

THE HARROVIAN

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CRICKET TOUR

1st XI in Cape Town

As expected with any group of Harrow boys, the tour started with nothing short of chaos. Within minutes of entering Heathrow airport on a rainy December evening, Oli Newall, *Druries*, had managed to “accidentally” acquire Phoenix Ashworth’s, *The Head Master’s*, passport and put it in his pocket, and, to everybody’s surprise, Freddy Anton-Smith, *The Head Master’s*, had to run back to the car soon after to retrieve his phone. Nevertheless, the 16 boys touring as well as the three beaks checked-in, went through security and waited patiently for boarding to begin. Before heading towards the gate, however, the group caught sight of Zara McDermott, the *Love Island* star, whom JM claimed to have never heard of (nice try JM!). Unlike the journey so far, the plane ride to South Africa was a calm and pleasant one, albeit with the occasional jump and scream from John Koutalides, *West Acre*, keeping the tour party on their toes if turbulence ever hit.



Ten hours later, the entire tour party woke up to the magnificent view of Table Mountain towering into the clear blue skies of Cape Town. The boys were quick to get off the plane and head to the waterfront, where our hotel and lunch were waiting for us. The remainder of the first day consisted of much relaxation, with a net session and dinner rounding the day off and leaving us in great anticipation for our first game against Wynberg the next day.

The XI started the game concretely with a considerable opening stand between Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and Wilson, *Elmfield*. However, a flurry of quick wickets put a stop to the Harrow momentum, leaving the responsibility with Cutler, *The Knoll*, to see the side through to a competitive total. In the field, Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, began his 1st XI campaign in fine fashion, taking two quick wickets with Gray, *Newlands*, doing the same at the other end. Despite early inroads into Wynberg’s batting lineup, a well-drilled middle order saw off an economical spell from Chohan, *Lyon’s*, providing a good platform for the lower order to finish off the game. Last-minute heroics in the field led to nine Wynberg wickets falling before they managed to secure a victory. While the tour did not start with winning ways, the character and fight the team showed throughout the whole fixture was impressive and set a high standard for the remainder of the tour.

The next day, frequent (load-shedding) power cuts curtailed our ascent up Table Mountain, leaving us with a full day of

surfing at Muizenberg. After much convincing that there were no Great White sharks in the water, Ellis agreed to pick up a board and begin surfing with the rest of the team. Success was minimal for those on the tour who were beginners (particularly for Cutler, who returned, defeated, back to the beach after only his second wave). Nevertheless, everyone had a memorable and enjoyable trip to Muizenberg, with Dale Steyn (SA) making the day even better by stopping by and conversing with the team.

The day after featured a much-anticipated match against Bishop’s. A well-crafted half-century from Connell, *Rendalls*, and a strong finish by Ashworth and Ellis led to a strong Harrow score. Early wickets from Ward, *West Acre*, further tightened the XI’s hold on Bishop’s. However, a sublime innings from Bishop’s opening batsman took the game away from Harrow. Despite a crafty spell from Ashworth, at the end, Bishop’s saw the game through with a couple of wickets to spare, ending yet another day of good cricket. A game of touch rugby against Bishop’s, where Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master’s*, was seen running away from the ball at every opportunity, ended the day in good spirit.

Robben Island was waiting for the tour party the next day. Both the bus tour around the island as well as the walk around the main cell blocks were an experience that will never be forgotten. Having a glimpse of the challenging and haunting conditions faced by Nelson Mandela and his freedom-fighting associates gave us a real-life insight into South Africa’s past and the complexities of its future.

The third game, at Rondebosch Cricket Club, against SACS College, was the toughest game of the tour. A mixture of poor execution while batting and a disciplined SACS bowling unit restricted Harrow to a low score, batting first. With very few runs on the board, the bowlers found it hard to find any rhythm, resulting in a brisk end to the game as SACS chased the XI’s total with nine wickets in hand. The arrival of Panav Patel, *Elmfield*, however, fresh from Oxbridge interviews, extinguished all emotion of disappointment.



After a disappointing loss the day before, the Cape Town Rugby Sevens was bound to cheer the team up – and so it did! With front-row tickets right next to the action, the tour party enjoyed an amazing day out with the England flag finding its way onto many of the boys’ chests, thanks to the stadium face-paint teams. The hugely anticipated moment of the day however, was the encounter with OH Harry Glover after England’s match. JLM, who, since the start of the tour did not fail to mention that he coached Harry Glover, was also thrilled to meet the England star.

Two T20s the next day found Harrow paving their way back to winning ways. A strong bowling performance in the first match (particularly from Chohan) allowed the XI to attack the opposition bowlers with freedom whilst batting, resulting in a multi-wicket win with several overs to spare. The next T20 was dominated by the batsmen yet again, with Brankin-Frisby's 50 providing the backbone of the innings. A strong bowling performance, backed up by excellent fielding, saw Harrow through to victory at the oldest grass-wicket cricket ground in South Africa, Groot Drakenstein.

Clear blue skies the day after presented a great opportunity for a day of sightseeing for the tour party. The summiting of Table Mountain failed to disappoint, as the whole of Cape Town was captured with magnificent views from the top. The Cape of Good Hope was the next spot we visited, showcasing the meeting of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, as well as a vast array of different plant and animal species existing in their natural habitats. A quick visit to the local penguins and a seafood dinner ended a long but special day out in Cape Town.



A guided tour and match at Langa township the next day was another eye-opening experience. We were lucky enough to be shown around the area by a local man who shared his experience of growing up in that environment and spoke to us about the general way of life in the region. The cricket game that followed showcased another dominating performance by the XI. In tough conditions for batting, Sheopuri, Lyon's, and Wijeratne combined forces to put a strong partnership together, laying the base for Anton-Smith and Chohan to finish the innings off in style. The bowlers once again sealed a victory for Harrow, with Chohan being the pick of the attack with five wickets to his name.

The final rest day of the tour featured a team trip to the beach, which was followed by lunch and much relaxation at the hotel. The touring party was hosted at a local vineyard by OHs and an evening of Harrow songs was enjoyed by Harrovians young and old. Songs were expertly chosen by PJB, making the evening yet another one to cherish.

Due to a rainy morning, our final match against All Rounder Cricket Academy was reduced to a 35-over-a-side contest. A strong bowling performance from the opposition reduced Harrow to an average total, with Brankin-Frisby injuring his nose in the process. Once again, it was up to Harrow's bowlers to claw the game back – and that is exactly what they did. Chohan, spinning a web on a turning track, neutralised the opposition's top order and middle order. However, some big-hitting towards the end secured the All Rounder Academy a victory. Despite ending the tour on a losing note, the passion showed by the XI, as well as the lessons learnt over the two-week period, made the trip an invaluable experience.

Leaving Cape Town the next day was a tough pill to swallow for the whole tour group. Nevertheless, morale was high in the camp after such a magnificent tour. With energy levels low and Christmas approaching, the trip back to Heathrow was a mellow one, marking the end of an outstanding tour; a tour that will forever have a place in our memories for the rest of our lives.

TOUR OF US UNIVERSITIES

Chicago and West Coast, 7-14 December

As the School closed for the long-awaited Christmas break, some boys were just getting ready to start another journey. A group of 17 Harrovians (a mixture of Lower Sixth, Fifth Form and Removes), accompanied by KAF, CEGB and Miss Morton, flew 4,000 miles to Chicago where we would begin our tour of Chicago and West Coast universities.

Upon landing, we were hit by Chicago's characteristically chilly and windy December weather. We loaded our coach with our bags and headed straight from the airport to Northwestern University, where we started our US university adventure. Northwestern was founded in 1851 in Evanston, and is situated right next to the city of Chicago, on the coast of Lake Michigan. It was named Northwestern University because the region was the north-westernmost territory of the United States at the time. Following an introduction to the university by a student from the UK and Aaron Zdawczyk (Associate Director of Admissions), we were given a tour of the campus by a Northwestern undergrad.

