

# THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXII NO.11

November 30, 2019



## Debating

*English Speaking Union, Round One,  
OH Room, 19 November*

On Tuesday, the Debating Society had the honour of hosting the first round of the English Speaking Union School's Mace competition for public speaking and debating. Six schools took part in the North London heat including John Lyon School, St Helen's School, Harrow School, Queen's Park Community School, Croxley Danes School and The Royal Masonic School for Girls.

In the first match, the John Lyon School took on St Helen's with the motion that 'This house would make voting compulsory'. The afternoon began well with John Lyon defining the motion as a measure that would impose fines on those who did not count a vote or spoilt their ballot at a voting station. The measure would encourage greater participation among the working classes and those from traditionally unrepresented minorities.

However, the opposition argued that this move would be a restriction of liberty and would not bring any tangible improvements to the system of government. With great regularity, they cited the example of Australia, where there was a 100% turnout at the election but 50% of the ballots were spoiled, leaving the people no better represented.

Secondly, the Harrow team proposed the motion that 'This house would limit each person to one return flight per year'. The debate began with an excellent opening from George Mingay, *The Park*, who talked about how rising pollution levels could lead to the end of the world as we know it through climate change and global warming. He talked about how the world was changing, animals were facing extinction and how flying was at fault.

The second speaker for Harrow, Theodore Seely, *The Head Master's*, discussed the class divide between the wealthy and the impoverished. An incredibly large proportion of the world's flights are taken by just 3% of the people on this planet. As a result, the poor in countries like Bangladesh are suffering under the strain of rising sea levels. While the rich are flying, the poor are dying.

Finally, the case for the opposition was summarised and closed by Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, who (as per usual) had quite a lot of rebuttal. While speaking at a slightly breakneck pace, he machine-gunned through a set of highly rhetorical points, repeating the one-liners from the earlier speakers.

Queen's Park Community School were also strong in resistance, talking about the incredible economic implications of a ban on flying. The first speaker was particularly impressive, particularly as he had not debated before. Millions of jobs around the world would be taken away by the plans in place from the proposition. However, the Harrovians were eventually too strong for them, and managed to qualify for the next round.

Finally, Croxley Danes proposed the motion that 'This house would abolish trial by jury'. They largely spoke about how juries can be easily biased by demographical prejudice. Juries

tend to have a predisposition towards supporting defendants who resemble them physically and socio-economically.

The Royal Masonic School for Girls were strong in their rebuttal, saying that the tradition dating back from the Magna Carta was important in protecting the integrity of our criminal justice system. Juries allow people to be judged by their peers so that the law can be considered humanely and justly in spirit. The ability for juries to sympathise is important in enabling special exemptions in extraordinary circumstances.

We would like to thank SMK for organising such a wonderful afternoon, our excellent external judge for raining down wisdom from the Oxford Union and our coach (Mr Dolan) for preparing us. Also, a massive debt of gratitude must go to William Wauchope, *The Knoll*, for kindly agreeing to introduce proceedings and act as an MC for the evening.

## RSC Top of the Bench

*Chilterns and Middlesex  
St Benedict's School Ealing, 12 November*



*Team: Henry Webster, Druries, Vincent Song, The Head Master's, Aum Amin, Elmfield, Edos Herwergh Vonk, Newlands*

Last Tuesday, a ragtag rabble composed of two Shells, a Remove and a Fifth Former rallied outside Druries, awaiting the arrival of an Uber that would take them to a regional heat for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition; if the team won, they would continue on to enter the national round. The Harrow team arrived at St Benedict's in time to happily consume some pizza and biscuits. Soon enough, however, the clock struck six and the teams were ushered into the hall where the competition would take place. After a brief, frantic flurry as the team struggled to locate their allocated table among the (non-alphabetically arranged) others, the nervous team settled down and prepared themselves for the imminent questions.

A nondescript booklet titled *Top of the Bench Regional Heat* was left on the table. What would the first page contain? Some

devastatingly tricky question that demanded application of the ideal gas law (including the recalling of the gas constant to five decimal places)? Thankfully, no such unfair question appeared. The team sighed with relief as they were greeted by a few questions on whether some substances were composed of atoms, compounds, ions or a combination of several. The next pages, thankfully, were all based on the GCSE syllabus and, although there were a few marks lost on a few of the pages, the team were able to make their merry way through most of the booklet. The final section, comprising general knowledge, might have resulted in a slip-up if not for the contributions of Aum Amin, *Elmfield*, who seemed to know just about every piece of chemistry-related trivia that could be known. Nonetheless, the Harrow team finished with 89 marks out of 100, earning them first place, and were rewarded with a trophy plate and a £50 Amazon voucher to be split between the four team members, as well as a filling meal at McDonald's. The team returned to the Hill satisfied and ready for the next round in the Spring term.

Many thanks to DH and HGM for entering the Harrow team and preparing them for the competition, which was in itself very enjoyable and inspired further interest in chemistry from all the team members.

## Verney Prize

OSRG, 12 November;

Adjudicator Professor Simon Blackburn

The Verney Prize is the academic prize in the School; it is a significant Sixth Form Speech Day prize awarded to the boy who produces the best arguments in both a written round and a final viva voce round in ethics, aesthetics or metaphysics. This prestigious School prize consists of two rounds, with the second round being judged by an external adjudicator.

Over the summer holidays, 46 boys read G E M Anscombe's paper 'Modern Moral Philosophy' and, on their return to the Hill, sat a timed essay on the question: Is it true that without a lawgiver there can be no moral laws? These first-round essays were marked internally in the first instance, and a shortlist of ten essays was sent to the external adjudicator who in turn selected three finalists.

The final took place on Tuesday 12 November in the OSRG. The external adjudicator was the distinguished English academic philosopher, Professor Simon Blackburn. Professor Blackburn asked the finalists to prepare an oral argument of ten minutes on the question: When do you have free will?

Here are summaries of the arguments presented by the finalists:

Theodore Seely, *The Head Master's*

Exploring the concepts that try to deny us or to limit our free will, it would be easy to see the circumstances in which it is actually present. He introduced his definition of what free will was, which, in his mind, was the ability to want to carry out an action. He stressed that you did not have to be able to do that action – having the desire to carry it out was enough. He believed that by finding cracks in concepts that try and repress free will, such as St Augustine's predestination theory or Locke's determinism, and by examining the theories that promoted absolute free will, such as Sartre's libertarianism, we

could prove that, at the times when free will was meant to be most repressed, it was present. If that were the case, it would show that, even during the darkest times, all human beings have the capacity for free will.

By demonstrating that human beings have the capacity for free will despite concepts of predestination, determinism or absolute freedom, he hoped to have shown the audience how free will could be manifested by each of us, at every point in time, in every situation. He argued his theory dealt easily with the theological, philosophical and scientific difficulties of the evening's discussion – when and where to find free will – and was also firmly rooted in the ability to have free will at all times. To summarise, he believed that the ability to have 'free will' lay not in one's ability to 'do something', but in the ability to 'want to do something'. Therefore, it matters not where you grew up or what you believe in. Each and every one of us has the ability to have free will at all times.

Tommy Nguyen, *The Grove*,

My premise as well as contention is that 'I' have free will so long as I have consciousness, and that such a consciousness is irreducible to a fundamental, physical level. I start by defining 'I' in this question as an entity amalgamated from my past experiences, skills, aptitudes, and as an entity which makes intentional, goal-directed decisions above all. However, these decisions are meaningless if the resulting actions are derived from my underlying physical properties (cells in my brain, chemical states etc), and my intentions thus are mere inconsequential by-products or outgrowths. To address this, I bring in the concept of 'emergent' properties in the sciences, how some properties and thus, causes, are not possessed by their parts. Based on my original premise, it follows that some actions are indispensably explained and caused by decisions from our 'emergent' consciousness. Finally, I define to what extent are such decisions free or, in other words, to what extent could I have done otherwise? In short, given that I can imagine alternative courses of action in the past recognisable as mine, I was free to do otherwise. Moreover, given that my past decisions impact what decisions I can make in the future, sometimes even without the awareness of my past self, I am also free to enhance or restrict my freedom. Thus, given I make decisions with intentions that have causality, and those decisions are free, I believe that is sufficient to say, "I have free will."

Sadab Mannan, *The Park*

The question of whether free will exists relies not only on the specific conditions under which the decision was made, but also on how free will itself is defined. If free will is defined as the ability to pursue any course of events (stemming from an action) leading to an outcome, then any decision that is made under the influence of any factor whatsoever that prompts the person to choose a course of events leading to a specific outcome, would not count as being made under free will.

Under such restrictions, existence of moral or legislative/societal laws would prevent exertion of free will, as for the former case the person would be inclined to make decisions in line with their moral views and what they consider as being 'morally correct', whilst for the latter the person would make a decision either obeying or disregarding the legislative laws, hence ultimately being influenced to make a decision geared towards a specific outcome. In each case, the decision would not be made under free will.

However, if the definition of free will were to be changed, for example to the ability to choose a certain course of events whilst disregarding the outcomes of those decisions, then it may be considered that the decision was made under free will.

Professor Simon Blackburn then cross-examined each boy's presentation before selecting a winner and, at the end of the evening, selected Nguyen as this year's winner. The Head Master will award the Verney Prize to Nguyen on Speech Day.

## Harrow Football

*Tour to Melrose, November Exeat*

This year, the Harrow football tour was to take place in the Scottish Borders, Melrose. After a few months of planning and an almost full squad of boys willing to come, the day finally came when the team was to head up and hopefully have a great weekend with the OHs.

After a brief parents' and teachers' meeting, with GHW doing the rounds to make sure boys weren't taking too long, the team met with CDLM, GHW and DRW outside Speech Room to start the tour. After a tricky start, with Theodore Seely, *The Head Master's*, and George Wooding, *Bradlys*, having to return to their Houses to retrieve some forgotten items (a shock to the team when Seely announced that he had forgotten his cufflinks), Caspar Gurney, *Druries*, won the Mr Forgetful prize; he took the biscuit in this situation by having to return to his House three times on the way down to the tube. This was a great start to the tour! Even when the team arrived at the station, CDLM struggled to get through the barrier, with his bag getting stuck; after that, Seely managed to miss the tube. However, once the team (minus Seely) arrived at Kings Cross, it was time to grab some lunch and head to the train. With Wooding, Gurney and George Biles, *Bradlys*, all walking through Kings Cross with their fezzes on, the team was quite a sight for the public. After a few difficulties with train and seat reservations, some of the boys were forced to sit on the floor for three hours as they headed up north. On arriving at Edinburgh, the team (much to their excitement) jumped on another train down to Tweedbank and finally onto Melrose, the home town of BTM, who sadly couldn't join them.



