

Please find below details of those who played on the Boys' Under Fifteen (Medallion) XV Rugby team at Limavady Grammar School.

As with the other sports featured in this archive, the number preceding the pupil name is the school registration number of that particular pupil. If the number does not appear then that is either because there is no surviving school report in school detailing that pupil's activities or the activity is not recorded on their report. The only other information we have therefore is from the school magazine, Roesian.

If the reader has photographs or other relevant information to add to this archive we would be very pleased to hear from you. Thank you.

Words in italics are drawn directly from Roesian.

**Boys Rugby
Under 15 XV (Medallion)**

1946-47 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)
Thomas C H Allen
B Austin
John Caskey (Captain)
John Gilbert Conn
William H Craig
Fred Cromie
Thomas J Ivan Cromie
Richard C Foster
A Lucas
William J F Meighan - information in Valette, Roesian
1951/52 (absent from photograph)
K McCloskey
R McCurly
L McNeice
J Quinn
C Wilson
W Wilson

'After a lapse of several years, during which we played hockey, we have re-started rugby as our winter sport. With much hard work we managed to prepare the school field. We found difficulty in getting posts and balls, but after some time of impatient waiting we were ready.'

We knew little about the game at first but under the instruction of Mr Gough and Mr Donald we managed to learn something of the play. Unfortunately the weather did not prove suitable for our matches but all our difficulties so far have been overcome by the enthusiasm of the players and of the teachers.'



Under Fifteen Boys' Rugby XV 1946-47

**B Austin W Craig R Foster L McNeice K McCloskey G Conn J Quinn I Cromie
A Lucas R McCurly C Wilson J Caskey (Captain) W Wilson F Cromie T Allen**

1947-48

Thomas C H Allen – information in Valete, Roesian
1951/52

James B Austin – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51

Forgrave Cochrane – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51

William Connor – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51

James McClelland – information in Valete, Roesian
1951/52

William G Rodden – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51

Calvin Wilson (Captain)

1948-49

Malcolm H Mullan – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51. This is probably Malcolm Kearny Mullan who
was captain of the Medallion team 1949-50

James McClelland – information in Valete, Roesian
1951/52

1949-50

- 612 Robert John Boggs
- 647 Daniel James Brolly
- 614 Norman David Cochrane
- 654 Raymond Dallas
- 656 Aaron Mervyn Elder
- John H Foster – information in Valete, Roesian
1950/51
- 659 Oliver R Gault
- 662 Robert John T Graham
- 666 Samuel George I Hamilton
- 618 Henry James Ivor Haslett
- 619 Ian Chalmers Henderson
- 622 Samuel Morrell Lyons
- 728 John C Moon
- 632 Malcolm Kearney Mullan (Captain)
- 676 Robert Gault McKay
- 679 James Martin McNeice
- 630 Murdo MacPherson
- 637 Leslie Ross
- 730 John Scott
- 710 James Conn Sherrard
- 690 James Edward Simpson
- 695 James Reginald Watson

'The Medallion XV have shown great keenness, although they have been handicapped by a shortage of matches. Indeed, their very enthusiasm has, strange as it may seem, been a handicap to them sometimes. The forwards, when a score has seemed likely the result of a good rush, have been so intent on crossing the opposing team's line that at the critical moment they have neglected to heel the ball to their backs.

The weather has been very kind to us and the games have been a pleasure to spectators and players alike.'

1950-51

- 656 Aaron Mervyn Elder
- 659 Oliver R Gault
- 662 Robert John T Graham
Harvey - We have no other detail however
he could be Edmund Harvey)
- 739 William Jack Heaney
- 716 Robert A Hunter
- 717 David R Lindsay
- 728 John C Moon
Mullan - We have no other detail, this could be
Eidwin F Mullan who played on the Medallion team
1951-1952 or he could be Malcolm Kearney Mullan
who captained the Medallion team 1949-1950
- 676 Robert Gault McKay (Captain)
- 725 George Gordon McLaughlin
- 724 John Darragh McLaughlin
N McLaughlin
- 727 John K McManus
- 679 James Martin McNeice
- 730 John Scott
- 750 Nigel Semple
- 690 James Edward Simpson

Entered the Medallion Shield Competition but were defeated in the 2nd Round by a team from Annadale.