The following day, the group headed for our second university, UChicago—a university well-known for its Economics and Humanities departments. There, an undergrad (who bore an uncanny resemblance to the Northwestern tour guide) gave us a tour. Disappointed to learn that they were, in fact, not twins, we pushed this aside. The group was fascinated both by the Collegiate Gothic architecture and the modern facilities of the university and, after the tour, we were lucky enough to meet five Old Harrovians (Arthur Oien, Orlando Morris, Mateo Baygual Nespatti, Arshaan Bhatnagar and Hugh Potter), the last four of whom had recently begun their first semester at UChicago, over pizza. There was not much time to reminisce, however, as the group had to move quickly to the airport for a four-hour flight to California. We were met at the airport by our trusty driver for the rest of the week, Larry, who ferried us from campus to campus with great gusto for the next five days.



(Above: On campus at USC.)

The first university we visited in California, UC Davis, was also the first of the many UCs (that is: universities in the University of California system) that we would visit. UC Davis was also one of the largest universities we visited, with an undergrad population of more than 30,000. We were warmly greeted by both our hosts and the sun (making a stark, but very welcome, contrast with the Chicago weather), and after a brief introduction we toured the campus and met with OH Marco Chau, with whom we discussed campus life and US applications.

That afternoon, we visited UC Berkeley's hilly campus, which reminded many boys of the hike from MLS to Old Schools. After a brief introduction from the Admissions Office (I'm beginning to see a pattern here...), we were given a spirited tour by OH Kyran Jenkins who had just completed one of his finals before meeting us. A uniting feature of the university campuses we saw was the recurrence of towers as central points and, at UC Berkeley, we were told that you could, in

fact, even take a bell-ringing class in the university's famed "Campanile". We also learned that university life was severely crippled by smoke from the recent Californian wildfires, which caused many classes to be cancelled.

The following day, the group visited Stanford University, located near Palo Alto and just south of San Francisco, where an Admissions Officer and an undergrad from the UK spoke to us about her life at Stanford. With one of the largest university campuses in the world, almost all Stanford's students live on campus, not least because of the considerable expense of renting in the area. Despite the campus's large size, we were assured that most classes take place in a small, centralised part of it. The university is also famed for its close ties with Silicon Valley, due to both its proximity as well as its status as a prominent research university. Known also for its sporting prowess, Stanford has its own stadium with a capacity of 50,000 people where students and fans can watch The Cardinals in their home games.



(Above: Boys at Stanford.)

That evening, we hopped back on the coach for something different: a night tour of San Francisco. Led by our tour guide, Jason, we visited Treasure Island, a man-made island built originally for the 1939 World Fair. The island later became a military base where tests were done using radioactive materials. Every so often, such materials are discovered by residents, although the US Department of Defence continues to assure locals that it is very safe to live there! We then toured the old harbour, once the focal point of a city, where most immigrants arrived by boat. Although still operational, much of the harbour has become a shopping area. We then crossed a number of the city's bridges and, of course, saw the famous Golden Gate Bridge. Surprisingly, the bridge was not named for its burnt-orange hue, but rather because a soldier remarked that it reminded him of the Golden Horn waterway in Istanbul (despite having never even visited Turkey). The idea of a gate came from the fact that he saw the strait which the bridge crosses as the city's gate to the Orient. Having seen the bridge, we returned to the city and saw the traditional San Francisco trams, although we were told that they are more often used by tourists than residents. Due to its historical status as a point of disembarkation for East Asian immigrants, it had and still has one of the first and largest Chinatowns in the US. Initially haunted by prejudice, the area has become a cornerstone of San Francisco and its multiculturalism. Despite its achievements, San Francisco suffers a serious homeless problem with thousands of people sleeping rough. Many point to the exorbitant house prices, caused by high wages in Silicon Valley, as the cause of the homelessness. However, the pre-existing homeless population has caused other homeless people to be attracted to the city. It was certainly an inescapable issue for both residents and tourists of the city.

Following a five-hour coach journey south, we reached our next university (a UC School three of four), UC Santa Barbara, which is roughly three quarters of the way to LA from San Francisco. Though the drive from San Francisco to

Santa Barbara included a pit-stop to one of California's famous In-n-Out Burger restaurants, we were ravenous upon arrival. Luckily, we were met by OH Harry Jenkins for a delicious beachside dinner before heading to our hotel for the evening. Situated on the coast, UC Santa Barbara became popular among the group for its scenic views of the surrounding area and the sea. UC Santa Barbara is known for its students' artistic talents and expertise, although it has a wealth of opportunities outside the creative world too. As the closest UC university to the UC internship programme hub, students at UC Santa Barbara have great access to these incredible internship opportunities.

Arriving at our final location, Los Angeles, on day five, we began the last leg of our journey. We started with Pomona College, one of the so-called 7Cs of the Claremont College Consortium of five undergrad colleges (the 5Cs) and two graduate schools, allowing each to school to enjoy the facilities and resources of the others while maintaining their separate identities and small, close-knit communities. Pomona, also notable for its artistic pursuits, was founded in 1887 and was modelled on the style of New England universities, although it naturally prides itself on its California culture.

As a neighbour to Pomona and another one of the 7Cs, CMC, or Claremont McKenna College, was our next stop. CMC, having only 1,300 students, was tiny in comparison to the other universities we saw; the reason for this, the International Admissions Director, Conor Fritz, told us, was not because they were unable to take more but was because the university preferred a more intimate environment that this small population allowed. CMC is particularly strong on the economics front and has a rich history of finance. In fact, a body of students control an investment fund known as the Student Investment Fund that manages over \$2 million in assets, one of the largest of its kind in the country. We were very fortunate to be treated to a private tea with Conor and our very own OH Spencer Taylor in CMC's Athenaeum, where the College hosts its most illustrious visiting speakers.

That evening, we toured downtown LA with another excellent tour guide, Carolyn, visiting major historical sites including the financial district, Pershing Square, notable food markets, the LA Central Library and even a novel mini tram, "Angel's Flight", supposedly the shortest railway in the world, which was once used by maids of wealthy households to get to and from the food markets. After the tour, we were finally granted some long-awaited free time for retail therapy in one of LA's downtown malls.

The following day, we visited the University of Southern California (USC). The university prides itself on its cinematic arts and drama successes, with notable alumni including George Lucas and Will Ferrell. In fact, due to its red brick buildings and near constant sunshine, USC has been the setting of Harvard University in films more times than Harvard itself. USC is also known for its strong Political Science and International Relations departments. After an info session and tour, the group was met by International Admissions Officer, Nathan Mack, and OHs Carlos Falco and Shivaan Mohinani for a leisurely lunch and chat in USC's 'Village'—a bustling retail complex built a few years ago to cater to every need of USC's students.

After basking in the heat and the sun at USC, the group moved on to Loyola Marymount University (LMU) for the afternoon. Loyola Marymount is a Catholic university (although a person of any faith can attend) that was founded by Jesuits. As such, religion is a central point for the university and a course on theological studies (or some variation of that) is compulsory. However, the university has a vast array of other opportunities and recently hosted one of the Democratic primary debates. At the heart of the campus was their church overlooking the city of Los Angeles with the Hollywood sign visible in the far distance.

The final day arrived and the weary group rallied round to make the most of seeing the last two universities of our trip. UCLA, located on the outskirts of the city, looked similar to

USC with its large red-brick buildings. Incidentally, just like USC, UCLA has also played Harvard more times than Harvard has. UCLA is best known as the location of the birth of the internet and its IT Department bears the motto “Lo and behold”, “L” and “O” being the first two letters transmitted over the internet before it crashed. With over \$1 billion having been spent on research last year alone, UCLA is one of the largest independent research bodies in the US.