The taxis pulled up at the hotel, where captain Phillip Benigni, *Newlands*, was hoping that the two stars on the sign was in reference to the Michelin stars of the hotel restaurant. Sadly, this was not the case. However, the hotel was perfect for the boys and the restaurant was even better. After a long day of travelling, the boys were starving and were looking forward to a full meal. With some great service and terrific banter, and Archie Nicholls, *Bradlys*, doing his Greta Thunberg impression, it was time to head to sleep and get ready for the long day ahead.

As alarms woke us up at a sensible time of 9.30am, we all headed downstairs to enjoy breakfast, with particular favourites being the 'full Scottish' (a normal English but with haggis) or 'Eggs Royale' (egg and salmon on a toasted brioche bun drowned in Hollandaise sauce, which Harry Lempriere-Johnston, *Druries*, proudly explained was extremely different from a sauce Béarnaise.) In his words "they're basically the same thing, but one uses lemons and the other white wine vinegar!"

The team then headed on a walk to the Melrose Rugby Club where we met the opposition. Half an hour before the match, the Old Harrovian team consisted of six players, and as the kick-off time drew nearer, we started to wonder who we were going to play. Luckily, as we were warming up on the pitch, practising our 'yards' and 'follow up' calls, an additional six

Old Harrovians drove up to the side of the pitch. With their numbers boosted by the addition of these younger OHs, and of DRW, who had proudly kitted up ready to take on Biles for all of his missing Politics essays, the Old Harrovians lined up defiantly, ready to prove that they were not 'feeble of foot' or 'rheumatic of shoulder.' CDLM insisted on banning soccer bases in order to make it a 'proper' game of Harrow football. More on that later.

The XI were allowed to borrow a player to make up an actual XI, so the mighty Mr Proctor joined us in our efforts to take on this Old Harrovian side. However, after about three bases in favour of the XI, scored by Wooding, Tim Carden, *Elmfield*, and Seely, it was decided that we should play with ten men against 11 to make it slightly fairer. A few minutes later, the half-time whistle blew. With Archie Hogben, *Newlands*, scoring one more for the XI and Ewan Barr, *Newlands*, finally scoring for the OHs, the score settled at 4-1. During half-time, while the OHs indulged in some beer and the XI were restricted to water, it was decided that the OHs would revert to ten men, but would now be allowed to score soccer bases (with several references by the XI of the 'proper' game CDLM had mentioned to earlier). Nonetheless, the game restarted in good spirit, with Zeddie Johnston-Watts, *Lyon's*, quickly scoring a soccer base, sending Lempriere-Johnston, who was playing sweeper, sliding into the distance as he attempted to sprint into Zeddie. Yet, in vain: he completely missed him. The Old Harrovians' hope was reignited, and captain Benigni's missed attempt at a yards kick for base did not help the XI. However, he was determined to make up for it and, instants later, slotted one in to make it 5-2. Hogben proceeded to score two more, confirming his position as the Harrow football scholar with a hat-trick, and, as the match drew nearer to the end, the Old Harrovians resorted to a classic 'next base wins' tactic. After a brief discussion with CDLM (and a bit of bribing one might assume), it was decided the game would be decided by golden base. After a beautiful base kick by Murray Barr, *Newlands*, the game therefore went in favour of the OHs, despite being 3-7 down. It is worth noting that, had Fraser Barr, *Newlands*, not missed his base kick earlier in the game, we would have been able to assist a hat-trick of Barr bases, something which would have been quite rare!

After a few photos, we headed back to the ice bath and hot showers before eating at the Melrose Rugby Club (which had recently installed a beautiful 3G pitch with stands) and witnessing a match between Melrose and the Highlanders. The Harrow XI were eager to spur on their hosts and provided a lot of vocal support for the home side, support that evidently worked, since Melrose won 31-7.

We then returned to the hotel, before heading to the customary black-tie dinner. After drinks at the Barr's house, we all headed on a cold and windy walk to the local restaurant where we indulged in a lengthy and thoroughly enjoyable meal. The dinner was followed by a speech from captain Benigni and a set of Harrow Songs and, as boys were put up for holding the record for the most detentions in a term (Gurney) or missing bases (Benigni and Nicholls), among other things, our voices filled the restaurant. As the evening neared its end, we thanked our hosts and returned to our hotel after a walk through the cold and fresh Scottish evening.

Morning came too soon but, after some hot showers and large 'full Scottish' breakfasts, the boys were all packed up and ready to leave the hotel and return to Edinburgh. The cold fresh air perked up some of the boys as we waited on the platform for the train. On arriving in the capital, the boys who were (to no surprise) very hungry! Luckily, DRW had booked a burger restaurant which, much to the excitement of the boys, was up a small hill with more than 100 steps. WMAL would have seen it as an opportunity to do some push-ups at the top and run back down.

The restaurant welcomed us with open arms and was quick



in getting our orders in. The team decided to get a variety of burgers, some even going for the 'Man vs Burger' and CDLM felt it necessary for a 'PBJ Burger' to circle the table so everyone got a try. The boys had one bite and quickly passed it along. The lunch filled the boys up and allowed them to roll back down the 100 steps to the train station. Wooding seemed keen to go on the rides of the nearby fairground but sadly it was time to catch the train back to London and into Harrow. Thankfully, this time all the boys got seats and were able to rest and catch up on some sleep before facing revision in the lead up to Trials.

An enormous thanks must be given to DRW and GHW for giving up their exeat to look after the boys, and especially to CDLM, who organised the tour. The boys presented themselves incredibly well and allowed the OHs to see again that Harrovians really are the best of the bunch. Hopefully the performance over the weekend in the match is a sure sign that this year's Harrow football XI could have an unbeaten season!

## Summerson Society

*Gilbert and George, 5 November*

In the dusk of Tuesday 5 November, Gilbert & George, as living sculptures, gravitated towards the Pasmore Gallery for an exhibition of both their own work and the work of some of our School's artists. The event was, of course, hugely exciting and our artists selected and curated works by Gilbert & George from the archive of White Cube, with the help of JESB. Before exhibiting at Harrow (a seminal moment in the duo's career?) Gilbert & George have, among far too many other things to mention, won a Turner Prize, and have represented Great Britain at the Venice Biennale.

As for our own artists, we have Kit Akinluyi, *The Head Master's*, Jack Chen, *Rendalls*, Louis Malhamé, *The Head Master's*, Archie Rowlin, *West Acre*, Raef Tanner, *Bradby's*, and Aidan Wood, *Druries*, to thank for their works: works made in response to those of Gilbert & George displayed by them.

In curating his portion of the exhibition, Akinluyi drew on the *The Beard Pictures* and *Fuckosophy* for inspiration. Akinluyi writes of *The Beard Pictures* where Gilbert and George use 'a grid arrangement... creating a stained-glass window effect with religious undertones', which is reflected in his own work: a grid of coloured photos. He also writes of *Fuckosophy* and how Gilbert & George 'are able to display the versatility of the English language'. Although they do this through the guise of vulgarity, using language commonly considered taboo, Akinluyi explores the pretentious and superficial use of language in much art criticism, superimposing generically emotive words over his photographs.

Chen, also the speechmaker of the event, suitably and unsurprisingly chose the *Jack Freak Pictures* as his source of inspiration, writing that they 'not only embrace society's strangeness but celebrate our freakish tendencies'. With this, Chen 'became fascinated by the notion of 'effect': a visceral, raw pre-feeling provoked by art'. Using a medical image of an eyeball pierced by a hook, Chen aimed at provoking a similarly physical, possibly disgusted, response from the viewer.

Defending his own wall, Malhamé displayed Gilbert & George's *Banners*. This collection of work is predominantly concerned with challenging our present conceptions, in this case of society. (Perhaps this concern with challenging our views is reflected by Malhamé's talk on Michael Baldwin's *Untitled Painting* for ARTiculation). Malhamé writes that the *Banners* are artworks of 'contradiction' with the phrases 'God Save the Queen' and 'Fuck the Environment' as neighbours in the works. This 'contradiction' is also present in Malhamé's own work, which depicts Hamlet's much repeated question, 'To be

or not to be,' in graffiti. The contrast here seems self-evident; Shakespeare is not commonly associated with graffiti.

Bordering Malhamé's work was that of Rowlin, who chose graffiti, as well as film, as his medium. Oscar Wilde's line that 'man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth' was cited by Rowlin, although he drew on Gilbert & George's *Scapegoating Pictures* for a large part of his inspiration. Rowlin writes that the collection manages to 'expose a new era of humanity with themes of surveillance, liberalism, fundamentalism, and paranoia'. In relation to his own work, Rowlin writes that 'the film seeks to encapsulate the constant war that is happening between the government and the people it purports to represent'.

Penultimately, Tanner drew on Gilbert & George's *Great Exhibition* for inspiration, one aspect of which is religion. With this, not discounting the psychoanalytical references to Carl Jung, Tanner examined the cross' symbolic value in religion, which he notes is essentially 'a simple geometric shape that once had no intrinsic value'. Despite this, it has become 'a symbol that has commanded our history since the death of Jesus'. It was perhaps this that inspired Tanner's work: a bottle on which is a visible and silhouetted cross. Appearing as a shadow, Tanner cites Jung in relation to his work, who wrote that 'the shadow by nature is difficult to apprehend. It is dangerous, disorderly and forever in hiding'.

Finally, Wood looked towards Gilbert & George's *London Pictures*, which he describes as commenting on the 'volatility, tragedy, absurdity, and routine violence that the city faces on a daily basis'. Considering this, Wood also had rap music in mind when creating his own work, which commented on the difficulties faced by some Londoners regularly. Like Akinluyi and Malhamé, and Gilbert & George of course, Wood used language as a medium through which to express himself, with visceral and topical words superimposed on his artwork. Language was, among many other things, a coherent theme that ran through the works on display, adding a sense of unity to the exhibition as a whole.

All in all, the exhibition seemed to be a triumph, despite the evident distraction that cocktail sausages provided, or perhaps thanks to it. We would obviously like to thank JESB, LWH, Pam, Terry, Gilbert & George, White Cube, the artists, and all others that helped curate the exhibition. We hope that John Summerson would have approved.