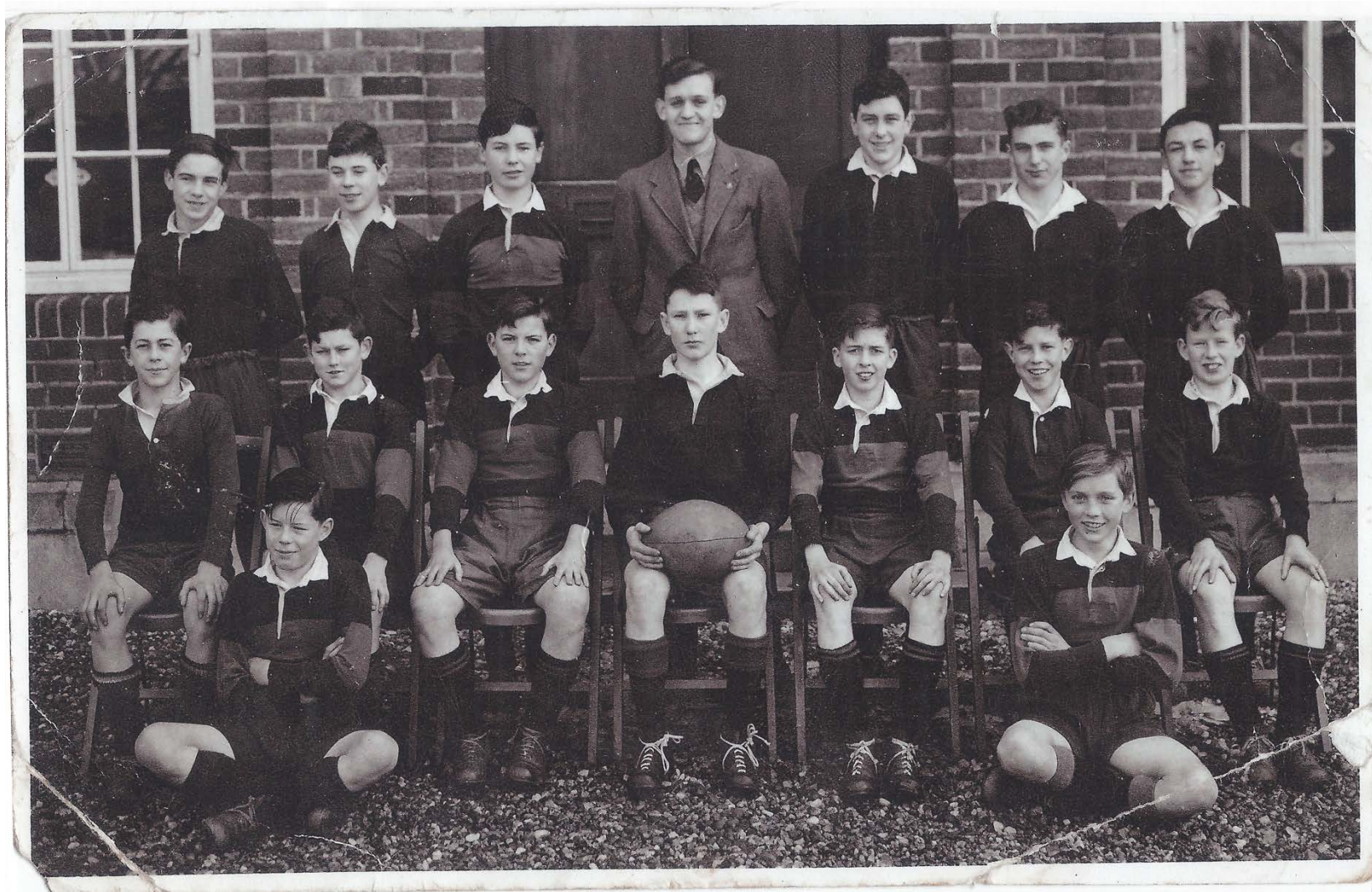
'The Medallion XV was not so successful as last year's side. The forwards were slow in heeling and poor in the line-out. In the loose they were better but they have yet to learn to keep the ball close and heel quickly when stopped. The backs played fairly well in attack but were weak in defence. Tackling was poor and some of them still have to learn that they must tackle their opponent, not run along beside him in the hope that he will pass the ball.'