(Above: Boys visiting University of Chicago.)

Our final university and perhaps the least well known, Pepperdine University, is situated in what is usually sunny Malibu and was ranked as the most beautiful campus in the US. Unfortunately, the beauty was very much in the eye of the beholder, as that afternoon it was overcast and somewhat drizzly weather. Nonetheless, the beautiful views of the sea and the surrounding hills impressed the group. We were told that it was not uncommon for students to surf in between classes due to the university's beachside location. Tired, well-informed and ready to return home, we eventually endured a ten-and-a-half-hour flight back to London.

On behalf of the group, I would like to say a huge thank you to KAF and Miss Morton for organising the trip and to CEGB for not only accompanying us during the trip but also sharing his party tricks with the boys at meal times, providing much-needed entertainment after long, exhausting days. Many thanks must go to the OHs, who gave up their valuable time during their finals weeks to meet us, and to all the Admissions Officers who so generously took the time to speak with us and host us on their campuses. We are also immensely grateful to Mrs Shryane, Harrow Association Director, for her help in communicating with the OHs whom we met during the trip. Last, but not least, we are also incredibly grateful to TCBC School Tours for all their help with our flights, accommodation, meals, coach transfers and more.

LIFE BEYOND THE HILL

CEGB, 'European and Asia-Pacific Universities',
OH Room, 9 November

While many of us are only aware of universities in the US and UK, the School has provided an opportunity for us to explore other university options elsewhere. On Thursday 9 January, CEGB delivered the inaugural Life Beyond the Hill Lecture, which featured many of the top institutions from Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

Students from a range of year groups attended the event, and we started the discussion with defining the concept of “success” in applying to universities. While some of us believe that a successful application involves going to our first- or

second-choice universities in terms of ranking, others believe that it is more important for us to apply to a course that suits our personality.

Through this lecture, many of us found out that 19 of the top 50 institutions worldwide are in Europe, Asia and Australia, in accordance to the QS World University Ranking. CEGB provided us with a basic overview of the history of universities. Initially set up to educate the clergymen and provide a place of learning for theology, universities nowadays focus on individual subjects and on research in a variety of subject areas.

European universities offer high-quality research and many are beginning to adopt the American Liberal Arts system, where students may take any subjects of their interest. These universities normally teach in the language of the country in which they are located, although some universities may offer English or bilingual programs. Application-wise, European universities are more holistic in their selection process in comparison to top universities in the US, so the application process is not all about grades. A good analogy of an average university in Europe is a balance point between a university in the UK and one in the US.

One example of a top research university in Europe would be Tilburg University, where interdisciplinary courses are offered mainly in English, at a relatively low cost. Another example of an excellent research university is IE University in Spain, where graduates of law are able to practise law in multiple nations. Germany offers great engineering options such as the Carl Benz School and Jacobs, and Ireland is also an option for those who wish to study humanities. Although universities in Europe generally do not use the Common App/UCAS system, universities in Ireland do have a special Central App system where one may apply to one university for ten different subjects, in order of preference.

Universities in the Asia are also ranked very highly, with National University of Singapore and Hong Kong University standing out as the top universities in the region. Universities in this region tend to be more academic and put a higher emphasis on research. Nevertheless, elite universities in Australia still have a broad and flexible curriculum where entry requirements are generally more generous. Also, another feature which attracts many Harrovians is that the degree begins in February, which gives students the opportunity to have a few months of rest (“mini gap year”) before moving on to their degrees. The Australian university system also ensures more contact time with teachers and lecturers to enable further discussion.

This event had broadened our horizons as we now understand that universities in Europe and the Asia-Pacific also carry out high-level research and offer an experienced faculty and resources that do not lag behind universities in the UK and US. It was a truly enjoyable experience to hear from CEGB about these universities and their special features.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

Eugene Kim, West Acre, Physics Schools 8, 8 January

This week, the Science Society was delighted to have Eugene Kim, *West Acre*, give a talk regarding a complex, yet intriguing, theory that is crucial in understanding the nature of reality and its unpredictability. The talk was entitled *Chaos Theory: How did the butterfly in Brazil cause the tornado in Texas?*, and explained the theory's history, implications in everyday life and significance for the researchers of today.

Eugene first introduced the discovery of chaos theory, and the common misconceptions that have been circulated by over-the-

top Hollywood plots. Although the movie industry's perception of chaos theory – small actions lead to polarising differences in the future – is technically correct, it is much more nuanced and complex in reality. To explain the emergence of chaos theory, Eugene took the audience back to the 17th century. Researchers and scientists at this time were fascinated by the 'deterministic' world: a world in which it was believed that if a being intelligent enough to process all the information in the world existed – each atom's position, momentum, energy, and state – then the past, future and present could be predicted. The desire for the world to be deterministic continued into the early 20th century, until climate scientists used supercomputers to analyse and forecast weather. However, despite their efforts, they failed to create accurate long-lasting forecasts. Was this due to flaws in equipment? Was it the random 'noise' of weather? To explain these concerns, Eugene explored the investigations of the scientist Lorenz, who is considered the founder of modern chaos theory.

Lorenz, using his supercomputer, simulated weather patterns by modelling 12 variables, representing factors such as temperature and wind speed. He decided to re-run the simulation for a second time, by inputting the variables picked from the original simulation at a given moment of time. Upon comparing the two resultant weather predictions, he found that the climate models differed completely. The reason was due to a rounding error on the sixth decimal place: a miniscule difference that should have had no effect on the output. Thus, he showed that the system had a highly sensitive dependence on the initial condition – an effect coined by Lorenz as the 'butterfly effect': the underlying principle of chaos theory. To visualise this behaviour, Lorenz created three equations to model rolling convection currents. He plotted points whilst letting the function change its position within the x, y, z axes. The x, y and z variables within the equations were equal to the rate of convection, horizontal temperature distribution and vertical temperature distribution respectively. When he mapped this function onto a phase space diagram, it produced a distinctive shape that could be seen to resemble a butterfly. In addition, the trajectory of the graph never intersected itself, and therefore the system was non-repeating and aperiodic, hence its unpredictability. However, the general pattern of the system could be seen, as it was confined within a given volume, even though the line continued on infinitely. How was this possible? Eugene answered this clearly, by explaining that the shape is in fact, a fractal – a way of fitting infinite patterns into finite spaces that is commonly found in nature. Examples of well-known fractals include the Koch Triangle and Mandelbrot Set.

Afterwards, Eugene looked at population biology, modelled by the non-linear function $y = kx/(1-x)$, another system manifesting chaotic patterns. When increasing k to a value greater than three, the predictable pattern becomes a fractal, as it diverges into a series of self-similar chaotic oscillations consisting of infinite points. Thus, showing that the oscillations were not random and due to factors such as 'noise', but were instead due to an intrinsic property of a non-linear system. Eugene continued to explain that for any non-linear system, chaos could be observed, given that the parameters were right. Fractals occurring in non-linear systems and sensitive dependence on initial conditions is a universal phenomenon – occurring in leaf patterns, vein and capillary formation, lining of clouds and double pendulums. To conclude, Eugene reinforced that the universe and our world will inevitably be unpredictable in the long term: not due to mankind's incompetence, but rather to a property of nature. The world is neither clockwork nor random, but chaotic.

All in all, Eugene's talk was extremely thought-provoking and impactful, as it gave the audience a deeper understanding of the nature of reality through this fascinating theory, allowing them to have a greater grasp of the apparent disorder and irregularities of the complex systems found in everyday life and nature itself.

METROPOLITAN

HARROVIANS IN THE NEWS

Cummings attacks Whitehall elite



(Credit: *The Sunday Times*, January 5, 2020).

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIRS,

I was a Pastoral Year Head, in charge of 180 teenagers, for many years. The female deputy head of my comprehensive school, now called Lea Valley Academy, wished to enforce maroon as the colour of the girls' shoes. So much of my time was taken up poring over a Dulux colour chart and arguing with young ladies about the true hue of their maroon, burgundy or claret shoes. Such madness was everywhere. Darrens would hide in suspended ceilings. Sharons would cannon into me. I would hold assemblies for my Year from a stage, and Tracey had to be helped out in hysterics on account of my aquamarine socks. I wondered why Rachel sat so upright at the back, until one day she vanished to give birth.

I met wonderful parents with terrible kids, and wonderful kids with terrible parents. I always threatened to give detentions, but never gave one; instead I'd ring the parents and give them an earful. More impact. To add to my cool, I adorned my pastoral office with pop posters of Wham! The Cure, U2, REM, Aerosmith, ABC, Spandau Ballet, the Sex Pistols and Culture Club.

The shift in the balance of power did not escape me. At Harrow, the beaks had all the power, and if you didn't obey them, you would be expelled. But in comprehensives, no pupil could be expelled, only suspended for a short while. So my Headmaster John and I devised our own cunning scheme. I would instruct the offending boy (it was always a boy) to go home and stay there until further notice from me. Then I would forget about him. Everyone was happy. He could sniff his glue, instead of wrecking our classes, and everyone else could get on with a

rich education. But one day, the Gauleiters of the Education Department at the Civic Centre heard about it. They hauled John and me in for grilling. Had we been excluding pupils against regulations? Of course. My Head blamed me for it all, and I was honoured to take that blame.

But I was disappointed when John then arranged the timetable so that I alone had to entertain my 180 16-year-olds for a 35-minute assembly every week. That was a strain. I organised a concert for my Year, the high point of which was them all singing Elvis Presley's 'In the Ghetto' – but they sang 'In the Gateau'. I scoured the Borough of Enfield for speakers who could fill up the time. I got a new Careers Advisor to lecture my assembly. She unwisely scolded my vibrant Year with the words, "Some of you don't know what your parents do – or even where they do it." Uproar. In desperation, for the final week, I found in the Civic Centre a film about sexual health which lasted exactly 35 minutes. Perfect. I sat back, relaxed, as this terrible film showed in technicolour every sexual disease known. For once, my magnificent 180 sat frozen in horror.

I was energised by the teenage madness of my Year. When I popped in to the Head's Office, interrupting a Senior Management meeting, they asked, "Mike, from our window we see that you were chasing Talak Bey all around the school. Was there any reason for that?" "No". I was so inspired that I became a party baron of North London, inviting my teaching colleagues to my Palmers Green raves of 200 guests.

One of my senior boys, Kariakades, was giving the women teachers a hard time, swinging his shoulder bag into them after repeated warnings. I had authority to cane, though in 1985 caning was about to be made illegal. So I thought I'd give it a whirl while the going was good. I gave Kariakades 4 of the best, 2 gentle ranging shots and then 2 crackers. Afterwards I felt guilty about it. At the end of term, when he was leaving, I apologised to him. But he couldn't remember the caning at all.

My tenure as a Year Head ended because of my holiday punch-up with my Headmaster, during a game of chess in hot August sunshine beside the Hampstead Heath mens' swimming pond, where he was a temporary lifeguard (sic). But being a Year Head had been a great time. I was young alert, alive, awake and enthusiastic. "Nice day Steven," I would say every morning to my register-bearer. "Yes sir." "Nice day for a fight?" "Truly, sir."

A year after I had left the school, I returned with a girlfriend, The Hon Cate, to show her my former manor. She was still in her red party dress of the night before. The lads swarmed around us, as a huge 6th former leaned out of a Geography room, crowing, "It's the legendary Mr Stone!" She married me after that. She is married to me still.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Stone, MORETONS 1957²

DEAR SIRs,

I am writing to you in hope of sparking a healthy debate regarding a line of Existing Customs that I believe to be outdated. It is currently the policy of our school that "boys will usually travel [to away matches] in School uniform", and I would like to explain why I believe this should no longer be the case.

But I feel I must begin by recognising the sentiment behind the rule at the time of its creation. In the past, sports players have typically been smartly dressed when travelling to games in order to illustrate traditional notions of sportsmanship, gentlemanly behaviour and decorum (all ideas which are desirable on the sports pitch although I do question the impossibility of exhibiting those characteristics while dressed for the occasion). Indeed, some Premier League soccer clubs still observe this rule although perhaps under different practical circumstances. It also had the added benefit of making the team look uniform and intimidating upon leaving the team bus, something which I'm sure couldn't possibly be achieved while wearing our slick clean reversible tops and blue shorts.

However, this idea has changed in recent times. Upon arrival

at Manchester United, Jose Mourinho ditched the mandatory suits at away matches because of new research suggesting higher performance when players are comfortable and relaxed. When some of our away matches can take as much as an hour and a half to get to (possibly longer – the time used in this article is presuming a match at Tonbridge School), the additional comfort when travelling could make the experience vastly more pleasant (if this is even a priority). This is particularly true when the bus is hot. Because of the nature of the long journey, bluers and greys may often be creased anyway by the time you get there which defeats many of the initial purposes of the exercise.

There are also a wide range of practical reasons when looking at our level of sport. Many schools struggle to provide sufficient changing space for away matches, which means that changing conditions are often unreasonably cramped. From my limited experience, when designing a school, the architect tends not to have away changing rooms as their top priority. Cramped changing spaces can lead to the loss of expensive uniform items (upsetting boys and parents alike) or even the misplacement of an entire bag which must be left in the changing room during matches.

There is also the age-old argument that the School's reputation must come first. However, I believe this to be a moot point. Do prospective parents imagine us gracefully gliding along the soccer pitch clad in bluer, greyer and straw hat? Will the public think that a school that prides itself on sport and sporting alumni never wear sports kit? Has the noble name of Harrow been rued and accursed every time a Harrovian happens to be wearing clothing appropriate to the occasion he is travelling to (if that is not too preposterous a suggestion)?

This policy also takes valuable time away from busy matchdays. One of the major causes of injury at a school level is an insufficient time spent stretching. The root cause of this is that there is often a lack of time after 2e to arrive and spend 10–20 minutes changing in addition to keeping up with pressures to kick off on time. If we were to utilise the time spent on our archaic ritual, we could decrease injury as well as performance from a longer warm up and team talk. Occasionally, the changing rooms are a considerably distance away from the pitches, meaning that one must change and get back on the bus again. It does not take an inspired genius to work out how this defeats the purpose.

Finally, many old-time nostalgic beaks will say uniform is a massive part of the "match tea" ritual but I point them towards two major counter points. Firstly, the match tea could be conducted at the same level in eccer kit (save for perhaps a change out of muddy socks). Frequently, boys eat in eccer kit in the Shepherd Churchill and look at the results. Has the sky fallen on our head? Has God wept from the heavens at our insolence? Has the School's reputation been damaged irrefutably? Secondly, it seems to be clear that the match tea is dying out anyway. Many boys do not enjoy eating after the match and we are rarely joined by the home tea (meaning it is no longer a viable opportunity to socialise). Instead, we are served an awkward mid-afternoon snack instead of making our way back to the Hill so we can dutifully spend what is seemingly the only evening off we get.

To conclude, it is my firm belief that the School should move to a system where boys travel changed to away matches. If this is not possible, it should also be considered to let boys travel changed in the event that the hosting school has a shortage of changing room real estate near the pitches.

Kind regards,
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S

DEAR SIRs AND VARIATIONS THEREUPON,

So there I was, poised for prep, seated at my desk ready to make up words for my English prep and then butcher them in French. The wif goes down yet again (I know, first world problems). I could not do my prep. It felt akin to being in France in WWII,

in that my Surface Book was about as useful as a lemon in a shoe. This was made more annoying by the fact that the wifi was seamless all day except when it really counted. Am I going mad? (Please do not actually reply addressing that question.)

What are the reasons? Is this the latest high tech solution from Peel House to prevent people misuse of Surfaces – that is, to stop the use of them altogether? Some may say I am being harsh on Peel House but for all I know this meltdown is due to some fool unplugging the hub. The key problem is that my Surface is as effective as a lock made from ice without the wifi and I finish with the famous internet conundrum “where’s the wifi?”

Respectfully,
ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

DAME VAUGHAN

Agony Aunt

DEAR DAME VAUGHAN,

Oh Damey, as you linger in your lofty large library, I have but one thing to say to you: GUESS WHO’S BACK (BACK AGAIN)? HARROW’S BACK (TELL A FRIEND). Yes, the prodigal Harrovian has returned, fresh from his festive rest, and I am ready to yoke 2020 to my will, and ride the stallion of time to the dazzling joy of a successful year – an annus mirabilis, if you will! And you will, because I will it. Yes, I have returned to the sun-kissed hill in this April-like weather (even though it’s January, but no cause for alarm there...) ready to take on another term of beastly beaks, plodding preps, chastening chapel, horrendous house-matches, mud-infused mayhem and loathsome lessons. Oh I LOVE IT: the thrill of the hill, the drama of life – I didn’t mean any of those alliterative things, it’s truly great to be back! The cut and thrust of what can only be described as ‘witty banter’ with the beleaguered beak in 2b; the tension - the pain - the glory of inter-house competitions; the week-end antics wrought behind the housemasters’ backs wonderfully recounted at breakfast the next day! Oh I’ve missed it all! Don’t get me wrong – I loved being at home, and boy did I need the rest – but I am ready to get back, gather the boys, and see what Harrow brings next. I’ve got memoirs to write, you know; the early chapters need some meaty material. In that vein, O Lady of Literary Lore, may I have a book recommendation to fire me up for the joy of school life, that reflects the brilliance of boarding, and inspires me with exploits to plan throughout the term. Gosh, it’s good to be back.

Yours enthusiastically,
DOM BRUNETTE

DEAR MY RADIANTLY RAPTUREOUS RETURNER,

A happy new year, and a welcome return to you. Someone has a pep in his step and a zest for life! Normally people have a post-festivities January slump, but you seem to be bucking that trend quite nicely – almost suspiciously so... This exuberant enthusiasm for – let’s be honest here – a return to school seems unnatural, almost, dare I say it, contrived...? Some might accuse this column of being a manipulative form of propaganda, and those who write in merely made up to serve the Vaughan’s hidden agenda. Well, I will not have that accusation levied at us, I simply will not hear of it. The bare-faced cheek of it all! I will take you to court, I’m warning you: I was one of the founding members of Clifford Chance, I’ll have you know. This reminds me of the time I had to sue Rupert Murdoch for libel – I won’t go into the details, but all I’m saying is: a sock, three turkeys, twenty-one hot air balloons and Meryl Streep in

a motel. Suffice to say, I won the case, but it all got hushed up, closed doors, super-injunctions – the coward! Anyway, I ramble, where was I? Your excitement at your return, yes! If indeed you are real – which, obviously, you are – then I have the perfect novel to help fuel your boarding-school thrill and nostalgic antics: Tom Brown’s School Days by Thomas Hughes. One of the original ‘boarding school bildungsroman’ (coming of age novels to you and moi), and based on the author’s experience at Rugby school during the 1830s under the famous reformist headmaster Dr Thomas Arnold, the novel follows Tom Brown’s experience growing up in the Victorian school system. Alongside the everyday dramas of school, Tom must defeat the school bully Flashman, grow up into a model student, and work out who he is – despite the difficulties he gets into as a boy led more by his heart than his head. A timeless classic, this is a wonderfully gentle read to ease you back into school life, and nurture your enthusiasm for your return. I think you’ll enjoy it!

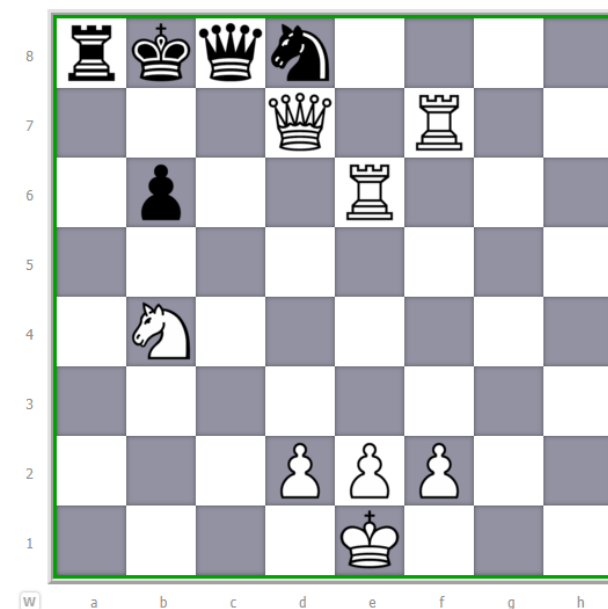
Yours heartily,
DAME VAUGHAN

[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]

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: White to play and mate in 2 moves.



Last edition’s answer: 1. ... 1. Qxd7 Kxd7 2. Bb5#

The winner of the weekly chess puzzle competition for last term was Newton Zhu, *The Head Master’s*. The scores have been reset for this term so the competition is wide open! Remember to email your solutions to the puzzle each week to Mr Hall (jpbh@) to enter.

RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD

Winner: Daniel Zhang, *The Knoll*

Congratulations to Daniel Zhang, *The Knoll*, who has won the RSPCA Young Photographer Award 2019, in the 12–15 age category. His winning shot, entitled *Mid-Air Catch*, captured the attention of the judges, and he was invited to attend an awards ceremony hosted by TV presenter Chris Packham.

The competition aims to encourage young people's interest in photography and their appreciation and understanding of the animals around them. In 2017, Daniel was selected as runner up in the same age category.



'*Mid-Air Catch* was taken in South Africa, and the featured bird is a hamerkop. This photo was taken in Zimanga Private Reserve, South Africa, in the early morning. I noticed this hamerkop throwing its prey into the air, which looks like the toad is jumping into the bird's mouth. The main challenge was keeping the subjects in focus as the bird was constantly moving.'

GAFFE AND GOWN

Harry Watts Answers

The religious Society of Friends is more usually known by what name, perhaps to do with physical shaking during religious experiences? "Ross, Chandler and Joey"

Which Czech-born tennis player won 18 grand slam singles titles in total, including six consecutive Wimbledon titles in the 1980s? "Aidan Wong, *The Park*" Or also "Ronaldo"

Which New Zealand-born player was man of the match in the 2019 Cricket World Cup final? "Mr Bouling Owt"

Which historical TV drama series, now in its third season, has starred Claire Foy and Olivia Colman as Queen Elizabeth II? "Keep up with the Kardashians"

Which animal featured this year in an Old Speech Room Gallery exhibition, examining its role from ancient Egypt to the present? "Meerkat"

What do bactrians have twice as many of as dromedaries? "Wives"

Which sport, first played in ancient Persia for training elite military units, is only allowed to be played right-handed (to avoid collisions)? "Slapsies"

In athletics what is the final event of the (women's) heptathlon? "Swimming" [*Really? In Athletics? – Eds*]

What calculating device was invented by the Cambridge mathematician William Oughtred in 1662? "Laptop"

Which Birmingham-based football club returned to the Premier League in August after three years in the Championship? "Norwich"

What five-letter word can mean part of a plant and also to follow or harass somebody? "Petal"

According to the American inventor Thomas Edison, genius is 1% inspiration and 99% what? "Luck" [*Not a bad answer actually. –Eds*]

What is the largest state in the USA? "Mexico" [*Take that Trump. –Eds*]

What is the English name for the country that is called 'Cymru' in its own language? "Crumpet"

The IMF was founded in 1944 and works to foster global growth and economic stability. What do the letters IMF stand for? "International Milk Fiend"

Which German-born scientist developed the theory of relativity and was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952? "Mr Seex"

Overheard in lessons

(*shocked*) "I beg your pardon! What did you just say, boy?" "Five", sir! I said 'five'. I misread the question. What did you think I said!?" "A different word with the same number of letters and the same first letter." "... 'four', sir?"

HILL LIFE

There is much debate as to the relevance of school uniform. Yours truly heard it through the grapevine that the Headmaster of "the other place" came very close to scrapping their uniform. The arguments: to ditch it and encourage individuality, diversity and comfort or keep it and foster a uniformity and collective character. It is a topic with a surprising variance of opinion. Winchester College takes an interesting approach. It has a dress code (smart) which allows Wykehamists to vary their outfits with different jackets, shirts, suits etc... allowing a certain amount of decorum to be retained while simultaneously permitting variance and individuality. However, what if the harsh but monotonous conformity that a uniform enforces can also leave room for individuality?

Our uniform in particular is iconic with: the straw hats, blazers, greys and black ties (a continued sign of our mourning for Queen Victoria's passing). Yet there is significant variety in our dress. During the day, the bright-coloured jumpers of the Monitors with their unique ribbons on their hats, The Guild's striped bow tie, The Phil's black one and their respective scarfs are all immediately recognisable and identify the individuals donning them as members of those exclusive clubs. It is a similar story with tails. However, it is during the evenings and Saturday lessons when we see a true explosion of colour.

The super-curricular Harrow comes into full display on a Saturday as our exhaustive list of societies are proudly emblazoned round the neck of almost all Sixth Formers. This not only offers a variety of dress, but also aptly shows the individual Harrovian's spheres of interest and influence. Many choose to, 'in patriotic chorus', fly the flag for their House through ties, fezzes or the glorious House triple blood jackets. Even in the lower half of the School there is some scope for individuality through the optional blue jumpers, overcoats and scarfs. In short, our uniform equips us to be ambassadors of our chosen House, societies, role and, ultimately, school.

Moreover, a less notorious aspect that uniform reveals (much to Custos' dismay) is an insight into the personality of the Harrovian. An undone top button, scruffy shoes and muddy greys say as much as any society tie. While "home clothes" would offer the same insight, it is also important to note that it is likely that many of us will end up wearing a sort of uniform in our future careers – whether that be a Formula One driver's overalls or a barrister's robes – and the routine of wearing one now is good practice.

I am not writing in response to a threat to our uniform but rather to highlight what, to me, is a perfect system. Our uniform is iconic and displays character and individuality, and offers insight, yet it still portrays a smart outfit to the watching world. One of the best sights on the Hill is not Speech Room or the manicured pitches but the High Street when it is chock-full with a sea of hats. Any restriction and relaxing of this careful balance would be a tragic blunder.

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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	4		3	8				
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SPORTS

BADMINTON

Open 1st v The DK Way Academy

Our top five pairs took part in a three-hour exhibition with our external coach's DK Way Academy. The coach brought a mixed group of excellent players, ranging from a boy ranked ninth in the country to players in their 20s, who are qualified badminton coaches. The boys relished the challenge of a truly competitive game against their opposite pair, and put down some excellent scores, even when conceding a loss.

Pairings

1st Kingston Lee, *Elmfield*, & Lawrence Leekie, *West Acre*, v DK1 – Lost 18-21

2nd Yi Zheng Gan, *Elmfield*, & Andrew Cheung, *Rendalls*, v DK2 – Lost 19-21

3rd David Huang, *The Knoll*, & Henry To, *The Grove*, v DK3 – Lost 6-21

4th James Yuen, *Lyon's*, & Brian Chiang, *The Grove*, v DK4 – Won 21-16

5th Marcus Tung, *West Acre*, & Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, v DK5 – Won 21-14

The competitive element was lost 3-2, with Andrew Cheung, *Rendalls*, making a very convincing debut in Pair 2. The boys then played a range of friendly singles and doubles games, mixing with the boys and girls of the DK Academy for the remainder of the afternoon. Substitute Alex Locke, *West Acre*, got stuck in, as did Long Hei Ng, *Newlands*, Taaj Adetula, *West Acre*, Q Sun and Krish Nigam, both *Moretons*, and it was excellent to see others supporting the team by scoring the fixture.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Knole Run

On Saturday the cross-country team took on the historic Knole Run in Sevenoaks, whose brutal 10km course winds through woods and expansive parkland populated by several deer herds. The Harrow team were placed fifth, their best performance at this event in several years, showing outstanding grit and determination. In particular, helping the team to bring home the McGregor Trophy – as the best school outside Kent – were Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, and team captain Carlos Ohler, *The Knoll*.

BASKETBALL

Wellington Tournament

In the first tournament of the season, our senior basketball team performed admirably. Our first match against Stowe was closely fought, with Stowe eking out a narrow victory in the last minute of the match. Our second match saw the boys face Eton. The boys dominated in both offence and defence with a 17-2 win. Our third match against Wellington B was another win, leaving us at the top of our bracket. In the semi-finals, the boys came up against a strong Wellington A squad. The boys were unable to fend off a strong offence from Wellington and finished third in the tournament.

FIVES

The School v Highgate School

Seniors v North Oxford Won 2-1

A strong performance from Johnathan Barley, *The Grove*, and Nathan Shepard, *The Park*, resulted in a good start to the season for the seniors. Johnathan with his set piece and Nathan with his speed around the court proved to be decisive.

Junior Colts v Highgate School Drew 1-1

A tricky away fixture on different courts in cold, damp conditions did not deter Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, the Under-15 first pair, from putting in an excellent performance. Quicker foot movement and strong commitment to take the ball early paid dividends in three close sets. The second pair struggled to find their feet and went down although there was some improvements towards the end.

Yearlings v Highgate School Lost 3-0

A tough day for the team today against a school that has played fives from a much earlier age. There were some encouraging signs that the boys are developing more understanding of their game and in particular Algie Anderson, *Moretons*, and Freddie Dinan, *Rendalls*, really improved during their match.

FOOTBALL

The School v Berkhamsted School, 11 January
1st XI Won 2-0

Scorers: Tom Ward, *West Acre*; Arthur Leney, *The Knoll*,

It's not often you see a deckchair at a football match in Harrow at the start of January, but Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, was in summery spirit as he gave a new definition to the subs' bench on the sideline. Meanwhile Kit Davidson, *Rendalls*, had to be recovered from a nearby tree, having been blown away by fierce winds rolling down off the golf course.

The first half was a tight affair with early season nerves evident. Harrow were indebted to Sean Hargraves, *The Head Master's*, in goal for keeping them in the game after two outstanding saves, the first low down to his right from a long-range shot and the second after he closed down a one-on-one chance brilliantly. At the other end, Josh Davis, *Moretons*, took advantage of defensive uncertainty from Berkhamsted to go through on goal, but he decided to finesse a shot against the wind, which became a comfortable save for the keeper. Chike Odogwu, *Moretons*, making an impressive debut for the 1st XI, also went close with a header from a corner. The XI began the second half more brightly. There was more assertiveness in their play and, with the wind behind their backs, they created more chances going forward. They got the breakthrough through captain Ward. John Koutalides, *West Acre*, put a tasty free-kick into the box and it was headed onto the bar by a Berkhamsted defender. Ward volleyed home the resulting rebound from five yards out.

Davis then went close again, with his jinking run finishing with a shot coming back off the post. Just minutes later, Leney found himself in a similar position after winning the ball back and fired a low left-foot shot into the far corner to make it 2-0. The XI had to defend well in the closing stages to maintain their clean sheet but it was an excellent team effort to secure the win.

2nd XI Won 3-1

Scorers: Ademide Odunsi, *Moretons* (2); Jasper Gray, *Newlands*.

The 2nd XI started their season with a strong team performance resulting in good win against Berkhamsted with Odunsi and Gray on the score sheet.

3rd XI won 2-1

Scorers: Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*; Ire Ajibade, *The Grove*

4th XI Won 3-1

After a stop-start week of Trials and training, the 4th XI were desperate to get the season underway on Saturday. The boys completed the traditional 4th XI warm up of hoofing shots at Hassan in goal, a tried and tested drill that involves a surprising amount of aerobic fitness as they almost always miss. Nonetheless, there was a sense of optimism around Redding 4 as CO2 got the game underway.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for a season opener, the match got off to a rather turgid start, with neither side able to retain possession. Harrow's three centre backs looked particularly uncomfortable on the ball early on, resolving only to use their shins to hack the ball in random directions. This may have been the change of system talking – as seasoned 4th-teamer Jose summed up well, "I'm still getting used to 3-5-2 and having to pass the ball to people at centre back." In the early exchanges, Harrow seemed unable to switch play, with much of the game played attritionally in the far right-hand channel, though it's possible this too could have been tactical, with midfield star Pedro admitting he was keen to avoid his mum seeing his new haircut. It took a full 20 minutes for the game to spring to life, with a sublime pass from Azagra-Tojar splitting Berkhamsted's two robust centre backs, only for Sam to fire wide.

This proved a sign of things to come as a similarly lovely pass from Leo Farzad minutes later opened up Berkhamsted's defence again, with Leo Wright bundled to the ground, having

knocked the ball past the keeper. After a small VAR delay, CO2 pointed to the spot and Leo made no mistake, rattling the ball in off the cross bar to give Harrow the lead.

Berkhamsted hit back almost immediately with a wonderful goal of their own, driving down their left-hand flank after Harrow gave the ball away in midfield, before arching the ball over Hassan into the top corner. The 4th XI continued to look dangerous and began to switch play better but, heading into the half-time oranges, it was all square.

As the second half got under way, it was all Harrow. Driving runs from Ryan and Femi in the wing back slots plus lovely passing from Alex at centre back caused Berkhamsted increasing problems in midfield. Composed defensive work from Sergey and Mass at the back shut the door on attempts by the opposition to counter. Aidan marshalled play well in midfield, and Farzad made it his mission to clip the heels of Berkhamsted's rugby OT at every feasible opportunity. The 4th XI came agonisingly close to breaking the deadlock when Ryan rounded the full back and lofted a ball over the keeper, only to be denied by a last-ditch goal-line scramble.

With five minutes to go, it looked as if the game were destined for a draw until Harry fed Pedro with a sublime pass through the centre backs. Pedro held off the centre back to slot home, cueing wild celebrations in the technical area. Harrow put the game to bed from the subsequent kick off, when quick substitution brought a hungry Joe back into the game. Having harried the midfielder into giving up possession, Joe glided round the centre back and lifted the ball over the flailing keeper to slot home the killer blow.

Colts A Won 4-1

Scorers: Ehiada Garuba x2, *Newlands*; James Gibbens, *West Acre*; George Cutler, *The Knoll*,

After a clearance from their goalkeeper fell to Garuba, a deft finish back over his head gave us the lead. We were grateful to Harry Scott, *Rendalls*, for a fine save to keep it, but he was powerless to stop them equalising from the penalty spot moments later. After some fine play down the left, Kyle Debrah, *Elmfield*, slid a pinpoint pass down the side for Garuba to grab his second, giving us the half-time lead.

The quality of our football improved enormously in the second half and good pressure from Ayo Ajibola, *Bradlys*, led to a chance that was eventually turned in by Gibbens. A fine strike from 20 yards from Cutler made it 4-1 shortly thereafter. The boys then produced some fantastic football (this was commented on by a number of the parents after the match), keeping the ball away from the opposition for large periods of time, to see the game out.

Sam Dunn, *Rendalls*, and Cutler were tireless in midfield and Hugo Anderson, *Newlands*, and Garuba gave the opposition defenders no peace. It was pleasing to see the boys implementing the systems they have been working on throughout the week.

Overall, an excellent start to the season.

Colts B Won 2-1

Scorers: Roger Litton, *Newlands*, William Barrett, *The Knoll*,

Having trained on a waterlogged Ducker 1 throughout the week, the boys were treated to an immaculate astroturf away at Berkhamsted. Perhaps the stark contrast in playing surface could be to blame for the opening blunder that saw Harrow score in their own net. Heads were quickly uplifted, however, and a calmness restored to our play.

Barrett, Litton and Lanre Nzeribe, *Bradlys*, co-ordinated a fast, expansive style of play all afternoon. It was Nzeribe who sent an enticing through ball for Litton to burst onto ahead of Harrow's first. Litton barely broke stride and showed great composure to round the keeper and pass into an open goal. Sam Quist, *The Grove*, enjoyed acres of space on the left and was unlucky not to be on the scoresheet.

Such attacking dominance was curated from a solid defensive

effort. Michael Chiimba, *Newlands*, and Yoh Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, capably dealt with the best Berkhamsted could offer. It was great to see Harrow's confidence grow as the afternoon progressed, playing out from the back proved hugely successful as a method to unlock space in the midfield. Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, was industrious up and down the right wing all afternoon and possibly won the corner from which Barrett struck the winner.

The result was thoroughly deserved; Harrow will look to build on the performance with more clinical finishing in the final third.

Colts C Lost 2-3

Scorers: Nick Martin, *The Knoll*; Noah Mazrani, *The Park*

Junior Colts A Drew: 3-3

This was not the result the JCAs were looking for to start their season but they can draw confidence from fighting back after a slow start. With more clinical finishing and a little luck, they could have won.

The opening 20 minutes were tough, with Berkhamsted competing well in midfield and having some success with balls into wide channels, indeed they scored from a move down the right-hand side followed by a composed finish. Harrow improved from that point, with Charlie Young, *Newlands*, dropping deeper into midfield and Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, getting some success on the left wing, beating players with trickery and pace. The goal came from just such an attack, Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, finishing powerfully off the bar after strong hold-up play inside the box. Harrow's second came shortly after, Tito Edjua's, *Lyon's*, improvised volley capping an excellent passing move through midfield, with Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*, instrumental.

The second half started well from a Harrow perspective. Kit Keey's, *Druries*, introduction brought energy and attacking presence up front and Kurran Calvert-Davies, *Druries*, worked hard in an unfamiliar wide right role. Against the run of play, though, and following some sloppy passing out of defence, Berkhamsted slid through a pass to their impressive central striker to equalise low under Arnaud du Roy de Bliques, *Elmfield*, dive. The JCAs should be commended for their resolve and effort, and they pushed hard for regain the lead. Ellis had an effort cleared off the line after rounding the keeper and was, in a later attack, upended in the box, with the referee inexplicably awarding no penalty. Their pressure told finally, though, with a precise drive from Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, from outside the box finding the bottom corner. Berkhamsted were a fine opponent, well organised and combative, with a number of technical and composed performers. That said, the nature of their equaliser left a bitter taste: the referee awarded a free kick on the edge of the box against Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, whose magnificent tackle was far from being a foul. Credit nonetheless goes to the Berkhamsted free-kick taker whose looping effort sailed just over du Roy de Bliques's dive into the top corner.

Whilst the result was disappointing, there were many positive signs from this talented team and, with hard work and determination, they can return to winning ways.

Junior Colts B Drew 2-2

A brace from Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, secured a draw in a game that Harrow looked dominant throughout in, with some defensive errors allowing Berkhamsted into the game.

Junior Colts C Won 5-3

Junior Colts D Won 6-1

Scorers: Fin Smith x 4, *The Knoll*, Archie Keith x 2, *The Knoll*,

Yearlings A Won 6-0

Scorers: Bradley Leong x 2, *The Knoll*; Filip Edstrom x

2, *Bradlys*, Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*.

The Yearlings wrapped up a smart victory with a dominant first-half display and some lethal finishing in front of goal. A brace each for Edstrom and Leong, followed by strikes by Griffin and captain Akindele, secured a handsome victory. Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*, was superb throughout, taking the Man of the Match award, but it was a classy team performance with fine individual performances across the park. This is a very promising start for a quality team.

Yearlings B Won 4-1

Scorers: Bloomfield x2, Baygual Nespatti, both *Elmfield*, Mazrani, *The Park*

The Bs started the season brightly with a comfortable win over a tricky Berkhamsted side. Bloomfield opened his account after only three minutes played with a wonder-strike from the edge of the area. Berkhamsted grew into the game and competed well in midfield. With ten minutes left of the first half, Mazrani chased down a through ball, forcing the keeper into an error. The striker was on hand to finish calmly. The third goal of the half came from an in-swinging corner from Baygual Nespatti. The keeper fumbled and gifted Harrow the goal to finish the half.

With the changes made at half-time, the second period was a much tighter affair. Both teams struggled to keep up the tempo of the game and started to find the pitch much heavier. With a bit more space to play in, the Berkhamsted midfield started to pick out their passes. Fortunately, the centre backs Arthur, *The Knoll*, Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*, and Middle, *The Head Master's*, were on hand to snuff out any danger. With ten minutes to go, the Berkhamsted CM scored from outside the area with a great strike. At 3-1, Harrow had to be sure to keep their focus. The Bs did just that and carved out a great goal, playing through the centre before slipping the ball down the channel on the left. A pass back across the goal left the defence and keeper in no man's land for Bloomfield to tap in for his second of the game.

A good start to the season with lots of promise going into next week's match away against Haileybury.

Yearlings C Won 7-0

Scorers: Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*; Seb Brindley, *The Park*; Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*; Charlie Hope x 2, *Rendalls*; Toni Alaka, *The Head Master's*; Felix Doan, *Bradlys*.

The game started slowly, with tensions running high as Harrow were nervous to start the season well. All tensions were relieved when Maclean slotted home from inside the box after about 15 minutes. The floodgates were then well and truly blown open – moments later, Brindley scored, with Tinubu adding a third before half time. The boys smelt blood and were further encouraged when their coach demanded mercilessness at half-time. In the second half, Harrow continued to press, with goalkeepers Ben Taylor, *The Knoll*, and Henry Emerson, *Newlands*, often mistaken for trees as they had done nothing but stand still, with Emerson making good friends with a young spectator to curb the boredom. Hope, captaining the side, fired home a wonderful strike from outside the box into the top right corner and, moments later, did the same thing, this time hitting the post. Alaka added a fifth shortly after and Doan joined in on the action for a sixth. With the game coming to a close, the boys continued to press tirelessly, forcing mistake after mistake from the opposition defence. Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, found himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper but fired a shot miles wide, drawing applause and laughter from all spectators. The game came to a close once Hope had added a seventh. The Yearlings C put on a wonderful display of attacking football and, having hit the post four times and missing two sitters, the boys will be disappointed not to have reached double figures.

Yearlings D Won 8-0

Scorers: Guy Clarke, *West Acre*, Valentine Ballingal, *Moretons*, and Harry Duckworth, *The Head Master's*,

The Ds had a fantastic start to their season with a great 8-0 win against a fresh Berkhamsted side. The Ds played with great chemistry, especially for their first game, with some playing in new positions and different tactics. Some notable mentions include Clarke, Ballingal and Duckworth, all with two goals. The team played with fluidity and style, leaving them playing well above expectations. The man of the match was Duckworth, who played with spirit and technicality and scored a wonderful goal off the crossbar. Overall, the Ds played an outstanding first game.

Yearlings E Won 8-3

After a busy week of Trials and positional theory, the Yearlings E were quietly eager to test their mettle. Harrow started well and held possession firmly in Berkhamsted's half. The 3-5-2 gamble had paid off and opened up many attacking opportunities which were swiftly taken advantage of. Harrow established a solid 3-0 lead but Berkhamsted were unfazed, producing some valiant counterattacks to test the Harrovian back line. Despite some steadfast defending, Berkhamsted got two over the line. A round of substitutes reinvigorated the Yearlings and they took the game to 5-2 before the half-time whistle blew.

The second half saw Berkhamsted play more defensively and produced some nail-biting moments in front of both goals. Harrow did well to create opportunities but were often shut down in the penalty area. Their tenacity paid off with two more goals in the middle of the half. The last ten minutes saw both sides play some of their best football and the score line seemed set until a resurgent Berkhamsted broke through with some incisive passing to score a very late goal. With less than a minute remaining on the clock, Harrow's determination came to a head and they finished the game with one last goal.

While there are a few areas to work on in training, the boys started the season with admirable teamwork and gumption. Next week's fixture against Haileybury should make for an equally exciting game.

HOCKEY

The School v Chigwell School

1st XI Lost 1-3

After a solid week's training, Chigwell were a suitable opposition to test our early form against. With one exceptional player, we struggled to keep them out of the D and this individual scored all three of their goals. Strong performance were seen in the midfield and by the captain Matthew White, *West Acre*, who scored the Harrow goal from a penalty flick.

2nd XI Won 1-0

A young Harrow side, including many of last year's Junior Colts players, assembled for their first fixture of the season against Chigwell, full of energy and enthusiasm. A balanced first half saw Harrow take the initiative in the first 15 minutes before Chigwell fought back to create some chances of their own. Harrow's strikers were frustrated by some solid defence and an exceptional performance from the Chigwell keeper as they tried in vain to score.

Both sides returned after the interval with renewed energy, and there was some very exciting, end-to-end hockey, with

the match finely poised. In the 51st minute, Patrick Lehtell, *Moretons*, made an excellent run to receive a perfectly placed through ball and had the easiest job of the afternoon to tap it in.

Once behind, Chigwell were spurred on and they piled on the pressure in the final 10 minutes looking for the equaliser. The Harrow defence held firm under an onslaught of fine attacking play to secure the win.

It was an excellent match all round, played in good spirit between a pair of well-matched teams, and bodes well for the season ahead.

JUDO

Training in Lanzarote, December break



During the first week of the Christmas holidays, MTG, MPS and Harrow's long-serving external judo coach Paul Ajala, accompanied a record 17 boys on the annual week-long judo training camp at Club La Santa in Lanzarote. Located on the breath-taking north-west coast of Lanzarote, Club La Santa is a world-famous sports and active holiday resort and, with world-class training facilities, moderate temperatures and low rainfall throughout the year, is a favourite winter training location for many professional athletes and national teams.

The main aim was to provide a relaxing environment for the boys to enhance their judo technique, with supporting activities designed to build fitness and team spirit. At School, we squeeze our main training sessions into one-hour slots twice each week, so a training camp provides a valuable opportunity to consolidate recent progress and for the coaches and boys to discuss more detailed technical points under no time constraints. In addition to at least one technical judo session each day, the programme also included daily agility sessions before breakfast and fitness benchmarking. In free time, boys had unrestricted access to over 25 activities, including a fitness centre and an outdoor cross-fit gymnasium. Excursions included mountain biking along the volcanic coastal landscape to Famara Beach, a go-karting grand prix and an afternoon in the popular tourist town of Puerto Del Carmen.

This term, our main focus is on the two national competitions and retaining our status as winning school. The Independent Schools Tournament takes place on 29 February and the British Schools Judo Championships on 14/15 March. Judging by the talent and the comments of the Lanzarote tourists, we are off to a very strong start in those preparations.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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

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