## Marmots 90th Anniversary

On 9 November, a group of Old Harrovian Marmots came together, along with the current Marmots and other involved members, to attend a lecture given by famous climber Neil Gresham (but also to share stories from their days in the Marmots and learn about the club today). It was a fun lot of people of all different ages, backgrounds and experiences. There was one man who turned up kitted out with original gear used in the Marmots when he was a member (about 50 years ago I suspect). He wore a bright orange anorak with a thick rope around his neck, a baby-blue balaclava and carried a pickaxe made of wood and stainless steel that looked more suitable for an apocalypse than climbing an ice shelf. He was the picture of a vintage alpinist. Others came laden with signed posters from the Marmots room and other things from their day and, if they were empty-handed, they brought good company and fantastic stories.

The Marmots is now a small society but it is steeped in history. As the oldest society at Harrow (founded 2 June 1929) it is also one with great heritage and some brilliant OHs. Stories of the "Marmots hut" next to the Hill Café packed with supplies made me almost nostalgic. To think of the Marmots where there were 30 young Harrovians all frantic for adventure was

a lovely thought. Their barn high in the Alps, bought to enable alpine trips for mountaineering and skiing, made me excited to think of future opportunities. Awesome stories form the old boys about scrambling up Munros, summiting the Matterhorn, or trips to rock faces all over the country and sleeping by the fire had my mind buzzing with excitement. If I didn't have an idea about gap years earlier then I certainly do now.

The day was also a celebration of Marmot history and, for this, we must thank a special diary in which was documented the history of the School including aspects of the Marmots. In 1948, due to the war and dwindling allowances, the Marmots was slightly faltering. By 1950 'due to the low standard of skiing shown by club members, only senior members were allowed to call themselves Marmots'. The war took a toll on the amount of practice the Marmots could do and so this announcement was decreed by the newly elected J C Wilkinson. In 1953, the Head Master endorsed the Marmots with a beak to lead the boys and a room especially for senior club members. The club was in full swing. Serious activities like pouring water over the gym stairs, waiting for it to ice over and sliding down them ensued after the revival. Key skills for a mountaineer, I am sure they argued. The Marmots increased in size for the next 20 or so years with frequent trips to the Alps for alpinism and skiing, and regular trips to rock faces around the country. In 1964, the head declared that rock climbing must be an essential part of the Marmots calendar and, from there, the shift from alpinism to rock climbing began. A wall was built on the outside of the sports centre for training and, finally, an indoor wall was built in the Sports Centre. Today, rock climbing is the main activity for the Marmots, with training two or three times a week and regular Sunday trips with renowned climber Johnny Dawes and coach MR. As for plans for the future... there are too many to count. There are ideas for weeks away to Spain or France, long weekends in the Peak District, a weekend by the sea in Pembrokeshire, an outside wall on the Ryan and, if there weren't enough ideas, the talk from Neil Gresham gave us plenty more:



Neil Gresham is one of the best British climbers alive today. He has made historical ascents around the country including Sabotage 8c+/9a in Malam Cove (Yorkshire) and Indian Face E9/6C in Cloggy, a route renowned for its limited protection (first ascent was made by Johnny Dawes). Described as 'a pitch of such appalling difficulty as to be almost beyond the realms of human comprehension' by UKC, climbing it is an incredible feat. During his lecture, Neil Gresham took us through the course of his life: studying at Sheffield University, travelling all over the globe and spending his youth searching for attainable routes. He told us stories of driving five hours after school to climb a single route before sundown then driving five hours back and returning to school the next day. As his climbing progressed through university and he had more time on his hands, he started to travel, except in a very unconventional way: he decided with two of his friends that each year they would use this invention called the 'World Wide Web' to search a country's name followed by 'climbing' and, if nothing came up, they would go there. This took them to amazing places all

over south-east Asia and Africa in search of any climbable rock. On one of these trips, they decided to head off to Mongolia. This plan, to them, seemed even more pleasing after rumours of there being granite deep in the Mongolian countryside. As it



turns out, this was indeed just a rumour started by none other than Johnny Dawes and the trip was deemed completely futile. Neil's talk was inspirational, exciting and showed us all that if you want something you can probably get there in the end.

I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Marmots to MR, who made this happen, and to everyone who came.

## Maths Symposium

Maths Schools, 12 November

On Tuesday 12 November, eight Harrow boys studying mathematics hosted eight girls from North London Collegiate School for a Mathematical Symposium. Each boy was paired up with a girl to present a joint five-minute talk on an interesting mathematical topic. The teams were Deepan Sakthivel, *Bradlys*, and Kia Popat; Daniel Chang, *Lyon's*, and Visharlya Vijayakumar; Andrew Cheung, *Rendalls*, and Emma Wei; Q Sun, *Moretons*, and Riya Patel; Naman Sharma, *Lyon's*, and Celine Markantonis; Gareth Tan, *Moretons*, and Oviya Santheepan; Leo Jian, *The Knoll*, and Zuzana Simckova; James Yuen, *Lyon's*, and Luxmi Thayaparan; Krish Nigam, *Moretons*, and Faye Song, and Herbie Smith, *Newlands*, and Shivvii Sugumar.

The symposium began with a discussion of heavenly things, with Tan and Oviya talking about the mathematics of an angel and a devil dancing upon a chessboard. We then moved on to earthly things, with Sakthivel and Kia talking about winning a car or a goat in a game show as part of the famously counter-intuitive Monty Hall problem. Cheung and Emma followed this up with a talk on the many fascinating ways to prove that root 2 is an irrational number, and faced some probing questioning from Ms Copin (of this parish). Chang and Visharlya then delved deeply into the mysteries of Pascal's Triangle, plucking from those murky depths the unlikely object of a hockey stick, whose shadow when cast upon the the triangle of Monsieur Pascal creates a surprising pattern of sums.

From the deep, we emerged into sunny Catalonia with an introduction to the numbers whose name does not, in fact, come from that politically tumultuous region but rather from the surname of a Belgian, who thereby must surely be more than deserving of being added to your list of famous denizens of that fair kingdom. Sun and Riya explained the definition of the Catalan numbers, their formula and their link to that stubbornly recurring Frenchman and his pesky three-sided shape. On Sun and Riya's theme, Sharma and Celine performed a variation, discussing the applications of the aforementioned Catalan numbers, including how to use them to evade guard towers while escaping from prison, giving a new meaning to the question, "Sir, when will I ever use this in real life?"

The symposium then staggered on – entirely soberly – to the topic of random walks, with Jian and Zuzana taking the theme of the Gambler’s Ruin, a persuasive mathematical demonstration of the folly of gambling, of which it is hoped all numerate Harrovians will take heed. For those innumerate Harrovians, I can offer excellent odds for the 2.15 at Chichester. See me after the lesson.

Yuen and Luxmi took us back to Ancient Greece to study at the feet of the geometers the many and varied ways of demonstrating that famous theorem of philosopher and cult leader Pythagoras of Samos. Taking the maxim that three proofs are better than one, the audience enjoyed a whistle-stop tour through some frustratingly persuasive demonstrations that, despite all protestations, the square of the hypotenuse is indeed still determined equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides. Ms Copin dared to ask Yuen why two lengths in his diagram were equal, to which Yuen replied with a confidence known only to Harrovians that they were equal because he had made them so.

Nigam and Faye then elucidated the matter of the presumably clumsy Frenchman known commonly as George-Louis Leclerc and aristocratically as le Comte de Buffon, who was forever dropping needles of length one on a strangely uniform set of floorboards. They showed through a remarkably convincing sequence of calculus-like squiggles that the probability of the needle landing across two floorboards was in fact twice the reciprocal of pi. Being inspired by the thought of the mysterious ratios of the circle, the only appropriate response was to feast upon that most rotationally symmetrical of collations, the pizza, which all the assembled did to great merriment. The meeting concluded with Smith and Shivvii talking about a few of their favourite numbers. All together now:

*37 is prime and is prime in reflection*

*6 is the symbol of man’s imperfection*

*The digits of a seventh are the stuff of my slumbers...*

## Alexander Society

*Sam O’Dell, West Acre, “A battlefield on the High Street”, Old Schools, 12 November*

On Tuesday 12 November, the Alexander Society under DF met. The rain had begun to pour heavily upon those hurrying to see the lecture, like artillery fire bombarding the keen military historians, trying to prevent them from entering Old Schools 10. However, this ardent group would not let the battlefield between their House and Old Schools stop them. Instead they persevered, adamant that they wanted to hear about ‘The Rise of European Nationalism through Military History’ by none other than the head of the Alexander Society, Sam O’Dell, *West Acre*. And so they confronted the powerful onslaught of wind and rain, pushing out of the trenches of their Houses onto the no-man’s-land that is the High Street. Finally, through ‘blood, toil, tears, and sweat’, as Churchill shrewdly put it, this band of the greatest Harrovians reached their goal, and stood outside the towering metropolis that is Old Schools, a smile etched on their faces and the wonderful prospect of learning about military history filling them with delight.

They swiftly saddled their battle stallions and charged up the stairs, screaming battle cries of ancient armies, mercenaries, looters, and the patriotic soldier. Once they reached the top of the stairs, they leapt off their horses in spectacular style and hungrily approached Old Schools 10, the trench of their enemy.

They drew their swords and bombarded the door, only to find one of their own, O’Dell, emphatically speaking about the significance of mercenaries in ancient armies, saying that it is the world’s “second-oldest profession”. The military historians lowered their swords and battle axes, and began to laugh, a loud burble echoing around the room, for these intellectuals knew exactly what the world’s oldest profession was! Even DF could be seen to chuckle contently in the corner of the room at this witty reference.

And so, having been given a glimpse at the genius of O’Dell and the Alexander Society, they decided to pull off their heavy armour and chainmail, and instead took a seat eagerly at the front of the class. O’Dell went on to talk about the significance of mercenaries in ancient armies and linked them to the famous sellswords of *Game Of Thrones*, in particular that of Ser Bronn of the Blackwater, who would literally ‘sell his sword’ and get paid by a lord to fight in his army, much like a mercenary. Ser Bronn didn’t care for politics, and jumped from lord to lord through out the eight seasons, starting with Catelyn Stark and moving from Tyrion to Cersi to Jamie Lannister. I am not saying that mercenaries in the ancient armies would always take lack of interest in politics to an extreme like Bronn; however, they would have only cared for money or other forms of payment.

Once again, the military historians in the room let loose a shrill laugh at the reference to *Game of Thrones* because, of course, which military historian hasn’t read or watched *Game of Thrones*?