1951-52 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

- 712 Kenneth Austin
- 758 John Alexander Haslett
- 739 William Jack Heaney
- 717 David R Lindsay
- 787 Martin R Moore
- 786 Matthew E G Moore
- 808 Eidwin F Mullan
- 826 Robert S McCormick
- 703 William James S McCunn
- 783 Samuel N McGonagle
- 744 William John McKay
- 727 John K McManus
- 679 James Martin McNeice (Captain)
- 730 John Scott
- 750 Nigel Semple
- 689 Andrew Nelson Simpson
- 732 John A Thompson
- 792 James Clive Cameron Tierney
- 754 Richard Victor Whyte

'Our Medallion and Under 14 XV's had a very shaky start but improved with experience and practice. The forwards must learn when to take the ball on and when to heel. The backs must run straight and hard in attack and tackle low in defence.'

In the First Round of the Medallion Shield Competition our Under 15 XV put up a very good fight against Rainey Endowed School in Magherafelt.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1951-52

(Mr Wakefield stands centre back row and probably James Martin McNeice as Captain is centre front row)

1952-53 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

Gerry Archibald – If this is Thomas G Archibald, he played for the 1st XV 1953-54

- 794 Francis Cecil Boggs
- 775 John L Campbell
- 795 Desmond Gordon
- 758 John Alexander Haslett
- 36 William D Millar
- 786 Matthew E G Moore
- 826 Robert S McCormick
- 783 Samuel Nelson McGonagle
- 744 William John McKay (Captain)
- 53 Robert J Robinson
- 750 Nigel Semple
- 705 Joseph D M Sherrard
- 790 Robert J Cranford Smyth
- 58 Thomas R Thompson
- 813 Hugh Thorpe
- 754 Victor Whyte

'The Medallion XV did not have a successful season. Their lack of weight proved a great handicap and though they were very keen they were unable to hold heavier opponents. In the Medallion Shield they travelled to Belfast High School and were beaten by 15 points to nil.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1952-53

**Mr F Wakefield ? N Semple G Archibald D Gordon J Campbell M Moore N McGonagle
M Sherrard R Thompson B Robinson W McKay (Captain) R McCormick C Boggs H Thorpe
C Smyth V Whyte**

1953-54 (photograph by kind permission of Mr John White)

- 775 John L Campbell (Captain)
- 11 William A Chambers
- 13 Ronald Clements
- 795 Desmond Gordon
- 21 Andrew B Hamilton
- 758 John Alexander Haslett (not pictured)
- 24 Samuel Reggie Hawthorne
- 702 John Leslie Kyle
- 804 John R Mackey
- 36 William D Millar (Vice-Captain)
- 807 Joseph Thompson Morrison
- 38 John N Mullin
- 39 William S MacLurg
- 45 Matthew B McCormick (not pictured)
- 53 Robert J Robinson
- 58 Thomas Raymond Thompson
- 69 John Charles White

'Our Medallion XV were very light and were unable to hold their heavier opponents. They were well beaten by RBAI in the First Round of the Medallion Shield.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1953-54

**Mr F Wakefield J White R Clements D Gordon W MacLurg L Kyle J Morrison R Hawthorne B Hamilton
W Chambers R Thompson W Millar (Vice-Captain) J Campbell (Captain) J Mullin R Robinson R Mackey**

1954-55

- I Campbell
- 11 William A Chambers
- 13 Ronald Clements
- 131 Kenneth Dallas
- 821 William John Evans
- R Hall
- 83 James D Harper
- 23 Robert J C (David) Hawthorne
- 235 John H Head (Baird)
- 84 David Heaney
- 104 Joseph D Morrison
- 38 John N Mullin (Captain)
- M McCormack – This could be Matthew B McCormick who played on the Medallion team, 1953-54
- D McCurry
- B Pollock
- J Smith
- R Smyton
- 58 Thomas R Thompson

'The Medallion XV, though generally smaller and lighter than their opponents, always played with energy and keenness, and such was their ability to fight back against stronger opposition that they often attracted more supporters to their games than the 1st XV. We hope that they will continue to play with the same spirit for many seasons. The back line hardly settled down to combined play, partly because of slowness in starting, along with some selfishness. The forwards were rather slow in heeling, but fought with great determination.'

