

## THE DAY EDWARD TANNER WON THE BROAD JUMP



**The broad jump cup awarded in 1874 to Edward Tanner.**

On Easter Monday 1874, Edward Tanner won first prize for jumping 19ft 1in. in the 'broad jump' at the Sherborne School athletics day and was awarded an inscribed silver-plated cup. Over 100 years later, this cup was discovered in a cupboard at Rookwood School in Andover where it had been left by the School's former headmistress, Miss Kathleen Tanner. This year the cup was returned to Sherborne School where it will be displayed with the School's other sporting cups in the cabinet in the School dining hall.

Tanner's triumph, however, was not quite as straightforward as it might first appear. *The Shirburnian* for April 1874 reveals that although Tanner won first prize in the broad jump (replaced at Sherborne in 1927 by the long jump) it was believed that Henry Macaulay, who came second, 'exceeded the winning distance, but was thrown back by the turf, which had not been dug sufficiently far.' Macaulay (a 1873-1874) had arrived at Sherborne from Eton the previous year and, despite being two years Tanner's junior, the two boys were well-known to each other as members of the School debating club where they locked horns over such thorny subjects as 'That home rule in India would be an advantage' and 'That

cremation ought to be legalised in England', as well as being members of opposing house cricket and rugby teams. After leaving Sherborne in 1874, Macaulay went on to Oriel College, Oxford where he represented Oxford University in the high jump and the shot put, becoming a member of the Oxford University Athletic Club. Tanner went on to become solicitor to London County Council, a post he held until his death in 1927.

I wonder whether in later years, and in spite of the comment made in *The Shirburnian*, Tanner would look proudly upon this cup and remember the day he out-jumped a boy who went on to become an Oxford Blue?



**Broad jump on the Upper in 1896.**