O’Dell continued to amuse and broaden the knowledge of those spectating, talking about the Spartan army of 10,000 hired by Cyrus the Younger to take the Persian throne from Artaxerxes II, and about the use of this elite force at the ‘battle of Cunaxa’ where the Persian King Artaxerxes was defeated in 401BC. However, O’Dell again amused the room by telling the story that, apparently, one Greek had died and it was only after the battle that Xenophon found out that Cyrus had perished, so the whole expedition proved to be a failure: a sad and probably untrue tale of the 10,000. The rest of the lecture touched upon the battle of Agincourt in 1415 and Roman auxiliaries, in the end linking it all back to how the patriotic soldier was formed.

This lecture, although difficult to attend because of the gruelling conditions, proved to be both insightful and worth the effort, unlike Cyrus the Younger’s expedition into Persia, which proved to be a failure despite all the effort it took Cyrus and his army to get there. O’Dell’s lecture to the Alexander Society was a mixture of humour, legend and fact, which proved to be a perfect concoction, keeping the crowd fascinated and intrigued by ‘European Nationalism through Military History’.

## Joe Treasure

*“The Iambic Pentameter Through History”,  
OH Room, 13 November*

On Wednesday 13 November, the English and Classics Departments jointly hosted Mr Joe Treasure, a writer and teacher, who delivered a lecture entitled ‘Iambic Pentameter – From the Tudors to the Trenches’ to selected divisions.

Mr Treasure began his talk by examining the roots of this verse metre, notably introduced to the English canon by the romantic poems of Thomas Wyatt. The metre itself was relatively obscure during the classical period, being overshadowed by the dactylic hexameter that the great epic poets were so fond of, but it found a new life in the English tradition after its introduction.

Philip Sidney then took up the mantle of Wyatt, before himself being followed by the major Elizabethan dramatists: firstly Christopher Marlowe and eventually William Shakespeare. A common misconception is that, by writing in metre, poets were making life harder for themselves; in fact, as Mr Treasure



was keen to stress, the use of metre made it both easier for the playwrights to write extended pieces, and also for the actors to learn their lines.

Mr Treasure then moved on to the crux of his talk, which was an analysis of the irregularity in the stressing of certain syllables in some iambic pentameter poetry, and how this varies between different authors. He looked particularly at John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and graphically represented the stressing of beats in a section of this poem in order to emphasise his point that the strong beats do not always fall on the second, fourth sixth, eighth and tenth syllables.

After looking at William Blake's poetry, Mr Treasure explained how it was not always plain sailing for the iambic pentameter and how, during the period dominated by Coleridge and Wordsworth, the metre fell into disuse, being seen as a relic of a bygone era of formality; it was said that poets would often use words just to fit the rhythm, rather than those that would convey the desired meaning, and the poets of this era deeply disapproved of this.

Finally, having had a whistlestop tour through the intervening poets, Mr Treasure moved onto the WW1 poets and the American poets Walt Whitman and Ezra Pound. Examining *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen, Mr Treasure showed us a fascinating discovery that he had made, which was that the metrical irregularity almost exactly matched many other works in this metre, notably by both Alexander Pope and John Milton, reinforcing his thesis that the English language is predisposed to such an arrangement. He followed this up with an examination of the somewhat controversial life of Ezra Pound, notably his fascism and eclectic circle of friends, concluding that, while he was a poetical genius, he perhaps was not always a practical one.

The talk ended with group work among the boys present: sections from poems in iambic pentameter were distributed and we were tasked with marking the strong and weak beats before graphing this onto paper. This task proved challenging, with heated arguments erupting from the side of the room where LSA and JJAM were seated about the choice to stress the first or second word in one of the lines. Thankfully, this did not come to blows but served as a timely reminder to all those present about the enormous amount of work that had gone into Mr Treasure's lecture, which was both engaging and enjoyable.

## Here and There

Two weeks ago, 141 boys sat the Senior Maths Challenge and did very well, earning a total of 128 certificates including 45 golds for being in the top 10% nationally. From a range of excellent performances, it's worth highlighting those of Liron Chan, *The Grove*, and Alex Chow, *West Acre*, who both scored over 100 despite being in their Remove year, as well as that of Junseok Choi, *Newlands*, who scored full marks.

At the Oxford Global Model United Nations competition, Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, and Edos Herwegh Vonk, *Newlands*, were both awarded Outstanding Delegate. This was especially impressive as they were among the youngest delegates in the competition.

Last Thursday, the Chess team hosted Twickenham Prep School in a match in the National Schools Chess Championships. They were not going to be easy opposition and were previously the national prep schools' champions. The Harrow team played exciting and aggressive chess and eventually won all their games to win the fixture 6-0. The School now progresses to the finals.

# METROPOLITAN

## HILL LIFE

Trials. You'll face them all your life we're told, in the form of KPIs, exams, reviews or job interviews. I'm sure we will all face many of them in our year after the 'final goodbye'. However, their results are fleeting, and we gain far more through our everyday tribulations than we do through Trials (although I'd advise against simply walking out of any public exams).

End-of-term Trials are not the most daunting trial we face in our would-be idyllic existence on the Hill. As an Harrovian, I am often faced with many trials, some not even self-induced (although admittedly not all), and most not for the benefit of consolidating a term's knowledge, but rather often yield only hours wasted. Have any of you had to ring up Transport for London to reclaim £20? If not, I would advise having a copy of the phonetic alphabet handy. That was certainly a trial, especially only eventually to receive a 'non' at the end of an hour-long call. In fact, most trials are not hoiked upon us, but are entirely personal: can I beat the one-hour mark in Long Ducker, can I play that part, or can I waffle with such confidence that someone might just believe me? I am friends with an ex-Harrovia who went on a severe crash diet in order to lose a drastic amount of weight, not because he was overweight (he was) but for the mental challenge. What's more, our personal trials are not graded. While the School steers you towards them and encourages you to "give your best", it is entirely possible to not do them. There is far more that you can do on the Hill than you cannot.

However, far more gruelling than trials (exams or otherwise), are our daily tribulations. Trials and tribulations: isn't this a cheery instalment this week... hear me out. We face challenges, adversities and struggles every day that serve no purpose on paper but help us become the dogged, persevering and exuberant OHs that Harrow is renowned for producing. While I accept this particular tribulation may be particular to me, raining is one such mundane example of the hard life an Harrovian has to push on through. Having already lost one laptop from spilling water on my desk, I live in perpetual fear of losing another when it rains. Not to mention trudging around in the wet and sitting in lessons in soaking greys and stinking bluers (bluers have a peculiarly acrid smell when wet).

Tribulations whether they be an unscheduled lie-in, an injury, a perilous mountain of doom – in the form of work – or a fire in the Shepherd Churchill are far more intrinsic to life on the Hill and beyond than Trials. So, remember as these Trials come to an end, the real trial continues – *viva la vida*.

## Dame Vaughan Agony Aunt

DEAR DAME VAUGHAN,  
 Away in a chateau, king size for a bed.  
 This little Harrovian lays down his sweet head.  
 For term time is over, and vacation begun,  
 A time for yule fires, and sweet festive fun.  
 Ding Dong, merrily Dame Vaughan,  
 This term has left me tired.  
 Ding Dong, all I do is yawn,  
 A good book is required.  
 Glooooooooooooooooooia,  
 Hosanna in the Library.  
 Hark Dame Vaughan, I write to plead:  
 Give me something good to read.  
 Peace at home, and not at school,  
 Fireside warm 'mid winter's cool.

Veiled in rugs I'll read a treat,  
 Lots of rich mince pies I'll eat,  
 Sipping sherry, rosy checked,  
 Add a book – this scene has peaked!  
 Hark Dame Vaughan, I just can't wait,  
 A Christmas read would be so great!

Yours merrily,  
 Nicholas Noel

DEAR MY CHRISTMAS CAROL CREATOR,  
 Once in Royal Vaughan's Library,  
 Stood a lowly literary Dame,  
 Where a reader finds their novels,  
 From a Lady of acclaim,  
 There she sings of past life's glories,  
 Then suggests the finest stories,  
 Adds a cheeky anecdote,  
 Of some famous man of note,  
 Gives a tale to suit your need,  
 This Dame knows what you should read.

Deck the halls with book apparel,  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la,  
 You should try A Christmas Carol  
 Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
 Written by the great Charles Dickens,  
 Fa la la, la la la, la la la.  
 A fine read when the snow thickens,  
 Fa la la, la la la, la la la.  
 O little school of Harrow,  
 How still we see thee lie,  
 When school is done, and boys are gone,  
 With relief all beaks cry!  
 And so in Christmas break,  
 We wish you calm and rest,  
 The Vaughan team sings, the building rings:  
 'May Christmas be the best!'

With festive love,  
 Dame Vaughan

[If you have a book-themed predicament, and wish to seek advice from the omniscient Dame Vaughan, please email the editor or the Vaughan Library, who will pass it onto the Dame's people]

## Correspondence

*Letters to the Editor*

DEAR SIRs,

I am writing this week regarding the idea of revision. For the first time, Harrow has given boys an apt chance to do their necessary revision ahead of a hectic and stressful set of Trials. Finally, it is possible to genuinely consolidate knowledge, as opposed to cramming in the short term and praying.

However, there is still work left to be done. Firstly, the new system must not be abused by beaks. Despite the day being supposedly "protected", many more plucky beaks attempted to make the traditional inter-departmental landgrab, threatening that it should be a day for listening exams, speaking exams or (shock horror) extra lessons. As a result, the revision day was not something that could be fully relied upon until it actually arrived.

Secondly, a significant amount of the time was taken up by "consultation" with boys. Although I am an advocate of boys making constructive suggestions and (indeed, certain senior beaks may roll their eyes every time they see my name in this column), it being mandatory can be somewhat counter-productive. Rather than receiving ideas from those who are

# OPINION

genuinely passionate about improvements to School policy, you get a smattering of people advocating insignificant change for the sake of it. Additionally, many policies don't really apply to certain populations within the School.

We must also avoid the day turning into an excuse for complacency. There is a view on both the parts of boys and beaks that no revision whatsoever should be done in lesson time or free time because "you have eight hours to revise my subject on Friday". This is a rather wonderful notion, until one realises that all nine beaks are expecting you to spend the entire day focusing entirely on their "most important subject". Even the most incompetent mathematician can tell you that you cannot fit 72 hours into a single day.

Finally, I think that the School's policy on revision during Trials week still has small bits of room for improvement. One currently can spend roughly half the week turning up to a revision period to be told that they are expected to work with a pencil and paper silently in a room full of other boys. Would it not be more productive to let boys conduct their revision in their rooms with their notes and resources at their disposal?