1955-56

133	David G S Avrell
761	Ian Brewster
134	William I Brown
	I Campbell
	William A Chambers
	Ronald Clements
142	Victor Crawford
821	William John Evans
81	David O D Graham
	David Heaney
250	Victor E Irwin
248	James K Mitchell
104	Joseph D Morrison
38	John N Mullin
90	Ian Brice McQuiston (Captain)
295	Barry Rhodes
	A Smyton
170	Robert M Stewart
229	John P Thompson
249	Robert I S Walker

'This year our Medallion had a very limited number of players to call on between the ages of fourteen and fifteen years; in fact seven members were under fourteen years. Nevertheless they always gave a good account of themselves against stronger and heavier teams.'

1956-57 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

- 133 David G S Avrell (Captain)
- 195 Graham W M Bartlett
- 761 Ian Brewster
- 364 John A L Dobson
- 206 Samuel E H Harper
- 209 Robert McD Hunter
- 250 Victor E Irwin
- 362 Maurice A Jones
- 248 James K Mitchell
- 213 William R McLean
- 217 Joseph E McPherson
- 295 Barry Rhodes
- 228 George Stewart
- 170 Robert M Stewart
- 229 John P Thompson
- 249 Robert I S Walker

'The Under 15 XV had one of their most successful seasons for a considerable time. They won four games, lost two and drew one, and are to be congratulated for their keenness and the spirited way in which they played their matches. They trained frequently, often on their own, and thus set an example for future years.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1956-57
Centre Front Row: David G S Avrell (Captain)

1957-58 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

- 195 Graham W M Bartlett
Geoff Conn
- 206 Samuel Eddie H Harper
- 209 Robert McD Hunter
- 257 William E (Ian) Hunter
Jenkins
- 763 James R Boyd Kane
- 248 James K Mitchell - not sure whether he's in the photo
Ross Morrison
Harry McCaughey
Willie McClean
- 263 Desmond Purcell
- 228 George Stewart
- 282 Donald R McK Thomson -not sure whether he's in the
photo
- 229 John Preston Thompson
- 267 William W Thompson - not sure whether he's in the
photo
- 249 Robert I S Walker (Captain)
- 268 Thomas J Wallace
Bill Warke

'The Medallion XV have had quite a good season as far as the general level of playing standard was concerned. In only one match were we routed, and that was by a powerful side from Belfast Model Intermediate School who were our superiors in every aspect of the game.'

... Several promising players were in this year's side, and the tackling by forwards as well as backs has never been better.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1957-58

Back Row: Mr Armstrong Harry McCaughey Willie McClean ? Geoff Conn Ross Morrison Bill Warke Ian Hunter
Middle Row: Preston Thompson Desmond Purcell Robert McD Hunter Robert Walker (Captain) Eddie Harper George Stewart
Graham Bartlett
Front Row: (?) Jenkins Tommy Wallace Boyd Kane

1958-59

- 195 Graham W M Bartlett
- 257 William E (Ian) Hunter
- 263 Desmond Purcell
- 229 John P Thompson (Captain)
- 267 William W Thompson
- D Thomson
- 268 Thomas J Wallace

'This team has not been as poor as its record would suggest. (Of 5 matches played, 4 were lost with only 1 win.) In it we had had better players than we have had for some years in the Medallion XV, but unfortunately there were three or four glaring weaknesses which our opponents were not long in spotting.

P Thompson, the captain, led the forwards well, but far too often his breakaways were unsupported by the rest of the pack. The other forward who was outstanding was D Thomson, the open side wing forward. He was always doing something useful, tackling low, covering his own backs, falling on the ball. The backs never combined together to work as a line, and there was a lack of confidence, a hesitancy, and a lack of thrust in much of their play. However, as this was a very young side, perhaps we can look ahead with more confidence as many will again be under the age limit next year.'

