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NAMIBIA

Oana reserve over the Easter break

Over the Easter holidays, nine boys accompanied by PJB, TLR, and OS went to the Oana reserve in Namibia to do conservation work. The two week trip consisted of ten days in Southern Namibia, followed by a two-day safari in Kgalagadi Park in South Africa.

At 4pm on 4 April, the five Lower Sixth and four Removes met at Heathrow, ready to bear the full day of travelling ahead. After a ten-hour flight to Johannesburg, we transferred to a smaller plane that took us to Upington in an hour and a half. It was here that we were met by Andrea, one half of the conservation duo that would lead us in all our activities on the Oana reserve. Following the flight, we started our six-hour coach journey to reach Kum Kum Farm. Around four hours into the car ride, we reached the border between South Africa and Namibia. It took approximately an hour for them to check all our passports and papers, until finally we were permitted to cross the Orange River into Namibia. We stayed in the van for another 15 minutes until we were met by Ed, the other half of the duo. Loading all our bags into his pickup truck, we began the final hour of travelling on unpaved roads, reaching the campsite at seven. Surviving the long journey, we were awarded with a fantastic meal from chef Zoey, and proper beds and showers at basecamp.



Our first day was to be a more relaxed one, with a late wake up at 9am. On this morning, we met Joe, an expert on sand dams from Kenya. He was to help us with our major project during the trip: building a sand dam on the Harrow River. Sand dams are incredible conservation projects. Over time, they collect a significant amount of sand on the riverbed, stopping the water underneath from evaporating. Thus, plants are able to draw water from underneath the sand, creating a green oasis in the desert where animals can come to drink. The prospective site of our sand dam was a 20-minute drive from basecamp, located not so far from the previous Harrow Namibia group's dam. The first day on site was mainly preparation. We split up into two teams: one to collect rocks of all sizes while also conveniently clearing space for a new road, the other to dig out sand to expose the stone base where we were to build the dam. Following the collecting and digging, we cut wooden planks and metal poles into lengths. It was at lunch that we were introduced to Francois Theart, renowned snake expert in Namibia. Although he was more of a reptile expert, he helped us with the main

activity of the afternoon: setting up 100 mammal traps. First, we needed to clean and check all of the small rectangular metal traps thoroughly. Then we prepared bait made of peanut butter and oats for omnivores, and added bovril to attract carnivores. After adding small bait balls into every trap, we set them five meters apart from each other in a straight line.



The following morning, we got up earlier at 6am so the mammals would stay cool as we checked the traps. If there was an animal caught inside the trap, we would fasten a plastic bag onto the lip of the trap, and in one quick motion, shake it out into the bag. Afterwards, we would take scissors and cut a bit of fur behind their neck to make sure that if the same animal were caught again, there would be a mark on them. In total, we found two male bushveld gerbils in the traps, and also spotted a horned adder coiled in the sand. Finishing breakfast at 8am, we headed off to the sand dam for another half day of work. Using the cut wooden planks, we created a mould roughly 1.5m tall and 2m wide to hold concrete as it set. While one team made the wooden walls, another drilled shallow holes in the base of the dam, each one staggered about half a metre apart. We placed the metal poles from the previous day into these holes to increase the overall strength of the dam. Finishing the final preparations, we began the concrete making process. Into each pile went three cement bags, and nine wheelbarrows of sand. We made three piles and mixed them thoroughly with shovels until they were all a consistent colour. Completing all the preparations for the following days, we headed back to camp for lunch. In the afternoon, we set up three camera traps around watering holes and pinch points to record the biodiversity of the area. In the evening, we were lucky enough to have a short presentation by Francois on the many snakes of Namibia, outlining how to spot venomous snakes and what steps to take if you have an encounter.

The third day marked our only full day of work on the dam. Joe taught us, step by step, how to mix the cement with water. Once the concrete gained a porridge-like consistency, it was ready to be put into the wooden mould. As the Lower Sixth were shovelling the concrete, the Removes gathered the rocks from the first day. Layer by layer, the rock and concrete mixture filled the mould to the top, and our work that day was done. Following dinner, we met Viktor Nesticky, a leopard expert doing research in southern Namibia. He gave a great presentation on leopard habits and patterns in the Oana reserve area, and showed us fantastic footage of all animals that he captured on camera traps over the years.

The next day, we managed to finish another section of the dam by lunch. Admiring our quick progress, we decided to take a long break in the central 'octopus' tent before the 're-wilding' project in the afternoon. At around 4pm, we hopped onto the pickup truck and drove to a long stretch of fence. Previously, the Oana land was used by many different farmers, therefore, when the area was bought to become a reserve, the fence used to mark territory was left behind. These huge fences are extremely detrimental to wildlife, as most animals cannot climb them to reach new land. To solve this problem, Andrea and Ed have gradually been taking down kilometres of fence with the help of groups like us. To clear the fence, we first had to use pliers to untangle the endless bits of wire holding the fence posts together. Then, we each grabbed a length of wire, and started to roll it into a circular shape that could be easily recycled. The whole process took three hours, but it was definitely worthwhile knowing that animals such as springbok, oryx, and zebra could use this new land as they pleased.