Some of the more progressive beaks go on endlessly about using "innovative techniques for revision" but it is hard to remember the French vocab through song if one must be silent. It is also rather difficult to construct the learning skills mandated "mind palace" without being to put things on the walls. Rather than being able to look up things we don't know, we are restricted to using OneNote without the internet, and carrying any and every textbook we ever want to use. One's room can be a more constructive learning environment.

Now clearly this policy has its benefits. If the boys are all sitting in New Schools, they will obviously not be smoking, vaping, drinking or drugging. Clearly, if we were given even a smidge of independence, there would be instant rioting. Additionally, it stops beaks from being able to make detailed, undistracted analysis of our Trials, sparing any blushes for spelling or factual mistakes. Finally, it accurately mimics the build up to public examinations: clearly everybody is going to be spending their study leave sitting in New Schools in silence without music or the internet.

Perhaps in the future we could have some strange utopian society where Lower-School boys can spend their study Trials in their Houses, while being occasionally dropped in on at random intervals by a beak to ensure they are not doing too much audio-visual learning.

Kind regards,  
 DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S

DEAR SIRs,

So there I was, the week before Trials began, one of the most important academic times of the year, and with an entire day set aside for revision.

Or so it would seem. But when I checked the afternoon plan, I found out that I was forced (against my will) to run in circles for, at least to me, no particular reason. I, for my part, only run exclusively to Dave's. This is, as I deem it, worthwhile; but running in circles for no reason... In fact, I cannot think of any good reason why running in circles should occur the day before Trials! This will just reduce our afternoon productivity as we're all tired.

For the readers of this paper who enjoy running in circles and chasing their tails, I apologise profusely. I am simply saying it from the perspective of a boy who does badminton as a major sport, and hasn't seen the sun in years! I understand that these should occur for whatever reason there is. However, I am merely suggesting on a day before some strenuous mental



activity, exhausting people physically does seem a little overkill.

Respectfully yours,  
ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

DEAR SIRs,

I read with an increasing frequency of approving nods, the *Hill Life* column on the subject of hats from last week's issue. The wearing of hats and the related custom of capping are, as the honorable and learned columnist implies, in need of some reinvigoration. One issue is the Byzantine regulations regarding the wearing of hats, or rather regarding their not being worn, whereby hats must be worn at all times, with a few exceptions including but not limited to: during full moons, every second Tuesday and third Wednesday in seasons other than autumn, when walking in a south-easterly direction, on the feast days of Saints from the Orient, and on the birthdays of each of Her Majesty the Queen's ladies-in-waiting. It is indeed an existing custom more honor'd in the breach than the observance. Complexity of law breeds the apathy of the citizen, and we must guard against such a vice in relation to our dear Harrow headwear. Another issue, that the writer astutely notes, is the decline amongst the native beak population of customary academical cap, leading to the slightly peculiar raising of the finger towards heaven (or at least, in that general direction). While we might charitably interpret this gesture as an encouragement to the boy to do as St Paul saith and set his affection on things above, not on things on the earth, in truth the beak is simply pointing at the absence of a hat. Both cap and gown find their historical origin in the clerical and monastic dress of the Middle Ages. (Catch a sideways glance at Father Stuart's biretta in Chapel, and you will see another descendent of the same evolutionary tree.) As the Church and the great monasteries were the guardians of knowledge in times past, so now the sacred duty to pass on the precepts of godliness and good learning falls to us beaks, and so it is only fitting that we clothe ourselves in a manner that honours this inheritance. Besides, wearing a silly hat can be of great moral benefit to the individual. As Aristotle teaches us, virtues grow in the character from the seeds of habits. If you find yourself caring too much about the opinion of your peers, going too much with the flow, and failing to develop the virtues of individual conscience and independence of mind, I can recommend no better habit to adopt than the regular wearing of a silly hat. In remarkably short order, you really will stop worrying about what other people think of you. In the words of Horace, *Misce stultitiam consiliis brevem: dulce est desipere in loco*, 'Mix your prudence with foolishness: it's good to be silly at the right moment.'

Yours faithfully,  
PDR

## Change for the Sake Of...

*From the Desk of AC*

"Weighing the pig does not make it any fatter" – advice given to me in my first term of teaching (not at Harrow, obviously) by a very senior beak excusing himself for not setting a test. His division did not complain but history does not relate whether they went on to win any prizes. The saying is topical in the week of Trials.

The importance of Trials has not changed at Harrow. Consolidation of knowledge, practice for public, university and professional examinations, planning to work independently, performing under pressure, competing with peers, clearing academic hurdles – the reasons for Trials are constant. But the experience of taking Trials has changed. They happen later in the term, leaving only the return of scripts in the last few days of

the term and so maximising teaching and learning. Since 2018, the timetable has been different, with one paper for each year group in almost all subjects, so that results can more easily be compared. The grading system is different too, managed centrally in the Old Armoury using a more reliable statistical method to ensure that grades are directly comparable between subjects and to allow more reliable decisions to be made by boys about their relative strengths and weaknesses, about which subjects to drop and which subjects to take forward. This year, Trials started on Saturday rather than Monday, to stagger papers for boys and marking for beaks. There are study Trials during the week, which allow time for revision to continue, in addition to the interruption of the timetable on the preceding Friday. Tutors now meet with boys to discuss marks and grades at the end of the term, so that boys can go into the holidays knowing what they need to work on. Trials remain as important as they have always been and they are more structured than they have ever been, just as demanding but, we hope, more manageable.

It tends to be the male birds of the species that have the finest plumage. We have recently published the colourful compendium of awards. There is nothing new about the colours or the criteria for them, but we have put them all together so that all boys know how their effort and their success in the co-curriculum can be recognised and so that everyone in the School can in turn recognise boys' achievements by their colours. Fez spotting, if you like. The publication of the compendium coincides with the new online system for the Harrow Prize, another way in which the importance of the co-curriculum is emphasised. Trials matter, because grades in public examinations are important, and so does boys' participation in all the other activities and opportunities available to them. It is not an accident that Trials themselves coincide with the recording of progress towards the Harrow Prize. They are two sides of the Harrow coin, very different but equally important.

In the first edition of 2020, there will be some commentary on recent changes to the forums, councils and committees through which boys can express their views on the School.



### MONEY WELL SPENT

Everything about a service from J.W.Shin & Co. – from a simple varnishing job to a major restoration – has a certain sureness. This is by no means expensive when you consider the Outfitters or Billings & Edmonds. Every hat service you get from J.W.Shin & Co., a sound investment.

- Varnishing from only £1 per coat
- Silk top hat polishing service (Monitors) – Free of charge

## J.W.Shin & Co.

*Hatters & Hat Repairers*

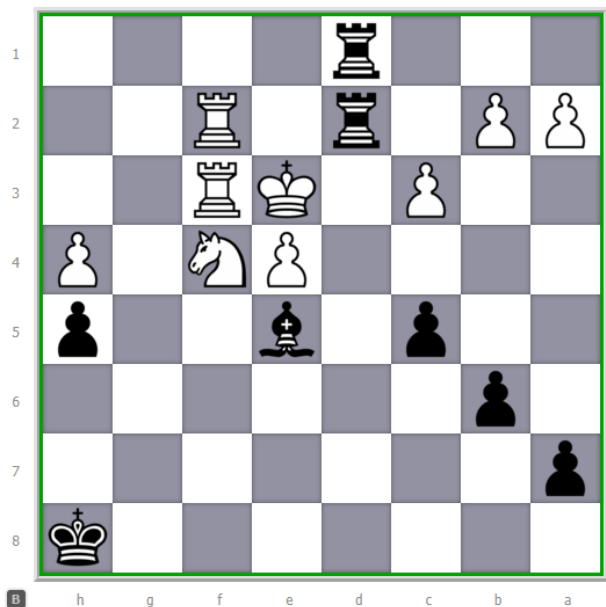
*since 2017*

**HARROW-ON-THE-HILL**

## Chess Puzzle

The weekly Chess Puzzle set by JPBH. Email your solutions to him (jpbh@harrowschool.org.uk) to enter the termly competition. Answers are published with next week's puzzle.

This edition's puzzle: Black to play and mate in 2 moves.



Last edition's answer: 1. ... Nf2+ then if 2. Kd2 Be3+ 3. Ke2 Bd3# or 2.Ke2 Bd3+ 3. Kd2 Be3#

Fancy playing chess? Drop in to Chess Club – Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.30-6pm in Maths Schools 5. All abilities (boy, beak or non-teaching staff) are welcome!

## SUNOKU

*Persevera per severa per se vera*

6								
5						8		
9				3				2
		3						
		4		2				
			8			5		9
7			6					
			5					
		2						4

# SPORTS

## Squash

*The School v Dr Challoner's Grammar School*

Senior 1st Lost 2-3

The first team lost 3-2 to Dr Challenor's despite fine winning performances from Sasha Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, and Freddie Murley, *The Park*.

## Cross Country

*Cross Country Home Fixture, Ten Schools Cross Country Cup 2019, 21 November*

It was a bitter Thursday afternoon, and the team's spirits were low, due in part to the frankly disgusting weather, but also from the pre-Trial gloom that was quickly settling. On the bright side, Radley were unable to attend due to a whooping cough epidemic – that meant less competition. The Shells started off on a muddy 4km course. Special mention goes to Julian Abass, *Elmfield*, coming in third, only 30 seconds after the winner.

Next were the Intermediates – having completed an extensive warm-up regime, the ten Harrovians fought against a muddier 6km route. Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, and Tom Hobbs, *Newlands*, displayed fine stamina in this tough race.

Finally, the Seniors contended with 8km of mud – two full laps of the Shell's course. Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, achieved fourth place, with Ed de Bray, *The Knoll*, and Patrick Tallentire, *Lyon's*, not far behind, helping the Harrow A Team achieve third place.

A very big thank you to the team of marshals, who braved the inhospitable conditions for nearly two hours, and to RCHA and CJFB for their organisation and management of this brilliant event.

## Fencing

*Bouts v RGS, High Wycombe, Harrow won 2 blades to 1*

Foil A won 6-3

Foil B won 9-0

Foil C (friendly) lost 4-5

Epee lost 2-7

Harrow played very well against RGS on Thursday, recording a solid victory of 2 blades to 1 while playing in a pool format as opposed to the more standard Italian relay system.

The Foil A and B took to the piste to start, with the former struggling somewhat against some determined RGS resistance but being able to take it away in the last few bouts to record a convincing 6-3 win. Next to them, the Foil B made short shrift of their opponents with a good show of depth, winning 9-0.

The Foil C team took to the piste next in their first-ever school match and performed admirably in a friendly, only losing in their final bout 4-5. Mention must go to all in the team – Alexander Chow, *West Acre*, Sean Jarrett and Ben Leonard, both *The Grove*, but especially Jarrett who won all three of his bouts.