1959-60

(photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

R Acheson - If this is Richard E Acheson, he played for the Medallion XV during the 1960-61 season too

B Archibald (not pictured)

B Blair - If this is William T Blair, he played for the 1st team 1960-61 or it could be James W Blair who played for the Medallion XV 1960-61

B Bloomfield (Captain) - If this is Robert B Bloomfield he played for the Medallion team 1960-61

G Bloomfield - If this is Gordon H Bloomfield, he was secretary of the Rugby Club, 1963-64 and played for the 1st XV team 1963/64, 1964/65 (not pictured)

S Callaghan

S Cromie

S Evans - If this is Samuel M Evans, he played for the 1st team 1960

S Graham - If this is M Stewart Graham, he went on to be Vice-Captain of 1st XV Rugby 1963-64

J Harrison - If this is William J Harrison, he played for the 1st XV 1960-61

257 William E (Ian) Hunter

B Kane - If this is James R B Kane, he played for the Medallion side 1957/58 (not pictured)

R Kennedy - If this is Raymond K Kennedy, he played for the 1st XV 1960

W Kennedy - If this is Thomas Wilson Kennedy, he played for the 1st XV 1960

J Lee

J Lockhead - If this is Samuel J Lockhead, he played for the Medallion XV 1960/61

J Matson -If this is Joseph Matson, he played for the Medallion XV 1960-61 (not pictured)

A McQuillan -If this is Joseph D A McQuillan, he played for the Medallion XV 1960/61 (not pictured)

W Neill (not pictured)

263 Desmond Purcell (not pictured)

T Peace - If this is Trevor J H Peace, he played for the 1st XV side 1962-63-64 (not pictured)

R Peace - If this is Royston J S Peace, his cricket endeavours feature on his school report

267 William W Thompson

'Due to shortage of numbers both teams quite often overlapped; but attendances at Thursday practices have been good. Although the season has not been victorious it has been both progressive and constructive. The boys played well together as a team, more towards the end of the season than at the beginning, when play was quite disjointed.

We entered for the Medallion Shield competition, but Dalriada proved too strong. The final score was 14 points to nil. Tackling has improved immensely and defence has been good. A weak attack is one point in which the team must improve. Taking good tackling, defence, regular turn-outs and good team-playing into consideration I would say that amongst the backs credit should be given to S Graham, D Purcell, T Peace, R Peace, B Blair, S Callaghan, W Thompson and J Lockhead. The forwards of note are B Bloomfield, J Harrison, I Hunter, W Kennedy, R Kennedy and S Evans.

In conclusion I must thank the staff for their ready help and co-operation during the season, especially Mr McWhirter who took charge of the training and coaching of the Medallion and Under 14 XVs.'



Boys' Medallion XV 1959-60

Mr McWhirter R Acheson W Thompson I Hunter S Evans W Kennedy S Cromie W Blair J Lockhead
J Lee S Callaghan R Peace R Kennedy S Graham J Harrison B Bloomfield

1960-61 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

- 766 Richard E Acheson
Brian Archibald
- 332 James W Blair
- 520 John Houston Wallace Blair
G H Bloomfield (See Medallion XV 1959-60 list)
- 315 Robert Brian Bloomfield
E Stanley Callaghan (Captain)
Sam D Cromie
M Stewart Graham
John Lee
Robert (Bobby) Lee
- 394 Samuel John Lockhead
- 590 Joseph Matson
- 323 Joseph D Alvin McQuillan
L M Owen
Trevor J H Peace (information from Roesian)
- 620 Deryk Shackleton
- 531 Joseph Alymer Douglas Sherrard
- 435 David V G Stevenson

'This year the Junior Rugby Teams have had an enjoyable and constructive season, though not a victorious one. In fact the Medallion can only claim one win, against Dalriada. Probably the most important reason for their defeats was the lack of team play. There were a number of very fine individual players on the team; but all too often openings made by these players came to nothing, due to lack of support by the rest of the team. Much more determination in both attack and defence is necessary.

However, despite the lack of victories, the season's rugby was greatly enjoyed by all. The team turned out regularly for training practices and undoubted progress was made. There is considerable enthusiasm for rugby in the Junior School, and a number of players show great promise.

On the Medallion team the players of greatest merit and talent were E S Callaghan, S J M Lockhead, G H Bloomfield, S M Graham and J D A McQuillan. With these, and other young players coming on, the future of rugby in the school is assured.'

J McW (Mr J McWhirter)

The Roesian gives further details of the results of matches.



Boys' Medallion XV 1960-61

Mr S Mitchell John Lee Richard Acheson Bobby Lee David Stevenson Sam Cromie Stewart Graham ? ?
Trevor Peace Gordon Bloomfield Brian Archibald Stanley Callaghan (Captain) Brian Bloomfield Alvin McQuillan John Lockhead

- 1961-62** (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)
Frank Anderson - If this is Francis Anderson, he played for the 1st XV though the year is not recorded on his report
Brian Archibald
332 James W Blair
467 Gordon H Bloomfield
315 Robert B Bloomfield
John Hamilton
611 Michael F Head
Bobby Lee – If this is Robert Lee, he played for the 1st XV though the year is not recorded on his report
John Lee
629 Henry Mills
Victor Pollock
531 Joseph Aylmer Douglas Sherrard
577 Derek Simpson
435 David V G Stevenson (Captain)
691 William Keith D Wallace

Roesian has details of the matches played which do not make for good reading! Mr McWhirter's comments below reflect this.

'Victory, experience and the spirit to fight back when losing are the three things lacking in Junior Rugby.

The Thursday afternoon practices, run by Mr Bogle and myself, attempt to make the boys more familiar with the rules, and to enable them to gain valuable experience in playing good rugby.

B Archibald, A Sherrard, D Stevenson, V Pollock, G Bloomfield, J Lee and J Willshaw are the players most worthy of mention.

Other members of the Medallion and Under 14 teams are:- J Blair, D Simpson, A Crawford, K Wallace, R Lee, J Loughrey, J J Scott, J Hamilton, F Anderson, J Matson, M Gilfillan, M Head, H Mills, I A Hunter, R Hull, H Craig, N Pickett.'

J McW (Mr J McWhirter)

'In conclusion I must thank Mr McWhirter and Mr Bogle for looking after the Junior rugby in the school so well. The future of the game in school depends greatly on the training and encouragement given at that stage.'

SPM (Mr S P Mitchell)



Boys' Medallion XV 1961-62

**Mr McWhirter John Lee Derek Simpson Frank Anderson Bobby Lee Keith Wallace Henry Mills ? ? Mr Bogle
Michael Head Gordon Bloomfield Brian Archibald David Stevenson (Captain) Aylmer Sherrard Victor Pollock John Hamilton**

1962-63

- F Anderson - If this is Francis Anderson, he played for the 1st XV though the year is not recorded on his report
J Blair - If this is James W Blair, he played for the Medallion side 1960/61
G Bloomfield (See 1959-60 list)
A Cooke
H Craig
601 Alexander C Crawford
607 William M Gilfillan
M Graham
T Green
611 Michael F Head
R Hull
629 Henry Mills
183 Norman W Pickett
531 Joseph Alymer D Sherrard (Captain)
577 Derek Simpson
691 William K D Wallace
T West

The winter of 1962/1963 is still talked about today amongst those old enough to remember it. The rugby season was described in Roesian as, *'the most disastrous in the history of school rugby. ...without precedent as far as Limavady Grammar School is concerned.'* It was of course nothing to do with skill but everything to do with the weather. Excessive rainfall, snow and hard frosts meant that the pitches were unplayable for most of the winter months.

'The Medallion and other Junior XVs had mixed success in school matches. Nevertheless, win, loss or draw there is no doubt that all teams enjoyed the matches we were able to play. With the number of enthusiastic young players coming on in the lower school, the future of enjoyable rugby at the school is assured.'

SPM (Mr S P Mitchell)

1963-64

- 678 Alan Bloomfield
- 640 Joseph A Campbell
H Craig
- 601 Alexander C Crawford
- 568 Robert O Dodds
- 801 Jeriel Garrison
- 611 Michael F Head
- 876 Dermot Paul Mackie
- 649 John D McClean
- 670 David R W MacLurg
- 652 Samuel W T Nutt
- 183 Norman W Pickett
- 905 Malcolm Price
- 673 Brian V Roulston
- 655 Marcus T H Thompson
- 691 William K D Wallace (Captain)

'Rugby in the Junior School still continues to prosper under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr Bogle. The training received now by these junior players should do much to improve the standard of school rugby in later years. I must also thank Mr McWhirter for looking after the Medallion XV so well.'

SPM (Mr S P Mitchell)