Every day we worked on the dam, we got better and better at the building process; by day five, we were three-quarters of the way finished with the construction. Afterwards, we capped off the day with a friendly game of baseball. To take a break from the sand dam, on day six we went on a beautiful hike down to the Orange river. Along the 6km walk, we passed by staggering dry waterfalls, small caves, and even spotted leopard tracks, among others. Once we reached the Orange river, there was a complete change of scenery: instead of the dry rocky mountains we had become accustomed to, the riverbank was lined with flourishing greenery. We spent our time there swimming and sunbathing; a most welcome change to the dam-building routine.

Our final half-day at the sand dam site was the best yet; by mastering our concrete mixing skills, we were able to finish the final section in just two hours. In the afternoon, we helped Viktor move the leopard trap from an old site to a new location. Viktor's main goal this year is to capture three leopards and collar each of them, allowing him to see exactly where the leopards are moving and what their territories are. Because he did not have much luck with the previous location, he decided on a new spot in a pinch point in a valley, where leopards have no choice but to walk directly through the trap. Our first task was to lift the heavy steel trap from the old location onto the pickup truck. Then we drove over to the new location. However, we ran into a problem: the road to the pinch point was far too rough for the truck to drive all the way. Therefore, we had no choice but to haul the giant trap 500 metres to its destination. Although the work was strenuous, as a team we were able to take it up and down rocky surfaces to its new location. To set the trap, Viktor used a cow's head for its pungent smell, which helps attract leopards. To reward our hard work, for dinner we had a traditional South African barbecue called a 'braai'.

On the final day in Oana, we set out at 8am for a game drive. Ed and Andrea do a game drive once every two weeks to count the various wildlife, and make sure that their numbers are consistent and aren't decreasing due to potential poaching or natural causes. Over the three-hour drive around the reserve, we spotted a large variety of animals including kudu, springbok, klipspringer, zebra, oryx, grey eagles and weaver birds. After lunch, we were taught traditional African bead-making by the cleaner, Monica. Following souvenir making, we headed back to the sand dam for the last time to add finishing touches and take photos. On the drive back, we collected the three camera traps set from the days before, and were excited to see what was captured. Looking through the footage, we saw everything from leopards to honey badgers to porcupines.

On the next day, we said our goodbyes and thanks to Ed, Andrea and the Oana staff as we headed off to South Africa for two days of safari. After a long day of travelling, we made it to Kgalagadi Park, and set up our tents on the campsite. For dinner, we were treated with a braai prepared by our safari guide August and his wife.

Waking up bright and early, we drove off into the park for a morning game drive. Along the 40km road, we saw ostrich, klipspringer, oryx, grey eagles, secretary birds, weaver birds, and even a cheetah on a hunt. After a great braai lunch, we headed back to the campsite for the afternoon, where most of us relaxed in the refreshing pool. After dinner, we decided to go on a night drive in hopes of finding nocturnal species. Using spotlights throughout the ride to search for eyes, we were able to find animals such as lions and steenboks.

The next morning we packed up our tents and went out for another game drive, spotting meerkats, marshall eagles, cheetah, corey bustards, and jackals. Because it was our last day before leaving South Africa, we were awarded with one night at the lodges. We spent the afternoon in the pool and relaxing in proper beds, before digging in to a fantastic dinner prepared by August and his wife.

Once again, many thanks to PJB, TLR, and OS for organising and accompanying us on the trip. This phenomenal trip to Namibia is open to all Lower Sixth and Removes, and will run again next year.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD PRACTICE

Expedition to the Lake District

30 March to 3 April

At the end of the Spring term, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold practice expedition took place in the Lake District, a mountainous region in north-west England famous for its lakes, forests and rugged mountains. The group from Harrow travelled by train to Windemere station. The boys then immediately set off towards Ambleside Youth Hostel on an acclimatisation exercise to improve their understanding of the terrain they were faced with, before embarking on their four-day expedition.



Thirty boys were split into five groups and were tasked not only to navigate their way through the National Park's famous mountains, such as Helvellyn and Scafell Pike, but also to wild camp in a self-sufficient manner for three nights. In addition, the groups came up with many very interesting aims for their expedition, such as observing the flora and fauna or exploring various styles of leadership. The varied weather throughout the trip, ranging from shimmering sunshine to torrential rainfall and heavy snow, gave the boys suitably challenging experiences. Nevertheless, all endured through the hardships and carried on to the finish line. Despite all these challenges, the boys were able to appreciate and soak in the idyllic and scenic views of the various mountains and forests and appreciate the natural beauty of the world. In terms of navigation, the boys were equipped with compasses, maps and route cards. On many occasions, the boys found themselves in challenging situations such as finding collapsed pathways or destroyed footpaths, meaning that they had to reconsider their

actions and plans before proceeding. Amazingly, the boys witnessed CJFB, Master-in-Charge of the Gold Award, rock climb a mountain face with his bare hands! As always, there were countless memorable and enjoyable moments throughout the trip. For example, the construction of a 7ft snowman and a heated snowball fight on the final morning, despite all the aching legs. At one point, a boy even jumped into a lake for a quick swim! All in all, it was a most successful trip and the boys should now be ready for their unaccompanied qualifying expedition in Scotland in the summer.

TOUR OF US UNIVERSITIES

East Coast, 31 March – 6 April

From 31 March to 6 April, a group of 20 Harrovians accompanied by KAF, MEPG and Miss Morton trekked hundreds of miles all over the East Coast of the United States to tour some of the most prestigious academic institutions the US has to offer.

After a 6.5-hour plane journey (with what felt like Ryanair quality leg room), we landed in Boston Logan Airport. Our hopes to go straight to the hotel and to stretch out in our comfortable hotel beds were quickly crushed when KAF shuttled us onto a coach for 2.5-hour journey to Dartmouth University, the first of the 11 universities listed in our trip itinerary. The drive was tiresome, but we endured it well. The arctic temperatures that greeted us upon our arrival in Hanover not only woke us up but also made many run back to the coach to retrieve their jackets from their suitcases before embarking on the expedition. Dartmouth University is one of the eight Ivy League institutions and is located in Hanover (AKA the middle of nowhere). With a strong focus on undergraduate programs, great study abroad opportunities and an emphasis on outdoor sports, the university appealed to many (especially MacNaughton, who was elated when he heard of their rugby successes). Unfortunately, much to Singh's dismay, Dartmouth does not offer cricket as a sport. After a dinner of fine American cuisine with five OHs currently studying at Dartmouth, namely the three Robinson brothers (Austen, Gordon and Malcolm), Max Holden and Jack Oelhafen, the boys ventured back to Boston and finally got some rest, going to bed well after midnight.



The next day, we enjoyed our luxurious lie-in and lounged in our beds until 7.30am when we were greeted by a wake-up call from reception ordered by KAF the night before. After a quick breakfast consisting of steak and eggs, we hopped on the coach to Tufts University. A smaller-sized university located just 15 minutes away from the centre of Boston, Tufts proved to be a close-knit, yet academically strong university with its student body representing a broad range of political ideologies. A meeting with the charismatic Professor Gittleman was one of the highlights of the trip and it informed us of the many benefits the US higher education system has to offer. We enjoyed a wholesome lunch in one of Tufts many dining halls,

which consisted of a buffet of pizza, gigantic ice cream scoops, burgers and hot dogs, before heading to MIT.

MIT was the first institution we saw that left everyone amazed, including those who have no interest in Maths, Engineering or the sciences. The university overlooks the Charles River and the variety of architectural styles intrigued all of us. Many of us were glad to find out that the university is entirely connected by underground tunnels and so the harsh Boston winter could be avoided. After Singh's disappointment grew deeper as MIT also do not offer cricket as a sport, we walked the Boston Freedom Trail and saw many historic monuments such as that of the Old City Hall and the burial site of Samuel Adams. Much to MEPG's dismay, we decided to cut the walking tour short and not to visit the Boston Holocaust Museum due to severe weather conditions and the exhaustion of many of the boys.



The following day was a day full of prestige and excellence, as we visited two more renowned Ivy League institutions, namely Harvard and Brown. We arrived at Harvard at around 8.45am after another early start and had coffee and doughnuts with two OHs, Aristo Sham and Kabir Gandhi, who provided us with two completely different perspectives of what life is like at Harvard and how one can use their time at the elite school. We then met with the Dean Irons, who visited Harrow last autumn and who answered specific questions the boys had about the application process. Certain individuals asked about how their sins committed in the name of being cool and impressing their peers influenced their chances of being accepted, and a tear rolled down Singh's face when he was told that Harvard did not offer cricket as a sport. Our tour of the campus was most boys' favourite yet; all the buildings were grand enough in scale and style to be considered monuments and one could grasp the sense that they were surrounded by academic and extra-curricular greatness whilst walking around Harvard Yard. After a swift lunch and a stop at the Harvard Merch Store, we ventured to one of Harvard's rivals, Brown.

Despite being another Ivy League institution, the atmosphere at Brown was completely different, and the boys started to understand the phrase 'perfect match', so often heard at different US universities-related meetings on the Hill. All the students were smiling, laughing and playing in the fields. An info-session revealed Brown was perhaps the most academically liberal institution we visited due to their Open Curriculum, which enables students to take classes in any subjects they want and has no general education requirements. Our tour around the campus revealed that Harvard and Brown share traditions with regards to their university gates which students enter twice: once upon starting their time at the university and once upon their day of graduation. The university also boasts great night life with artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Young Thug and Bob Dylan all coming to campus to perform. We also met with two students at Brown, an OH Alex Tyryshkin and Miss Morton's former Princeton peer, Nicholas Jones, who is studying for his PhD at Brown. They gave us a great idea of what student life and academics were like at both undergraduate and post-graduate level at the university. Brown proved to be one of the most popular universities seen on the trip, with Tanner stating that he did not want to leave, as he felt he was already at home.

After moving hotels and trekking two hours to New Haven, we toured Yale University the next morning. Yale was the most popular university of the trip and placed higher on most boys' rankings than Harvard, Princeton or Columbia. This is most likely due to the similarities it shares with Harrow in school colours, conformity of architectural design and school pride. We met early in the morning with a freshman OH, Scipio Herwegh Vonk, who gave us insight into his application to Yale and how Greek Life (ie fraternities and sororities) works on campus. Singh had to excuse himself from the room when Herwegh Vonk told him cricket was also not offered at Yale. A tour around campus then followed, and Yale put most of the other universities to shame. It had the most appealing campus by far and seemed to be a mix of Oxbridge, Gothic and classic American architecture. We had a quick lunch break that involved a stop at Shake Shack and Desmond and MacNaughton getting their eyebrows professionally threaded, while KAF and Miss Morton were busy delivering Harrow propaganda materials to all the key decision-makers in admissions.



After that, we travelled 30 minutes to Wesleyan University, a smaller institution than most of the other universities on our tour and with a bigger focus on undergraduate study and the liberal arts. The tour around the campus was a unique experience, as it was unlike most of the other universities seen on the trip. The student body was diverse, with there being a library suited for quiet students and separate one for those who work better in a louder environment. The campus was very concentrated and the many alumni the university has in the entertainment industry made it very attractive to those considering a degree in the creative arts.

The next day saw us in the bustling, air-polluted metropolis that is Manhattan as we toured New York University and Columbia. We arrived late to the info session at NYU due to the notorious Manhattan traffic but quickly and eagerly filed into the hall and listened to what the admissions officer had to say. Many of us were pleased to hear that NYU does not require standardised test scores for international students and thus makes the application process much easier for hopefuls such as ourselves. Despite being in the city, most of the university buildings were very close together and were centred around the dynamic Washington Square Park, in which a plethora of live jazz bands were playing the day we visited. The fact that individuals can take courses at multiple different schools simultaneously, such as NYU Stern and the Tisch School of the Arts, greatly interested several boys. We had a lunch break for two hours (!) in which Desmond, MacNaughton and Singh contemplated getting psychic readings done (enquiring about their academic future?) as well as getting their ears pierced, but thankfully they decided against it.

We then visited Columbia, which also ranked very highly among the boys. That it provides a campus experience in the centre of Manhattan was one of the key factors that attracted the boys to the university. This, combined with the beautiful weather and emphasis on literature and humanities, was of great interest to the boys who wished to major in something related to those areas of study. Singh, however, was able to power the water-supply on campus after learning that Columbia also does not offer cricket as a sport. In the afternoon, we were fortunate

to visit US University Consultant David Feinburg, who furthered our knowledge of American universities in general and answered more specific questions we had about applying to them. We spent the evening shopping on 5th Avenue (where Wang and Ng bought some new designer shoes) and dining in Times Square at Virgil's – a traditional American Southern restaurant where we feasted on ribs, corn bread and pulled chicken.

By the time the final day rolled by, both the boys and the beaks were exhausted. MEPG was clearly regretting not bringing a warm coat to help him battle against the vicious weather and to use as a pillow on the coach and Miss Morton's navigational skills had deteriorated so much that she had to use Google Maps to direct the driver at Princeton: the very university in which she lived for four years. KAF had given up on controlling Desmond for whom we had lost the leash for back in New Haven. We first met with Senior Associate Dean of the College, Dean Fowler, who oversees academic standing and advising at Princeton, who was able to offer a personal perspective on what makes Princeton stand out. After the tour of the campus and info session, a group of boys for whom music is going to be an important component of their applications also managed to meet with an OH, Gabriel Crouch, who is Director of Choral Activities and Senior Lecturer in Music. The info session at the university was pretty similar to all the others but it did clarify a few differences between Princeton and some of the other Ivy League institutions, such as how all seniors are required to write a 100-page thesis on a subject of their choice before they graduate. The university was yet another very popular option among boys, with an outstanding campus and ideal location in relation to NYC. Before our departure from Princeton, we were joined by OHs Michael Yeung and Alan Huo for sandwiches in the campus centre.

After a swift lunch, we journeyed to our final university, the University of Pennsylvania. We were generously met by Dean Eric Furda, Dean of Admissions. He explained the importance of evaluating community, culture and curriculum when we make our university choices to us. We then had our final info session and tour, on which we were joined by OH Han-yi Ng, who also supplied us with some delicious cookies to enjoy on the way to the airport. Among other things, the university is known for its world-famous Wharton Business School and small yet vibrant Greek life. Many of us also loved the central Philadelphia location of the university.

Overall, it was a fantastic trip which provided hopeful US applicants with invaluable information and a real taste of what studying at US universities is like. We must thank KAF, Miss Morton and MEPG enormously for their extraordinary hard-work leading the trip and for giving up some of their Easter holiday to ensure we had a great experience. Many thanks also go to the OHs, who gave up their time to meet to us, David Feinburg for welcoming us into his home and to both him and his university lecturer Professor Gittleman for educating us further on the application process and, of course, to all the universities which welcomed us onto and toured us around their campuses, often being extremely accommodating. Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to TCBC for their help with sorting out our flights, accommodation, meals and much more.

US UNIVERSITIES OFFERS 2018-2019

This spring, we have reached the end of a very successful US universities application cycle, with Harrow boys securing 43 offers from top US institutions. The strength of the boys' applications and their success is particularly impressive in light of the incredibly competitive current admissions climate in the US. The universities to which boys have been admitted

are diverse in terms of geographic location, size and campus, as well as in the fauna that serve as their mascots – from East to West Coast; from large state universities to small liberal arts colleges; from Jumbo Elephants and Cardinals to Bulldogs and Blue Devils.

Boys have secured seven offers from six Ivy League institutions, including Harvard, Yale and Princeton, in addition to several other impressive offers from places such as, Stanford, Chicago, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, UCLA, UC Berkeley and many others. Several schools have also awarded generous scholarship and aid awards to Harrow applicants, and indeed they have done so to an unprecedented extent this year.

The US admissions landscape continues to grow increasingly competitive as the numbers of applicants to elite universities increase each year and the decision-making process comes under harsher scrutiny. In order to give you an idea of the odds at just some of the more selective institutions, admissions rates for the Class of 2023 were: Harvard 4.5%; Yale 6%; Princeton 5.7%; Duke 7%; MIT 7%; Johns Hopkins 9%; and USC 11%.

All Upper Sixth boys and OHs who applied this year are to be congratulated for their hard work and determination throughout the long US admissions process. We wish those with offers all the very best in their higher education in America, and look forward to their continuing to build upon the tradition of Harrovians in the US. Thanks must go to every member of the Harrow community who supported and facilitated each of these boys' applications. In particular, we are grateful to all those beaks and House Masters who wrote on the boys' behalf and were their champions throughout this cycle. Many thanks, too, to the Universities Team and Sixth Form tutors for their continued support.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from around the Hill

“Sir, why haven't you marked my paper yet?” “Frankly, I saw it had your name on it, and put it at the bottom of the pile.” “And what about mine, sir?” “I saw your name, and put it in the bin.”

“I'm going to talk about a model democracy. Take North Korea, for instance.”

“Your prep will be on OneNote. You will need to complete all the pages up to and including the last page.” “Good god, sir, that took me a whole minute just to scroll through.”

SWIMMING

Gala hosted by The King's School, Canterbury

Senior team, Won

The Harrow Senior squad put in a strong performance v Eton College. Final scores were Eton 66, Harrow 86. Stong performances were put in by Ben Hooper, *The Head Master's*, who swam within 0.06 seconds of his own School record in the 50m backstroke event. Michael Ma, *West Acre*, Tommy Nguyen, *The Grove*, and Will Pattle, *Newlands*, also achieved personal best times in the 100m breaststroke event.

Under-14A team, Won

Competition was also tight in the Under-14 age category. The final scores were Eton College 64, Harrow 70. Data Photpipat, *The Head Master's*, achieved a PB in the 50m butterfly event. Rowland Eveleigh, *The Grove*, swam a convincing personal best time in his 50m freestyle event, finally breaking the 32 second barrier.

ATHLETICS

27 April

On Saturday 27 April, Harrow took on Brighton, St Edward's, Stowe, Forest, Marlborough and Hampton in the first match of the season. The popularity of athletics continues to grow and Harrow was able to enter two teams, comprising over 100 boys. Brighton and Stowe provided the strongest opposition but Harrow's strength and depth saw them win each group fairly comfortably. The difficult conditions did not allow for record performances but it was pleasing to see that, in spite of this, the athletes did not allow the weather to dampen their enthusiasm or commitment.

Final scores:

Juniors

1st	Harrow	224
2nd	Forest	168
3rd	Brighton	158

Intermediates

1st	Harrow	213
2nd	Marlborough	153
3rd	Stowe	152

Seniors

1st	Harrow	232
2nd	Brighton	218
3rd	St Edward's	145

Overall

1st	Harrow	669
2nd	Brighton	510
3rd	Stowe	420



A Gent knows when to fix his hat....

Avoid Speech Day custos

By fixing any damages through

J.W.Shin & Co.

Enquire repair costs via consultation

TENNIS

The School v Eton College

A very difficult start for the tennis teams on Saturday, with strong opponents in Eton and very challenging weather conditions. The pick of the teams were the Seniors, who won both matches; the pairing of Harry Saunders and Alex Saunders, both *The Knoll*, won all three of their individual matches. There was a good battling performance in the Junior Colts from the pairing of Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, and Daniel Sidhom, *The Knoll*.

Junior Colts A, Lost 6-3

The Junior Colts As fought hard in tremendously difficult conditions against a strong Eton side, sadly coming up just short on the day. Notably strong performances from Hanno Sie, *Newlands* and Daniel Sidhom, *The Knoll*, battling to achieve two hard-fought victories.

Junior Colts B, Lost 0-9

Yearlings A Won 5-4

Given Eton's strong record at tennis, this was going to be a challenging fixture for Harrow. Although the home squad fought hard to take an early lead after just a few matches had been played, by teatime the teams were three matches a-piece. With just three matches left to play, 1st pair Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, and 2nd pair Max Ding, *The Park*, and Aidan Wong, *The Park*, managed to snatch two further valuable points to take the final tally to five matches to three in Harrow's favour. A special mention must go the 1st pair combination for winning all their matches, dropping just three games on the way.

Yearlings B, Lost 4-5

Although the home team were marginally ahead of the visitors going into tea, everything hinged on the last three matches of the afternoon. Despite Harrow's commendable efforts, the visitors managed to snatch enough of the remaining points to take the final score to five matches to four in their favour. A special mention must go to 2nd pair Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Casper Davis, *Elmfield*, who won two of their matches and drew the third.

SQUASH

National Schools Finals at Nottingham

22 March

Quarter Final v Ackworth, Lost 0-5.

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Lost 0-2
DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Lost 0-2
KH Jafree, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-2
TC Santini, *The Park*, Lost 0-2
JD Gibbons, *The Park*, Lost 0-2

5th-8th Playoff v Millfield, Lost 0-5.

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Lost 0-2
DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Lost 0-2
KH Jafree, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-2
TC Santini, *The Park*, Lost 0-2
JD Gibbons, *The Park*, Lost 1-2

7th/8th Playoff v Peter Symonds, Lost 1-4

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Lost 1-2
DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Won 2-0
KH Jafree, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-2
TC Santini, *The Park*, Lost 1-2
JD Gibbons, *The Park*, Lost 0-2

After accidentally reaching the National Schools Finals, Harrow faced the daunting prospect of playing teams that were very good indeed. This is of course only to be expected when the best eight teams in the country are brought together. But if this were the real world Harrow's qualification would probably have instigated some kind of high level Corruption Investigation. Amnesty International may well have come in from the angle of Basic Human Rights (BHR). For example, it could be argued that Santini and Gibbons were denied the BHR of playing against someone of their own species, not to mention ability.

Imagine Macclesfield Town reaching the last eight of the Champion's League (difficult, since Macclesfield would have had to finish in the top four of the Premier League to qualify) by winning a group that contained the champions of San Marino, Faroe Islands and Gibraltar. Yes, that's right: for Harrow to reach this far they would have had to either a) have been entered for the wrong competition b) run the competition themselves or c) have been given the easiest draw in the history of any competition. Or all three of the above.

England Squash seeded the finals based on the England Squash Ranking (ESR) of players. The system used was simply to add the national rankings of the five players in the team. The lowest total would be ranked one, and so on. The results were Ackford 31, Wycliffe 32, Langley Park 44, Millfield 46, Newcastle 60, Aylesbury 60, Peter Symonds 78, Harrow 31,691. And that was despite the fact that no record of a squash player called Santini could be found. For Gibbons they used his cross-country ranking.

So there were two basic options for Harrow. Option 1 is based on the Glorious Amateur Ethos (GA) and takes the view that "we are not going to win the competition". It is basically a fatalistic approach and so frees the team from any pressure, allowing them to just "enjoy the trip". Option 2 is based on the Ruthless Professional Ethos (RP) and takes the view that "we could win the competition". This requires a serious approach to preparation and allows the team to be satisfied that "we did all we could".

It could be argued that the very act of selecting Santini and Gibbons automatically forced Harrow into adopting Option 1 (GA) because it rules out any hope of victory. However, the only other option was to have selected the Only Fifth Former Playing Squash (OFFPS), another possible Human Rights Issue.

After a top-level meeting between the coach and team it was decided to adopt Option 2, hereafter to be called the Laughing Stock Avoidance Policy (LSAP). In theory, the team would try and do the following: a) Practice after prep and at other strange times like during games afternoons; b) Give squash priority over Harrow football; c) Eat more fruit and veg and cut out rubbish like chocolate breakfast cereal.

In the event, Harrow probably fell somewhere between the two options, a sort of Option 1.5. The team were physically and mentally incapable of following through the LSAP to the letter because at heart they are all GAs. The slow erosion of the principles of LSAP began 30 seconds after the top-level meeting when it was realised that Gibbons had not turned up. More erosion became apparent on the journey. A mid-afternoon stop was supposed to be for toilet and coffee but Captain Sodi took the lead by ordering burger and chips, quickly followed by the others. This was not RP behaviour. That evening the team tried to get back on track by ordering pasta and water in the centre of Nottingham but there seemed to be a clear identity crisis; were they following LSAP or were they just GAs? The answer perhaps arrived in the adoption of the Apology Mitigation Strategy (AMS).

To add interest to matches that Harrow might well lose heavily it was decided that if a player lost a game 11-0 he would immediately have to go to his opponent and apologise for not giving him a decent game, as in "I'm really sorry about that pathetic performance" (AMS). After the match he would then

go and apologise to the opposition coach. It could be argued that this was clear evidence of Option 1 and “we are not going to win” but it could also serve to concentrate minds and avoid that whitewash, in other words, Laughing Stock Avoidance. In fact, it was classic Option 1.5, which could be perhaps be best described as “do our best but be determined to enjoy the inevitable defeat”. So mentally we were either in a strange place or we had accidentally fallen into the right frame of mind, depending on your viewpoint.

Another team aim was not to be 8th at the finals even though this would mean that we were 8th in the country. This is again classic Option 1.5. We have accepted that we cannot win the competition but are not prepared to lie down and die. So what happened? We did our best and finished 8th. Had we done all we could in our preparation? Probably not. And what about LSAP? Well, no-one had to make an apology.

The Anti-Corruption Unit and Amnesty International have a Harrow School File.

CRICKET

The School v Hampton School
11st XI Harrow - 303-9, Hampton – 93 All out
Harrow won by 210 runs

Harrow	Balls	Runs
L Harrington-Myers c P Kiritharan	33	58
H Dicketts c M Cooper	16	31
P Patel lbw J Wheeler	12	23
T Sheopuri c P Kiritharan	0	3
R Wijeratne b T Miller	86	92
C Witter b A Bhasin	94	72
J Langston c B Cullen	4	8
C Boland b B Cullen	0	1
J Chohan c A Bhasin	17	11
M Ali not out	8	5
T Ward not out	0	0
Extras		33
Total		303

Bowler Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
B Cullen	10	0	41	2
M Cooper	9	1	37	1
A Bhasin	9	0	53	2
P Kiritharan	5	0	55	2
J Wheeler	9	2	46	1
M Ford	5	0	28	0
T Wallace	1	0	20	0
T Miller	2	0	20	1

Hampton	Balls	Runs
P Kiritharan lbw C Boland	0	1
J Wheeler b J Langston	8	23
R Dasai c T Ward	5	8
T Thanawalla c C Boland	3	21
B Cullen b J Chohan	38	56
J Berg lbw J Langston	2	11
A Bhasin Ct J Langston	0	4
M Ford not out	15	25
T Wallace Ct J Chohan	0	2
M Cooper lbw J Chohan	0	1
T Miller lbw C Boland	1	2
Extras		21
Total		93

	O	M	R	W
C Boland	6.2	0	30	3
T Ward	6	0	16	1
M Ali	3	0	10	0
J Langston	6	1	11	3
J Chohan	4	0	17	3

Batting first, Harrow scored 303-9 from 50 overs with Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, 94 and Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*, 86 top scoring. Harrow continued to dominate with Christian Boland, *Newlands*, Jafer Chohan, *Lyon's*, and James Langston, *Druries*, each taking three wickets as Hampton were bowled out for 93

2nd XI, Lost by five runs

Hampton 2nd XI 178 all out (Dhaliwal 3-26, Guthe 2-13).

Harrow 2nd XI 173-9 (35 overs) (J. Owston 37, Leney 32).

A close game on the Sixth Form Ground to start the season: Hampton were bowled out for 178 with tight spells from Sehaj Dhaliwal, *The Knoll*, and Robin Guthe, *Elmfield*, who took 3-26 and 2-13 respectively. Needing five an over, Harrow made a steady start to the chase, but slowed in the middle of the innings, despite decent contributions by Julian Owston, *Moretons*, (37) and Arthur Leney, *The Knoll*, (32). A late cameo from Mustafa Akhtar, *The Head Master's*, brought the Hampton total back within reach but scoring 15 runs off the last two overs proved beyond the tail end, and Harrow came up five runs short.

3rd XI won by three wickets

4th XI v Guards CC XI, Lost by six wickets

The 4th XI lost to The Guards by six wickets with their score of 98 being easily caught in 19 overs by a strong Guards team. Some good batting from Charlie Du Sautoy, *The Grove*, salvaged a respectable result, scoring 57. Impressive bowling from Albert Courage, *Druries*, who bowled two consecutive maiden overs to open the bowling kept the score tight and prolonged the inevitable.

Junior Colts B won by 2 wickets

Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, 45*

Harrow began the season with a fantastic win away at Hampton. A composed knock of 45* from Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, saw the boys over the line in a nail-biting run chase.

Junior Colts C won by 6 wickets

Yearlings A won by 52 runs

Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, 45

Kit Keey, *Druries*, 38

Harrow's score of 205 for 2 was a formidable one on a slow wicket. Karan Zaveri, *Elmfield*, top scored with a forceful 88 not out but the foundation was laid with a fine opening stand between Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, 45, and Kit Keey, *Druries*, 38. Hampton did well to get 153 in reply. The best bowling came from the leg spin of Adi Inpan, *Bradlys*, with 2 for 24 and Adi Gupte, *West Acre*, with 2 for 31.

Yearlings B won by one wicket, Hampton 129 all out from 24 overs, Harrow 131 for 9 off 28 overs.

The Yearling's B scraped their way to win the first game of the season, losing nine wickets before chasing 129 from 30 overs.

Yearlings C Draw

Harry Morse, *Newlands*, 39*

An exhilarating game went right to the wire as Hampton managed to cling on for a tie with one ball remaining. Harrow were grateful to Harry Morse, *Newlands*, for propping up the batting performance with a courageous 41 not out.

The School v Eton College

Colts A, Lost by 29 runs, Eton 144-2, Harrow 115-8

Colts B, Lost by 10 runs, Eton 166-4, Harrow 156-9
 Callum Lloyd, *Newlands*, 55

*Junior Colts A vs Allyn's School
National Cup - Round 1*

Allyn's 35 all out, Harrow 37-2, Harrow won by 8 wickets
Cameron Ellis, Rendalls, 3 for 18; John Richardson, Elmfield, 3 for 5; Phoenix Ashworth, The Head Master's, 3 for 2
Harrow Bowled Allyn's out for 35 and knocked it off in four overs two wickets down.

*The School v Wellington College
School win by seven wickets*

Wellington	Balls	Runs
M Keast b J Chohan	42	41
A Carter b C Boland	0	6
M O'Donohue b J Chohan	18	27
M Bradbury b J Chohan	0	1
M Watson lbw J Chohan	0	4
C Bradbury lbw J Chohan	15	29
R Hanekom c M Ali	6	18
M Thomas not out	24	76
R Kanwar b c Boland	1	7
H Petrie lbw M Ali	4	23
S Daniell run out	6	23
Extras		19
Total		135

	O	M	R	W
C Boland	10	0	27	2
T Ward	2	0	11	0
J Langston	4.3	0	33	0
J Chohan	10	4	16	5
M Ali	10	2	27	2
P Patel	6	2	16	0

Harrow	Balls	Runs
L Harrington-Myers not out	59	110
H Dicketts b H Petrie	0	2
P Patel c R Kanwar	27	52
T Sheopuri lbw M Bradbury	14	23
R Wijeratne not out	20	30
C Witter dnb		
J Langston dnb		
C Boland dnb		
J Chohan dnb		
M Ali dnb		
T Ward dnb		
Extras		18
Total		138

Bowler Name	O	M	R	W
H Petrie	8	1	34	1
M Bradbury	9	1	21	1
M O'Donohue	7	0	21	0
M Thomas	4	0	27	0
S Daniel	6.1	1	21	0
R Kanwar	2	0	12	1

Harrow won by seven wickets. Wellington batted first and reached 135 all out thanks largely to Jafer Chohan, *Lyon's*, 5-16 and captain Musa Ali, *Moretons*, 2-27. The Harrow chase was well

paced with Luke Harrington-Myers, *Bradbys*, batting through for 59 not out. Another excellent performance from the XI.

2nd XI lost by 64 runs. Wellington College 2nd XI 252-5 (35 overs), Harrow 2nd XI 188 all out (J. Owston 36, Jafree 31). Julian Owston, *Moretons*, 36

The 2nd XI showed focus in chasing the target of 252 set by Wellington but, in spite of some determined batting, they ended up 188 all out. Julian Owston, *Moretons*, and Kareem Jafree, *The Head Master's*, contributed 36 and 31 respectively, and a ninth-wicket partnership between Arthur Leney, *The Knoll*, and William Shankland, *Druries*, added almost 50 to the score, which kept Wellington under pressure for much of the innings.

3rd XI, Lost by 14 runs
Colts A 153 all out, Wellington 100 all out, Harrow won by 53 runs

Olly Wills, *Elmfield*, 42

The Colts A graced the First XI ground with a superb win over Wellington. Harrow worked hard for their 153 runs, with Olly Wills (42) and skipper Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, (32) the stars. In the field the boys showed incredible energy, Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, and Olly Wills, *Elmfield*, all taking brilliant catches. John Koutalides, *West Acre*, Fred Prickett, *The Park*, and Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, were all instrumental in the win, with two wickets apiece.

Junior Colts A, Wellington College 88-10, Harrow 89-1, Harrow won by nine wickets

John Richardson, *Elmfield*, 4 for 7; Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, 3 for 27; George Cutler, *The Knoll*, 42*

The Junior Colts A side continued their strong start to the season with a nine-wicket win over Wellington College. John Richardson was particularly impressive finishing with figures of four wickets for just seven runs from his seven overs and George Cutler showed fine early season form, scoring 42*.

Junior Colts B lost by 6 wickets

Junior Colts C won by 22 runs

Yearlings A won by 249 runs

Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, 142*

Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, 141*

Adi Gupte, *West Acre*, 4 for 26

After being 43 for 3, Harrow posted a formidable 335 for 3. Veer Patel (142 not out) and Cameron Ellis (141 not out) put on an amazing 292 for the fourth wicket. In reply, Wellington managed 81 all out with Adi Gupte taking 4 for 26 and Adi Inpan, *Bradbys*, 2 for 9. The winning margin of 254 runs was possibly the largest ever by a Yearlings team.

Yearlings B won by 83 runs

Toby Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, scored 47*; Olly Hills, *The Head Master's*, 3 for 15

Yearlings C won by 2 wickets

Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*, 33; Cooper Smith, *Newlands* 4 for 22

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

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