The Epee team then took to the piste with some notable absences (including that of the captain) and struggled to find their rhythm against a stronger side, eventually losing 2-7.

Overall, a strong performance from the team with one final match against St Benedict's, Ealing, to look forward to before the Christmas break.

## Swimming

### Warwick 100s

The team travelled to Warwick School to compete in the annual Warwick 100s gala, which includes many of the top swimming schools. This year, there were 14 schools in attendance. The racing was tough, with close, exciting finishes in nearly every race. All members of the Harrow squad swam exceptionally well and were fortunate to win every one of the 12 relays, sometimes by margins of less than a second, with Abingdon offering particularly stiff competition. Of the 44 races, Harrow swam to victory in 22. The consistency across the age groups meant that Harrow took home the winning trophies for all three age categories, Under-14 Shells, Under-16 Torpids and Under-18 Seniors. The sense of the collective support for one another and the strength of encouragement poolside was of the highest quality from all members of this team.

Individual winners in the Shell Under-14 category were:

Nick Finch, *Newlands*, in the 200m individual medley and the 100m butterfly

Henry Gray, *Lyon's*, 100m backstroke

Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, 100m breaststroke (PB)

Individual winners in the Under-16 Torpid category were:

Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*, in the 200m individual medley and the 100m butterfly (both PBs)

Data Photpipat, *The Head Master's*, 100m backstroke (PB)

Individual winners in the Senior category were:

Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, in the 200m individual medley (PB) and the 100m butterfly

Ethan Yeo, *The Head Master's*, broke a School record standing since 2009 in the 100m breaststroke, 1:07:30 (PB)

William Rudd, *The Head Master's*, in the 100m freestyle



Other notable performances from boys who showed exceptional determination and guts came from Ahsab Chowdhury, *West Acre*, in the 100m butterfly, nearly grinding to a halt through exhaustion in his final length; Henry Miell, *Lyon's*, 100m freestyle, Finn Deacon, *The Park*, 100m backstroke (stepping up to the mark for the team and swimming an event that was not part of his usual repertoire), Rowland Eveleigh, *The Grove*, 100m backstroke, and Kiefer Yeo, *The Head Master's*, in his first-ever 100m butterfly.

### Personal Best Swims

Andrew Hong	200m IM	2:13:21
Z-Za Bencharit	200m IM	2:26:16
James Rates	2:21:18 &	
Maxwell Brooks	200m IM	2:18:89
Nick Finch	200m IM	2:24:43
Mark Zeng	200m IM	2:35:04
Finn Deacon	100m backstroke	1:16:71

George Rates	100 backstroke	1:04:17
Rowland Eveleigh	100 backstroke	1:22:89
Henry Webster	100 backstroke	1:27:25
William Pattle	100 breaststroke	1:24:56
Ethan Yeo	100 breaststroke	1:07:30
Maxwell Brooks	100 Butterfly	1:01:93
Kiefer Yeo	100 Butterfly	1:13:66
Justin Changbencharoen	100 Freestyle	1:05:52
Hanno Sie	100 Freestyle	1:06:23
Henry Miell	100 Freestyle	1:15:38
Henry Pearce	50 Freestyle	25.02
Apollo Wilkins	50 Freestyle	28.22
Joe Storey	50 Freestyle	27.36

## Football

### The School v Aldenham School

#### Development A XI Won 2-1

Scorers: Josh Davis, *Moretons*; Fin Scott, *Rendalls*

The A XI put in their best performance of the season in a high-octane match that was decided by two quality goals.

#### Development B XI Drew 2-2

Scorers: Ademide Odunsi (2)

After a long break in the fixture schedule, the Development B went into this game full of expectancy, considering the strength of the team line-up and eagerness to play against a solid Aldenham side. Hari Moondi, *The Park*, started Harrow off brightly down the right-wing and it looked like he team might be able to assert itself well in the opening exchanges. Unfortunately, poor decision-making and a lack of leadership at the back meant that Harrow conceded the sloppiest of goals and they never got into any rhythm from this point as they chased the game. An excellent team goal was poked home by Ademide Odunsi, *Moretons*, to put Harrow back on level terms but yet more disorganisation allowed Aldenham in to score the easiest of goals and make it 2-1 at half time.

A switch in formation, to the more agricultural 4-4-2 helped Harrow play marginally better in the second half and they deserved their equaliser in the form of a penalty despatched by Odunsi for his brace. Ed Pagani, *Lyon's*, brought some much-needed conviction and solidity to the backline while Ify Ogbonna, *The Head Master's*, and Kyle Debrah, *Elmfield*, brought some composure to Harrow's play, which had previously resembled something of a pub match. An audacious sliding tackle from everyone's favourite surf model Luke Esposito, *Newlands*, perhaps should have resulted in a penalty against, but Harrow looked otherwise less susceptible in the second period, which was a positive. However, in pushing for a winner they never really looked like they truly wanted it as the game petered out for a 2-2 draw. A lot to think about and improve on from this one.

#### Development C XI Lost 3-4

Scorers: Ziad Shemtob, *Rendalls*; Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*, x2 Man of the match: Paddy Breeze

The CXI lost this game – which they should have won comfortably – through a combination of profligate finishing and careless errors at the back. For large portions of both halves, the home side played the more enterprising football, with good combinations in evidence. In the early stages, Will Dutton, *Newlands*, and the ever-threatening Breeze linked up dangerously to create numerous chances, but good goalkeeping and wayward shooting prevented Harrow from making its dominance count.



Eventually, however, they did make the breakthrough – Roger Litton, *Newlands*, working well to provide an opening, with Ziad Shemtob's, *Rendalls*, volleyed finish impressively controlled into the bottom corner. Rather than using this advantage, however, the game became scrappy and Harrow conceded an equaliser, probably somewhat distracted by an ongoing injury situation. It was a careless piece of play leading to Aldenham breaking through on goal and scoring; and they went ahead shortly after. However, Breeze brought the sides level at half-time, finally capitalising on a series of excellent corner deliveries to prod home from close range.

The early part of the second half was again frustratingly sloppy, with two further goals conceded through indecisive defensive work. Finally, this sparked the home side back into life and they started playing with urgency. Excellent link up between Shemtob and Felix Majumdar, *The Knoll*, was producing numerous – regrettably spurned – chances, including a missed penalty, before Breeze once more squeezed the ball home from close range. The CXIs played with real intensity in the final quarter of an hour, laying siege to the opposition goal. They were denied a clear penalty and had various chances either saved or go narrowly wide. Ultimately, losing this game reflects much of the season so far: some very promising football undermined by a lack of drive and focus at key moments. There are points to prove in the remaining couple of fixtures!

#### *Development A XI v Eton College Lost 1-2*

Scorer: Josh Davis, *Moretons*

The A XI were not at their best and conceded two sloppy goals from corners. However, we hope for the best in future.

#### *The School v Wilson's School*

Development A XI Lost 0-2

Development B XI Won 2-1

Scorers: Ademide Odunsi, *Moretons*, Chike Odogwu, *Moretons*. Off the back of a few disappointing results, the Development B XI went into Saturday's match against Wilson's School eager for a win and a point to prove. The wet and windy conditions failed to dampen their spirits and the boys got off to an energetic start, going close with a plethora of chances.

Against the run of play, a superb free kick left Harrow 1-0 down, despite being the better of the two sides. Unfazed by this, Harrow continued to play smart, simple football and some quality build-up play led to a very composed and well-taken equaliser by Ademide Odunsi, *Moretons*.

The rain got heavier and so did the tackles, with Ed Pagani, *Lyon's*, and Max Cowley, *Moretons*, shutting down any opposition attack with some serious challenges.

Just as the game was starting to get a little cagey, Chike Odogwu, *Moretons*, buoyed by his new role in the team as centre back, got up for a crucial header at the back post to win the game for Harrow. A fantastic team performance and a well deserved win for Harrow.

Two Men of the Match: Odogwu was sensational in his new role as centre back, winning every single header and ironically scoring his first goal of the season having hung up his boots as a striker. Ethan Childs, *Newlands*, also deserves the award for his incredible work rate right until the dying embers of the game and deserves a special mention for successfully managing to pass the ball using his back by flopping towards the ball after slipping over.

#### *Development C XI Lost 2-7*

Scorers: Hari Moondi, *The Park*, Sam Lussier, *The Knoll*,

Man of the Match: Ben Davies, *The Grove*,

This was Astro Night Football versus a proper team. In order to improve, the CXI must focus on taking the simple passing

option, moving the ball early and, above all, resisting the temptation to overelaborate. Too many lost balls, too little fight and too much futile dribbling was always going to be a problem against a well-organised, skillful and aggressive opponent. At 3-0 down, Harrow had a spell early in the second half, where they showed spirit, scoring two good goals: a long-range finish from Hari Moondi, *The Park*, followed, some minutes later, by a well-worked cross from the right, turned in by Sam Lussier, *The Knoll*. The Cs tired in the final part of the game, conceding four more and by the end looked ragged. A late cameo from Matthew Williams, *West Acre*, was a positive. However this was, overall, a disappointing team display.

## Rackets

The School v Marlborough College

Senior – 1st Pair Won 3-1

An excellent 3-1 win with some pulsating rallies from Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*, and Ben Hope, *Rendalls*.

Senior – 2nd Pair Lost 1-3

A strong fight back after losing the first two games by Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and Henry Wilson, *Elmfield*, but they were pipped in a tight fourth game to lose 1-3.

Colts – 1st Pair Won 3-0

A strong performance from Federico Ghersi and Max Shirvell both *The Head Master's*, in a 3-0 win.

Junior Colts – 1st Pair Won 3-1

Another fine performance from Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, in a 3-1 win. They showed determination, passion and skill against a good pair.

Junior Colts – 2nd Pair Won 3-2

Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, underlined their improving skills as well as showing good temperaments by prevailing 3-2 in a very tight contest.

## Rugby Union

*Colts A v St Benedict's School, SOCS County Cup Knockout Semi-final, Harrow Won 26-7*

On a narrow pitch on an overcast day, the signs were predicting a slog-fest. Straight from the kick-off, Harrow showed their attacking intent with Phillips, *Rendalls*, making a clean break and almost creating the opening try. The first ten minutes followed in a similar vein, with the opposition somehow doing enough to disrupt the final pass or make a great covering tackle. The physicality of the game increased as St Benedict's grew into the game, as did the noise from the partisan home support. In the last play of the first half, Harrow made use of a good attacking platform to drive over the opening five points through Edstrom, *Bradlys*, which Cutler, *Newlands*, duly converted, allowing the travelling fans to make their voices heard.

