been held so far. The first was a Novices' Duration Competition, and the second a Solid Scale Competition.

The Novices' Competition was won by A.A. Buist, with an average duration of $64\frac{2}{5}$ seconds. A.A. Stevenson was second with an average of $64\frac{1}{5}$ seconds. Both models were of club design.

No. 4 Wing

WE regret the loss to the Wing involved in the departure of Wing Commander Ryder Young who has been posted to the Air Ministry, but we wish him every success in his new appointment. Squadron Leader J. S. Phillips took over command for a few weeks until the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, Wing Commander W. E. Swann, whom we welcome to No. 4 Wing, together with Flight Lieutenant B. Hobson, M.B.E., and Flight Lieutenant A. R. Smeathers, commanding " A " and " B " Squadrons respectively.

A Corporals' Club Dance was held in the Concert Hall on December 21st, and a combined No. 4 and No. 5 Wings' Staff Dance took place on February 25th. Both were very enjoyable and successful functions.

RUGBY :—After the end of October, 1937, the Wing teams devoted their time to training for the B.K. Competitions. The Seniors unfortunately lost all their matches, the Juniors also faring no better. These results were not surprising on account of the small numbers from which to select, but the games showed evidence of the proper spirit.

An Inter-Squadron competition was played, in which " B " Squadron lost both their matches, but the match between " A " Squadron and " C "

Squadron was a very exciting game, and ended in a draw, both sides scoring one try.

A number of apprentices played for the Station XV and the Station Apprentices' XV during the season, and we congratulate S.A.A. Wallis, A.A.'s Drysdale, Groves, Taylor, Hammil and Mayle on this distinction.

SOCCKER :—On the whole last season was a notable one for No. 4 Wing. We were perhaps a little unlucky in both Senior and Junior B.K. Competitions, but we won two matches and lost one in each series, the juniors scoring altogether 12 goals against 5.

All fixtures with outside teams resulted in wins for the Wing, and greatly helped to improve the standard of play. Throughout the season the Wing has been well represented in Station teams, and on one occasion took over a Station team fixture and beat Hazell's of Aylesbury by 3 goals to 1.

Considerable improvement has been shown in Inter-Squadron games, the competition resulting in "C" Squadron winning by one point from "A" Squadron.

HOCKEY :—The interchange of apprentices with No. 3 Wing in January caused some alteration in the Hockey Teams, and although we recruited a number of new players, we failed to make much of an impression in the B.K. Competitions.

Inclement weather and unfit grounds caused the cancellation of some of our outside fixtures, but for the most part the season finished satisfactorily.

SHOOTING :—The Eighth Annual Rifle Meeting was held at Kimble from April 27th to April 30th. The weather was fine throughout and visibility good, but a strong north-easterly wind blew consistently.

The Wing team was placed fourth in the B.K. Senior Competition, and had no luck in the Station Inter-Squadron team match or in the Apprentices' team competition.

Flying Officer E. J. A. Knight was, however, placed sixth, with 140 points, in the Station Championship.

Miniature shooting in the Wing has reached a very high standard. We had two representatives, A.A.'s King and James, in the R.A.F. team for the Inter-Services Championship, and our team reached the second stage in the "Nobel" Cup, eventually being knocked out by Eastchurch. We did well to finish third in the Bucks County League, and have now reached the fifth round of the National Team Handicap, the only Halton team to survive thus far. On the whole we can be very satisfied with our progress.

CROSS-COUNTRY :—A most successful season can be recorded in this sport. Our only defeat in outside matches was inflicted by a strong team from R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge, while we beat teams from R.A.F. Henlow, R.A.F. Ruislip, Culham College (twice) and a Slough A.C. Junior team.

In the B.K. races the Senior team won their event quite comfortably, in spite of the loss of L.A.A. Reddy, the captain, who was transferred to No. 3 Wing in January. Unfortunately many of the Junior team misinterpreted D.R.O.'s, arrived late at the start of their race, and by sheer bad luck we were baulked of a double victory.

BASEBALL :—Practice started during the last week of April, and the game this season promises to be very popular. Inter-Block and Inter-Squadron games have been arranged, and possessing, as we do, a number of

last year's players, we should do well both in the B.K. and Babington League matches.

ATHLETICS :—No. 4 Wing Sports were held on May 21st, in weather conditions ideal for competitors and spectators alike. Judging by the applause which greeted both the serious and less serious events, the spectators were as thrilled by the first as they were amused by the second. Squadron Leader J. S. Phillips was the chief official; Mr. R. E. Gorwood, M.B.E., gave valuable help; and Mrs. J. S. Phillips presented the prizes. The Hollinghurst (Inter-Squadron) Cup was won by "C" Squadron; the Kilner Cup by S.A.A. Wallis; the Staff Cup by Sergt. Weeden.

SWIMMING :—The Swimming Sports were held on June 16th, and some very good performances were recorded. "C" Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Cup, with 143 points, "A" Squadron, runners-up, scoring 112 points.

DRUMS :—In the annual Station Competitions held last December, No. 4 Wing took first places in Trumpet, Flute, and Pipe Band contests. The Drums Shield was presented at the Passing Out inspection later in the month.

A silverine trumpet has been presented for competition by Flight Lieut. W. B. Murray. The first competition was won by A.A. Murray, who will carry the trumpet in all Commanding Officer's parades.

No. 5 Wing

WITH the arrival of Squadron Leader K. A. Meek, M.B.E., Flight Lieutenant H. E. Sales and Flying Officer W. P. Spinks, the Wing has now been brought up to establishment.

The Wing has been definitely ordered to move to Cosford on August 4th, less 129 Aircraft Apprentices of the August 1937 Entry, and 66 Aircraft Apprentices of the January 1938 Entry. The Wing will again be made up to strength at Cosford. The apprentices staying behind will be transferred to other Wings to complete their training.

The band is now showing good progress, and will commence its functions at Cosford.

SOCCER :—Much interest was shown during the Soccer Season and the Wing team did well to beat another Wing team, and draw with a strong Staff team.

L.A.A.'s King and Stump represented the Station Apprentices v. Chatham Artificers, and King played regularly for the Station team.

HOCKEY :—The standard of hockey in the Wing is low at present, but this will improve with better grounds. In spite of this drawback, there was considerable keenness, and it is expected that the talent or natural ability of some apprentices will show up next season in better conditions.

RUGBY :—The Wing can lay claim to a large number of average players quite a number of these hailing from Wales. The best we could do was to produce two players for the Station 2nd XV, L.A.A.'s E. M. Senior and G. K. Senior. More will be heard of these two in the coming Rugger Season as half-backs, who have an uncanny understanding and play very hard.

BOXING :—The standard of the Inter-Squadron boxing was high, and the bouts were well contested in a clean and sportsmanlike manner. A.A. G. Lewis was outstanding, being a boxer and fighter of exceptional qualities. A schoolboy champion, he won his fights with another Wing's representatives in grand style.

CRICKET :—The cricket season has started well for No. 5 Wing, with no less than six representatives (four of whom play regularly) in the Station team—Flight Lieutenant H. E. Sales, A.C. Waite, L.A.A.'s E. M. Senior and G. K. Senior. Although only two of these are apprentices, it is an extraordinary feat and naturally the spirit of keenness in the Wing is very great.

Matches with other Wings have been arranged, and our untried team in their first match gave a promising display against No. 1 Wing, who won by 20 runs.

The Senior twins were the foundation of our strength. These two and A.A. J. R. Wright represented the Station Apprentices *v.* Chatham Artificers, L.A.A. Stump being a reserve.

ATHLETICS :—Not being allowed to participate in the B.K. Junior Sports was a damper in a way, but this had the effect of increasing the enthusiasm in our own sports. The Wing Warrant Officer and Flight Sergt. Barnes, ably assisted by the P.T.I. Corporals, are to be congratulated on the large part they have taken in obtaining this measure of success. A.A. Jackett won the 100 Yards and 220 Yards in fine style, a creditable show as he has only recently been operated upon for appendicitis. With further training he should make a very useful sprinter. No. 5 Wing can be justly proud of their all-round performance in winning the Inter-Unit Relay.

SWIMMING :—Although the swimming bath has been out of commission for several months, some hard training under Flight Sergt. Roe has already produced results, 573003 A.A. Smith and 572973 A.A. Owens having been chosen to represent the Station team.

BASEBALL :—Great keenness is being shown in this new sport, and already two apprentices have shone to the extent of being selected to play for the Station "B" team, L.A.A. Draper and A.A. Rowe.

SHOOTING :—Great interest has been taken in shooting, and three apprentices show real promise of becoming first class shots. Three teams were entered in the Inter-Squadron Competition at Bisley.

Oh, to be in Cosford,
Now that 5 Wing's there,
For whoever wakes in Cosford
Finds, some morning, unaware,
A Sergeant standing by his side
With a cup of tea and a look of pride,
His smile of welcome beaming wide,
In Cosford—yeah?

A.A. Browning.