The second half started brightly. The Colts played with maturity to control the territory and force the opposition into making mistakes in their own half. This pressure paid off with three tries coming in quick succession. Having been targeted

the whole game, Ademuwagun, *Druries*, was on the shoulder to stroll over to get his payback. Newall, *Druries*, finally got the try he had been threatening all match with a good line break, then having the confidence and strength to fight over the line. Walker, *Bradlys*, finished off the flurry as the Benny's defence was in disarray after this Harrow onslaught. They had their eyes on the final when the match slipped into extra time. Almost 20 more minutes of game time allowed the boys to practise their fitness before the final on Wednesday. St Benedict's scored their only try of the game with Harrow down to 13 men through a series of pick-and-go drives.

A tough match on a tricky pitch, the Colts showed their determination, game management and even attacking flair. Harrow will look to display these characteristics again on Wednesday to raise the Middlesex Cup.

### *The School v Eton College*

#### 1st XV Harrow Lost 21-24

After a bizarre bus journey to Eton, which took the XV via Watford and never on an A-road or motorway, Harrow arrived late with the setting sun leaving little time for a warm up. Despite this, Harrow started with ambition and looked confident attacking from deep. Shankland, *Druries*, pulled the strings well and White, *The Knoll*, was rampaging with confidence from 13. Soon, it was too much for the light blue as a good line from Butler, *The Knoll*, brought the defence in before Shankland glided over through a gap. O'Toole, *Druries*, as ever, knocked over the extras. A good start! However, there were some worrying signs: Eton looked strong at the breakdown and Harrow began to drop off some tackles. An opportunistic charge-down of Peppiatt, *The Park*, brought Eton back into the game at 7-7. Harrow struck straight back as MacNaughton powered over for yet another pick and go try. O'Toole once again followed suit with the extras. It was pleasing to see Harrow bounce back from the temporary setback and you could feel that another try now would put the game to bed.

Unfortunately, as has happened far too many times, Harrow did not seize the momentum and instead continued to play a little bit too much rugby in the wrong areas and often found themselves isolated at breakdowns. Rucking past the ball was an issue from the forward pack and we could not shift some of the Eton back-rowers off the ball. Eton were back in the game with a penalty and 14-10.

In the second half, Eton struck first, scoring a try off some well-worked offloading and taking the score up to 17-14. The XV sustained some pressure and brought it back to 21-17 with MacNaughton again burrowing over. However, with ten to go, Eton pounced off a Harrow error and a few missed tackles and a last-gasp off-load later had scored the go-ahead try to push their lead to 24-21 and leave a nervy last ten minutes. Harrow struck back with Phillips, *Rendalls*, making a very solid debut for the XV up from the Colts, breaking through the middle with Butler and Griffin, *The Head Master's*, in support. Sustained phase-play followed and it seemed all over after Harrow were bundled into touch with a minute to play. However, an overthrown lineout gave Harrow new life as they pounced on the ball and made for the line. Penalty in the 22! Three points down, the XV made the valiant decision to go for the win and not the draw. A scrum was called, White darted back on a switch and fell just short of the line, one pick and go, repelled and then another and another. With one final push Harrow drove for the line and were held up with Eton bodies under it. Scrum, Harrow ball, but no time left!

A very tough blow for the boys who played in parts some excellent rugby but just lacked the street smarts to find the route to victory and do enough early in the game to blow Eton out of the water. Inefficiency at the breakdown really hurt the XV as we struggled to remove the Eton back-row and create enough clean balls, and some soft tackling really harmed an

otherwise threatening attacking effort. With this now the fifth game of the season to be decided by one score or less and the third not to go our way, the boys will go to Bedford next Saturday determined to finish on a high.

#### 2nd XV Lost 14-34

A brief warm up resulted in a slow start by Harrow. Strong running from Gigi Moses-Taiga, *Druries*, brought us back into the game, with a healthy 14-10 lead. After a lengthy delay for a neck injury, it was sadly Eton who came out of the blocks quicker, running in three quick-fire tries to secure the game.

#### 3rd XV Won 17-14

The 3rd XV won an attritional encounter against Eton by 17 points to 14. Tries from Caspar Gurney, *Druries*, William Wallace, *The Head Master's*, and Caleb Efemuai, *Newlands*, plus some stern defence from George Wooding, *Bradlys*, laid the foundations for a well deserved victory.

#### 4th XV Won 32-0

Tries: Josserand, *Newlands* (2); Bulstrode, *Rendalls* (2); Z Morgan, *Lyon's* (2).

Eton were willing but ultimately limited opponents, who spent the majority of the match in their own half. Their main tactic in possession was the pick-and-go, recycling well but rarely making ground, with Harrow's fringe defence very committed and Harry Bell, *Lyon's*, prominent with a number of heavy, low tackles.

Early on, Harrow wasted a number of opportunities to score by dropping the ball, throwing forward passes or taking the ball into contact and ignoring space out wide. Eton also had good success through counter-rucking. Nevertheless, they couldn't get out of their own half and, with only five minutes left to half-time, one of their wingers was rather harshly sinbinned for an intentional knock-on. Harrow took advantage of their extra man to put Aurélien Josserand, *Newlands*, over in the corner: 5-0 at the break.

In the second half, Harrow got their act together, scoring five quality tries through strong running and fine handling, with a little help from increasingly poor Eton tackling. Oskar Bulstrode, *Rendalls*, made an impact coming on at scrum-half and scored two great tries; Josserand picked up another, and Zack Morgan, *Lyon's*, finished off two more. We also saw the introduction of a new tackle technique that might come to be known as the Harry Cleeve WWE Body Slam. It was duly rewarded with a yellow card.

Just like South Africa, Harrow had a large number of replacement forwards, but Gabriel Gaffey, *Moretons*, stood out among the starters in the pack for his bullocking, leg-pumping runs through the middle and from the base of the scrum. Johnny Hagg-Davies, *Rendalls*, also deserves a mention for his continued excellence at full-back: safe under the high ball, always in the right place and elusive when running with ball in hand. But the man of the match was Josserand, who had probably his best game this season, running hard and straight, bumping off defenders and scoring his tries.

This win puts the 4th XV 'back in the black', with four wins to three losses and a draw. We look forward to the final match against Bedford as an opportunity to finish the season on a high.

#### Colts A Won 15-7

The Colts hosted Eton on the Sunley on a cold winter's afternoon in north-west London. Harrow were missing eight players through injury and so started the more inexperienced of the two sides. Harrow, therefore, did well to start the match on the front foot and spent the first few minutes camped on the Eton line. A wide pass from Harrow caught an unfortunate bounce and found its way into an Etonian's hands. Harrow were unable to lay a finger on him and Eton touched down under the posts. 7-0 to Eton. Harrow did well to remain calm and

put Eton back under pressure immediately. Angus Walker and Lukas Edstrom, both *Bradlys*, were colossal in defence and William Barrett, *The Knoll*, was a menace for the Eton lineout with his long limbs. Harrow navigated themselves into the Eton 22m area and Iyanu Ademawagun, *Druries*, eventually powered over from short range to make the score 7-5 to Eton at half time. Harrow kept the pressure on after half-time and Hugo Anderson, *Newlands*, managed to spin himself over the try line after a line break midway through the second half. This took the score to 12-7 to Harrow and, shortly after this, George Cutler, *The Knoll*, kicked a penalty in front of the posts to take the score to 15-7. Harrow controlled the match for the final few minutes and finished worthy victors.

#### Colts B Won 21-17

Madness, the word I would use to describe having a team photo five minutes before kick-off. This seemed to set the precedent for the match. Harrow came flying out of the blocks with an early score from Sam Quist, *The Grove*, running hard and direct down the left wing. Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, converted to put the team 7-0 up after five minutes. Moments later, after a clean turnover and quick ball, Hugo Gaffey, *Moretons*, found himself chasing a kick deep into the Eton half. He managed to gather the ball and fend a player off giving him a free run-in under the posts. Again, Blackwood converted. 14-0 after what felt like ten minutes. The remainder of the half turned out to be a brutal battle in the forwards. Eton continuously used a short ball to their big men, which began to wear the Harrow defence down. Silly errors led to a scrum on the Harrow 5m line, which allowed Eton's powerful number eight a few steps before he was over the white line. 14-5 with a few minutes left of the first half. Harrow held out until the whistle but seemed tired and flat both in attack and defence.

The second half began in the same fashion the first had finished. Eton were maintaining possession and keeping it very simple and boring. Tight runs from their forwards with the odd bit of ball given to their backs was frustrating for the Harrow boys. When Harrow had possession, they looked good and the handling was impressive. But the Bs couldn't get into their normal groove and this meant they strayed from the game plan. Poor support in the middle of the park led to constant turn overs making it hard for the boys to capitalise on any possession they had. Eton found some space out wide and were back to 14-10. An expansive game followed with lots of kicking and some scrappy rucking in the mid-field. In a run against play Harrow ended up in the Eton 22 and were putting some pressure back on the light blues. Constant pick and goes brought them up to the line and Jin Park, *The Knoll*, went over... only to be held up. Five-meter scrum to Harrow and more pick and goes followed. The boys had been knocking on the door and Tomas Kemp, *The Park*, eventually found a gap to power over. 21-10 with 15 minutes to play. Both teams were looking tired and the cold had taken its toll with a few knocks on both sides. Discipline was key for the remainder which Harrow showcased well. Michael Chiimba, *Newlands*, had put in a Man of the Match performance making tackle after tackle and hitting every ruck possible. This continued and the rest of the forwards followed his lead. Unfortunately, the Eton fast man got the better of us out wide and with some missed tackles was able to dive over the line just before the end.

21-17 the final score in what could have been a far easier game for the Harrow boys. Nonetheless, it was a good win with some very solid defensive work around the breakdown. Well done.

#### Colts C Lost 22-50

Tries: Aedan Dicks, *Newlands*, Sam McGougan, *Bradlys*; Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's* (2)

Cons: George Leigh, *Elmfield* (1)

A slow start cost the Colts some early points and momentum, but they banded together to keep themselves in the fight.

#### Junior Colts A Won 19-12

Phew! "Good teams win when they are playing well, great teams still win when they play badly"

Once again Harrow were on the road, inexplicably this time given that this was billed as a home fixture. As usual Harrow arrived late and were offered a three-minute warm-up by the Eton referee and coach who mumbled something about the light. Harrow politely declined but still abridged their warm-up before taking to the field.

The boys started poorly, taking the kick-off but failing to exit. Instead an early knock-on in the midfield led to an Eton scrum. A couple of penalties later and Eton scored the first try of the game but missed the conversion.

5-0 14:48. Harrow came back but failed to support players going into the tackle and were pinged, quite rightly, for holding on. Eventually they came back and scored a converted try through Dani Neal, *Moretons*. 5-7 14:58.

All the offloads which normally characterise Harrow's play did not come off with support. Players were still not close enough and lots of balls were going to ground. This should have been a sign to just simply carry and carry hard and then reset and go again. The depth in attack was also severely lacking as well as straight running.

Luke Walton, *West Acre*, was highly effective when he entered the fray, both in carrying and defensively, as was his father who provided a Harrow coach with a very kind and much-needed coffee (maybe next time a punch bag or a stress ball would be a useful accompaniment).

Gabriel Black, *West Acre*, and Arnaud Du Roy, *Elmfield* were both instrumental and stood out as on-field generals and leaders. Black, understanding the type of game we were in, marshalled his troops vocally and with clarity but was not heard or listened to often enough. Black must also look to avoid raising his arms in despair at refereeing decisions and generally being annoying. Every good scrum-half is a bit of a nuisance but he must learn when to quell it. Arnaud du Roy de Bliques, *Elmfield*, was the defensive field marshal screaming at his teammates to get onside and get off the line, again with limited hearing. His tackle count was through the roof. Emmanuel Olowe, *The Grove*, also put in his fair share of drilling hits. Too often, other Harrow players were tackling too high, another lesson to learn.

Eton hit back and regained the lead; they were most certainly up for this one, as the grand old schools of England battled it out somewhere near Windsor (aka Slough). 7-10 15:23

Neal once again showed pace and power and carried all day long and had the wisdom to know when to hold it.

It was great to see Baba Obatoyinbo, *The Knoll*, and Toby Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, back on the pitch after injuries. Toby was a bit rusty after an amazing first half of the season but he will be back to his glorious best soon. Baba and Tiarnan O'Brien, *Bradlys*, had their work cut out for them at scrum time but just about got the better of a huge opposition front row in the end.

An 8,9,10 set play (Tina) worked like a charm with Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, cutting through the middle and running 40 yards before yet another offload went to ground.

The next time Ellis went through, he timed his pass to perfection to Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, who was always going to beat his defender to score in the corner. Game tied. 12-12 15:32.

A pressure kick from the touchline. Ellis' attempt was good but not good enough to break the deadlock. Shortly after, Harrow made it back into Eton's half and were awarded a penalty by Welsh rugby pedant 'Swany'. With six minutes on the clock, Ellis shouldered responsibility and decided to go for a shot at the posts. He stepped up confidently but kicked the tee. His attempt wasn't a million miles away but didn't sail through the posts in the way he had envisioned. Still not



a bad decision, given that Eton would kick the ball back to Harrow via a 22 drop-out. Harrow simply were not ready and Eton wisely kicked deep and the ball sailed over Charlie Cross', *Newlands*, head. Cross rivalled Neal for yards carried in the game, always returning the ball with interest. He will still need to learn not to let the ball bounce and to assess if kicking is an option. Currently his run to kick is around the 98% mark, which isn't quite right for a full-back.

Regardless, Harrow, bolstered by the presence of Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, and Alex Ghani, *The Knoll*, battled their way back up the pitch, winning penalties and finally beginning to support each other.

A superb driving maul orchestrated by the refreshed Matthew Gaffney, *Bradlys*, after the oranges, led to a Neal break away and score as he swotted Eton defenders away like flies. This was the difference maker.

17-12 15:49

Game over...or so they thought. Eton, to their enormous credit, weren't done. There was some strong and aggressive carrying play from their number 1. Several driving lineout penalties for pulling it down later and Eton were in range. They were inches away from the line and their enormous frizzy-haired prop drove over the line to...not quite score. Somehow, unbelievably, Harrow repelled 'the pineapple'. It would have really been game over as the kick was under the posts. It looked like Eton wanted it more but three minutes of play in the dying light in the back end of the 'fourth quarter' showed that Harrow wanted it more and that they had learnt some defensive lessons this season. Five more phases of brutal tackling and winning collisions drove Eton backwards. Scrum Harrow!

Ball security was poor once again (please look after the rock! It is almost as important to me as my unborn baby). Gaffney somehow ended up with the ball and produced everyone's favourite sight in the game, a prop kick! It could have been a good one but was tipped and Eton caught the ball with a bit of space. Black made a phenomenal open field tackle and Harrow were able to close this one out. Ellis, checked the time, tapping, and then booted the ball into a nearby Range Rover.

It is great to be in a close game but Harrow will have to play SO much better if they want to get anywhere near Twickenham in their cup run. Tougher challenges to come.

Well done to ALL the boys for their passion, grit and determination in the face of adversity. Eton deserved something out of this game but Harrow deserved it more.

And thanks as always to the committed parents, uncles, grandparents who make such a colossal effort to attend games all across the South East. Our freezing 16th player never goes unnoticed.

Junior Colts B Won 65-19

Eton looked impressive from the start with solid runs in attack testing out the Harrow line. Harrow were on the back foot due to the ferocity of the Etonian forwards. It was evident that the boys would need to be disciplined and dig deep if they wanted to depart as victors. Jude Esposito, *Newlands*, crossed in the seventh minute to take the score to 5-0. Cooper Smith, *Newlands*, crossed for his first soon after, as did Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, to give Harrow a 17-0 lead. Smith, *Newlands*, crossed for his second with an unorthodox feet-first slide over the tryline to take the score to 24-0. Despite the strength of the Harrovian attack, the Etonian's were resilient and managed to reap the benefits of straight running in attack to head into half-time with the score at 24-7.

Eton started the second half running into the wind, but they came out with all cylinders firing. They were relentless in attack, with excellent straight-line running and textbook body height proving difficult to manage for the Harrovian defence. Eton were outstanding at the breakdown, catching Harrow holding the ball and turning over possession multiple times. The Etonian's scored early in the second-half, closing the gap on the now 24-14 Harrovian lead.

Louis Parry-George, *The Park*, responded quickly with Casper Davis, *Elmfield*, Giancarlo Urselli, *The Grove*, and Cooper Smith, *Newlands*, extending the margin to 36 points. Henry Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, crossed for his first try of the season, before the Etonian's caught Harrow napping in their own 22m and played advantage on the blindside to claw back to a 55-19 scoreline.

Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, saw out the end of the match with two tries. Davis, *Elmfield*, kicked well, with 5 conversions and a total of 15 points to his name. Harrow departed Eton with a 65-19 win.

Notable mentions to Gus Corsellis, *Elmfield*, Joe McLean, *Druries*, Jay Raithatha, *Druries*, and Jimmy Turner, *Elmfield*, who were incredibly reliable in both attack and defence throughout their games in the forwards. Corsellis had the best game I have seen him play to date.

Junior Colts C Lost 26-31 JC C had limited possession but made excellent use of the ball when in possession. Against a very good Eton pack, Harrow tackled brilliantly to stay in the game. Every time Harrow had the ball they were a threat, with Chinedu Orji, *The Park*, and George Haywood, *West Acre*, scoring outstanding tries. A most entertaining game of rugby, with Eton narrowly coming out on top.

Junior Colts D Won 50-19

A dominant performance with silky moves from the backs supported by effective retention at the breakdown.

Tries: Kingsley Converted Morishige, Banfield Converted Doughty, Qi, Magomedov, Kunitomo Converted Morishige, Behar Sheehan Converted Morishige, Edun Converted Doughty, Kunitomo

Yearlings A Won 45-10

Tries: Charlie Griffin *The Head Master's* (2), Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, Kepu Tuipulotu, *Druries*, Sebastian Brindley, *The Park* (2), Theo Stockmeier, *Druries*,

Cons: Philip Edstrom, *Bradlys*, (5)

With the fear of multiple players struggling with injuries early in the week, it was excellent to have a full team to face Eton on a brisk Thursday afternoon. The match of the season... one team would be walking off the pitch having disrupted the other's unbeaten season!

A strong super ten minutes to start off the game, allowing Harrow to get a 14-0 lead, with tries from the Charlies of the team, Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, throwing himself over the line. Two excellent conversions from Philip Edstrom, *Bradlys*, from the far-left side line. As the game began to heat up, Harrow remained level headed and supported each other, being vocal, aggressive and accurate. Kepueli Tuipulotu, *Druries*, showed off his brilliant step today and brought the team to 19-0 at half time with a further try.

Strong tackles were made throughout, in particular by Netanel Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*, and Andrew Stratton, *Newlands*. Dynamic number nine was Freddie Dinan, *Rendalls*, who was running like crazy ensuring he was there to pass out from the ruck.

The second half provided more of a challenge for the Yearling As, despite another strong start and quick try from Seb Brindley, *The Park*, running a straight line and finding a gap through the Eton backs. A little later on into the second half, a further Harrow try took us further into the lead, yet Eton were angry and fighting back, getting over our line for their first try just ten minutes before the end of the match.

We need not worry though, as the boys immediately chased the kick off, which was dropped by Eton. Seb Brindley, *The Park*, snatched the ball out of the air, and ran hard towards the try line, reaping the reward and scoring a further try right under the posts. Eton managed to battle their way across our

line once more, but we finished the game the Harrow way, scoring after several phases with Theo Stockmeier, *Druries*, being the man to get the ball over the line. Overall an excellent team effort from the boys.

Yearlings B Won 24-7

Tries: Kitan Akindele, *Newlands (2)*, Guy Paton-Smith, *Elmfield*, Casper Baker, *Moretons*

Conversions: Johnny Codrington, *Rendalls*, Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*,

Yearlings C Lost 0-5

The Harrow boys played some of their best rugby of the season. However, they were beaten by a single Eton try, which was scored in the last ten minutes of the game in spite of some valiant defence.

Yearlings D Lost 24-31

A disappointing result for the Yearlings D this Thursday as we lost our first game of the season to our mortal enemy. Our boys battled well in a back-and-forth, hard-fought match

Yearlings E Won 7-5

Tries: Ulrico Zampa, *The Head Master's*,

Conversions: Ulrico Zampa, *The Head Master's*,

In a defensive masterclass, the Yearlings E won 7-5 with a try and conversion from Ulrico Zampa, *The Head Master's*.

This is the final edition of *The Harrovian* for this Term.

**Ways to contact *The Harrovian***

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge [smk@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:smk@harrowschool.org.uk)

Read the latest issues of The Harrovian online at [harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan](http://harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan)