

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXII NO.7

October 19, 2019

PRINGLE TROPHY

CTCRM Lympstone, 4 October

The Pringle Trophy is the annual military skills and leadership competition between Royal Marine CCF detachments from schools located throughout the UK. It is held in honour of Lieutenant General Sir Stuart Pringle, a former Commandant General of the Royal Marines. The Royal Marines determine the event to be an arduous competition conducted in the spirit of the Commando forces.



Four days from the competition, with injury striking the team and several unforeseen changes, we began our final preparations with a newly formed section. The competition is demanding both mentally and physically and requires a high level of skill in order to complete the various stances. Having arrived on Friday night at CTCRM Lympstone (Head Royal Marines Commando training base in UK), the team (namely: i/c Jack Gosden, *Lyon's*, 2i/c Vir Singh, *The Park*, Caspar Gurney, *Druries*, Zack Morgan, *Lyon's*, Greg Morgan, *Lyon's*, James Ward, *West Acre*, Caspar Bird, *West Acre*, Freddie Strange, *Newlands*, and Charlie de Labillière, *The Grove*), began preparations for the gruelling challenges that lay ahead. We were determined to take the competition as seriously as the RM instructors do themselves.

The competition is formed of 12 stances testing many capabilities including the cohesiveness of the section, the cadets' knowledge and understanding of military skills and levels of fitness and endurance. The Harrow section stood out particularly well in the Section Attack and Assault Course stances and was placed first in both events, thereby securing two trophies to bring back to the Hill. The RM endurance course is held on Woodbury Common's challenging terrain, along with underwater tunnels, ice-cold rivers and gravel-filled dark tubes (a claustrophobe's nightmare), and thus an amazing achievement even to finish. The team pulled together to achieve a remarkable second place in the Endurance stance. Notwithstanding we did not compete at sea, with the gruelling terrain and the notorious "sheep dip" and submersion, it felt as though we were almost tested *per mare, per terram*. The endurance course set for the Pringle competition was largely similar to the Commando test undertaken by Commando recruits after weeks of training.

Overall, the Harrow section was placed fifth of the participating 16 Royal Marine Cadet sections, which was one of Harrow's

highest placings in history, along with one of the most significant haul of trophies for some time. The very strong effort from the section was acknowledged by the Royal Marine instructors who tested us through the stances. The Harrow section should be proud to have completed and excelled at such an arduous event, competing against a huge depth of national talent.

As we returned to the Hill facing a daunting amount of prep and commitments for the week ahead, we were reminded that with an ambitious level of training, organisation and team work, as well as striving for the right "state of mind", we can all succeed. We look forward to training hard again for next year's competition and passing on the skills we have learnt to new junior members of RM CCF. We were honoured to be welcomed by the RM personnel to Lympstone. We appreciate that no matter how tough we found the competition, our challenges in the autumnal rugged Devon landscape pale into insignificance when compared to the hostile environments where the Royal Marines are deployed. We would all like to thank the beaks who helped train the section and provided invaluable support.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

*Theodore Nash, The Grove, Physics Schools 8,
9 October*

This week, the Science Society was delighted to have Theodore Nash, *The Grove*, give a talk regarding the basic foundation of the technological world. The talk was entitled 'Transistors: The Basic Units of Computers' and explained the computer's functioning capabilities down to the level of the size of nanometers, a world which can't even be observed by microscopes. In this talk, Nash had touched upon the concept of transistors and, from then on, proceeded to develop upon this idea towards the more advanced stages of computing.

Nash first displayed a picture of a vacuum tube, stunning many of his audience with this 'foreign object' as he explained that this was a starting point of the computing world. This tube, invented in 1904 by Sir John Ambrose Fleming, was in some ways a sort of transistor. Inside the vacuum stands a highly resistive cathode, surrounded by an anode with a low resistivity. When current flows through the cathode as it is connected to the circuit, its high resistance causes the metal to heat up drastically. This allows the electrons in the metal to gain enough energy to surpass the work function and escape from the surface of the metal. This phenomenon is called thermionic emission, which results in a quickly diminished positive charge of the cathode as it regains the negative charge from the source of electric current. The anode, while being given a positive charge, attracts the emitted electrons via the electrostatic force of attraction, thus forming a current through the circuit. Another fact worth noting is that the flow of current is not reversible since the anode has a very low resistivity, thus preventing the occurrence of thermionic emission. Therefore, as Nash explained, this was an

early example of a diode. However, how would this be used in computers? This question was answered with clarity by Nash, as he showed that the device would only allow the current to have two states, ON and OFF. This is represented by 1s and 0s in binary code, and allows the computer to send information through the use of different sequences of 1s and 0s. Three years later, a third electrode was introduced in the vacuum tube. It was a mesh suspended between the electrode called the control grid. Through the use of a potential difference applied across it, the control of electron flow was made more convenient as more signals, such as amplified or reduced signals, were added onto the tube's functionality. The physics of the tube was quite simple, such that as the p.d. (potential difference) across it increased, more electrons would pass through the mesh, repelling the electrons from the cathode and decreasing the number of electrons from being transferred into the anode and vice versa. The downside, as shown by Nash, was that these devices would use too much of the electrical energy and heat up or even blow. Their relative weight, power consumption and size was dramatically inferior and the manufacturing process was rather complicated.

Afterwards, Nash moved on to the topic of transistors and elaborated on the concept behind its seemingly simple mechanism. These tiny devices, invented in 1947 by John Bardeen, William Shockley and Walter Brattain, can only give two values, ON and OFF or 1 and 0 in binary. The transistors either send a voltage higher than 0.7 volts, which is considered ON, off a voltage lower than that, which is then processed as OFF. Since the transistor only outputs two values, discerning between these two states is much simpler compared to the traditional denary form of counting. The transistors are made of silicon-based crystals since silicon is a semiconductor and are split into three parts. It consists of a p-type base placed in between an n-type collector and an n-type emitter. Using the familiar idea of doping, Nash explained that the n-type and p-type components are parts of the semi-conducting crystal with different doping. These crystals are manufactured through a process called epitaxy, in which layers of doped sheets are charged and accelerated onto another sheet, thus 'growing the crystal'. N-type crystals contain group 5 elements covalently bonded with four other group 4 silicon atoms, producing delocalised electrons which increase the crystal's conductivity. Conversely, p-type crystals consist of group 3 elements bonding with three silicon atoms, creating areas without negative charge, called holes, and thus act as positive charge carriers. The p-type base in the NPN transistor acts as a barrier, taking in the electrons for themselves and therefore, impede the flow of current, creating the 'depletion zone'. By increasing the voltage, the charge carriers gain more energy and are able to go through the p-type base, neutralising the opposing charges and, through narrowing the depletion zone, allow the current to flow from the n-type emitter to the n-type collector. At the side of the n-type emitter, the current is changed so that the size of the depletion zone is altered, allowing the transistor to act as a switch or amplifier.

Other than sending information, the computer can use the transistors as logic gates. As computer scientists should know, there are five types (seven in a more advanced level) of logic gates and that they can all be constructed with the use of just NAND gates. NAND gates are constructed using a power supply, an output wire and two transistors connected to an earth in series and power supplies. Through turning the power supply of the transistors on and off, the resistance of the wire down to earth is determined and, since the current flows in the path of least resistance, the path of the current is altered, changing the output. Finally, giving us more context, Nash explained that these undeniably miniature devices, in the number of billions per computer, allow the computer to process information and run every application you use, showing us just how far technology has progressed over time.

This talk was especially impactful as it gave the audience important clarity about the machines we use in our daily lives, showing us how any piece of information-processing technology is truly a staggering masterpiece.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

*Dr Lubomir Rehak, Ambassador of Slovakia to the UK,
'Slovakia's Journey from the 1989 Velvet Revolution to
Membership of the European Union and NATO',
OH Room, 17 September*

On Tuesday 17 September, the Slavonic Society hosted His Excellency Dr Lubomir Rehak, the Ambassador of Slovakia to the UK. Dr Rehak is a well-seasoned diplomat, having been posted to Belgium, Belarus and Kazakhstan for many years. Currently, Dr Rehak is in his third year as ambassador to the UK and has witnessed significant changes in the country. Although he confessed to not usually attending schools to do talks, he kindly agreed to come to Harrow to deliver a fascinating lecture on the culture, geography and history of Slovakia.



Before the lecture, KAF very kindly invited Dr Rehak and his colleague from the Embassy Milan Matlovič and all the senior members of the Slavonic Society for pre-lecture drinks and snacks at her home, giving the boys time to introduce themselves to, and begin chatting with, Dr Rehak. KAF even set the perfect tone for the Ambassador's reception by laying out a pyramid of Ferrero-Rocher chocolates among other delicacies, which were much enjoyed by both the boys and the Ambassador.

Those who attended the lecture learnt that Slovakia is a small nation which covers just under 50,000 square kilometres and has a population of around 5.5 million. However, despite its small population, Slovakia is home to numerous ethnic groups including Hungarians, Ruthenians, Roma, Ukrainians and Germans. Unsurprisingly, many Germans left after the Second World War. The capital city of Bratislava is an ancient city and holds less than 10% of the country's population (450,000 people live there). By some historical estimates, people have been living in Bratislava for over 3,500 years. To the west, Slovakia claims to hold the "end" of the Alps. To the east, Slovakia encapsulates much of the Carpathian Mountains (these mountains were historically the home of the nation's German population).

Dr Rehak continued and explained the culture of Slovakia. Slovakia is of a similar cultural class to nations such as Lithuania and Hungary. This is partially because Central Europe was never conquered by the Romans. There is, however, evidence that there were a number of Roman incursions into modern-day Slovakia. Furthermore, the Slovak language is a member of the Slavonic family of languages and falls under the branch of Western Slavonic languages. The ambassador later explained that although not all Slovaks could speak Czech, they could still understand each other and vice versa. This helped in keeping the country unified and also made the split from the Czech Republic easier. The alphabet, it is said, originated in the 10th century

AD and, like most Slavonic languages, has a story. The king of Slovakia at the time ordered a mission to be put out requesting that the Emperor of Constantinople send somebody to teach them the alphabet. So he did, and the Slovak alphabet was born. However, it is important to note that there are numerous theories regarding the alphabet's origin.

Slovakia, as I have mentioned, is an ancient nation and lasted for almost 1,000 years before it merged with the Czech Republic in 1918. Despite the minor tension between the two nations, all was steady until 1938 when the Munich Agreement was signed. This agreement not only seceded the Sudetenland (an area in western Bohemia) to Germany, but also signalled the beginning of the end for the union. The agreement left the nation defenceless, as much of the defences were in the Sudetenland. During Nazi occupation, Slovakia became a puppet of the German Reich and, as such, the collaborators adopted the atrocities of the Reich.

Unfortunately for Slovakia, the end of the war was, in many respects, an "out of the frying pan into the fire" moment. It was agreed during the Yalta Conference that Slovakia (with most of Eastern Europe) would fall under Soviet influence. The Allies didn't realise, or did not want to realise at that time, that "Soviet influence" meant far more than they had anticipated. Slovakia had no democracy or freedom, particularly under Stalin and Khrushchev. Society in Czechoslovakia started to change with the ascension of Alexander Dubcek, who campaigned on the slogan "socialism with a human face". Dubcek, who was a trusted member of the Communist party, began to liberalise. Then, in early 1968, Dubcek's policies culminated in mass protests in Prague that became known as the Prague Spring. Soldiers from all nations of the Warsaw Pact entered Czechoslovakia to quell the protests. This led only to bloodshed and violence and was certainly not the end of protests within the nation. Almost two decades later, in 1988, large numbers of Catholics began to protest the religious restrictions imposed upon them and this time the protests were to end with a different result. The 1988 protests gathered in strength and eventually helped Czechoslovakia to become independent of the Soviet Union.

Harmony in the union was not to last and, on New Year's Day 1993, the two nations split. Dr Rehak partially blamed the significant differences in the economies of the two nations. Moreover, even when they had been together, the Czechs had refused to give money to help them grow their economy. It was at this point that the ambassador mentioned that in Slovakia, years ending in the number 8 have an almost mystic value because significant events for the nation have occurred in these years. In 1848, Slovaks revolted against Hungary. In 1918, Czechoslovakia was formed. In 1938, the Munich Agreement was signed. In 1948 there was the Communist Putsch. 1968 was the year of the Czechoslovakia Spring and 1988 saw religious protests that sparked the end of Communist Czechoslovakia.

The ambassador proceeded to explain numerous stories about prominent individuals in Slovakian history, although the one that caught my attention and pulled a heart string was the touching story of the Kindertransport. This, as the name suggests, was the large-scale evacuation of children from Czechoslovakia. The United Kingdom itself took almost 10,000 children, a piece of shared history between the nations that will never be forgotten. However, Dr Rehak then cited perhaps the most interesting story of the evacuation. This was the story of Nicky Winton, a British man who saved the lives of 670 Jewish children from Nazi brutality. Nicky found the children homes across the United Kingdom, saving their lives in the process. It was only in the 1980s that the world learned about Nicky's incredible story. In 2011, Nicky's story was immortalised in a film called *Nicky's Family* and finally the world could begin to understand the true bravery and generosity of Nicholas Winton. Four years ago, Winton passed away at the age of 106. Dr Rehak also recounted the story of two brave men who killed Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich. Heydrich, who was also the architect of the Holocaust,

was assassinated by two Czechoslovakian operatives. One of the men, Jozef Gabčík, was a Slovak and his bravery helped to end the war and suffering under the Nazis. The pair were trained under the British SOE (Special Operations Executive), who are comparable to the modern MI6.

To end the talk, Dr Rehak spoke about the importance of the Anglo-Slovak relationship and of EU membership. Slovakia has €6bn pa trade with the UK and hosts a Jaguar Land Rover factory in a town called Nitra. The ambassador explained that a bad Brexit would be bad for Slovakia too. Not only is there an important economic relationship but there is also an important social relationship. The UK is home to approximately 100,000 Slovaks. To put it bluntly, the ambassador said that they "like the UK and will miss the UK". However, Slovakia's relationship with the EU is also very important. For Slovakia, the EU provides access to a larger market, one set of rules to adhere to (as opposed to 27), a common currency, student programmes and he said that membership allows Slovakia to punch above its weight. Slovakia is clearly entrenched in its support for the bloc.

The ambassador ended his talk responding to a question about the single most useful skill in the civil service, by saying that learning languages is vital. This encourages critical thinking and enhances the relationship with others, he explained. He said that as he knew Portuguese, he has had a better relationship with Portuguese and Brazilian ambassadors than with others.

On behalf of the Slavonic Society, we would like to thank his Excellency Dr Lubomír Rehak for sparing the time to come and talk at Harrow. We must also thank KAF for working hard to organise the lecture and for the special reception before the lecture.

METROPOLITAN

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Over 150 boys and staff took part in our National Poetry Day Competition on Thursday 3 October. The theme was 'Truth' and the challenge was to write a poem on the theme thereof in exactly 12 words. Participants had just 24 hours to make their entry and they embraced the topic in many ways: there were poems on deception, politicians, philosophy, current affairs, inner-truths, illusion, love, religion and much more.

Here is a selection of poems from the competition:

*eyelids
leaden with makeup
too heavy
to look herself in the eye*
by KAF

*He said I am,
Walking the way,
Living the life,
Dynamic, deepening*
By JEP

*Year-end has passed
Audit looms
To prove numbers are
True and Fair*
By E Marshall

*Observe
In your stillness
the radiant
candle flame
of your authentic self*
By EMP

*“What is?”
He equivocated.
Hands clean,
He believed.
Truth on a tree.*
By SWB

*Truth is
Buying his favourite coffee brand again,
But then drinking alone.*
By M Carter

*Truth? Custom cut for me?
Concrete cradle,
creating my creature’s carbuncular core*
By RMT

*Is too important
Not to be accompanied
By a bodyguard of lies*
By R Arundell

*A silken web of lies
To catch a painful truth
Never holds*
By G Holloway

*‘Tis truth that few words rhyme with “truth”.
Poetry is challenging, forsooth.*
By CST

*From tallying flocks
to deep, complex proof
man’s built Mathematics
Irrefutable truth*
By JPBH

*Go on...
I dare you
Look under the stone
It’s their home*
By LWH

*Rising seas, scorching lands;
One billion lost, without identity.
A real truth.*
By SMS

*Veiled face
Of paradise and perdition
Is just a face. I wonder*
By Columbus Mason, The Head Master’s

*“Obtaining truth in people is simple: become
friends... or find a bar.”*
By Jonathan Barley, The Grove

*Feelings not reasons,
A sugar-coated Black
treacle
The fiction,
a better place*
By Jack Chen, Rendalls

*Lies,
A merciful truth -
Truth,
a painful virtue-
Life,
A deceiving Mirage*
By Alvaro Talayero, Newlands

*Truth hurts for a grain of time
Lies will hurt a lifetime*
By Harry Morse, West Acre

*Gambolling glances seize sun-roasted cheeks
half-words poke and prod
an unspoken truth*
By Tommy Nguyen, The Grove

*Truth, a burden
A horrible weight
Truth, a gift
A beautiful embrace*
By Charlie Clayton, Bradbys

*“The Word of God”
says Father Tivey,
up on his pulpit,
contemplatively.*
By Edos Herwegh Vonk, Newlands

*What if,
Fact was fiction.
Six was seven.
And seven ate nine.*
By Max Ding, The Park

*rainy, bleed, spring
scorches thousand dreamy
petals, fall off
pungent, vanish, seed*
By Vincent Song, The Head Master’s

*words crawl
through broken tears,
peel
into glass,
till their
cliffside ascension.*
By Gareth Tan, Moretons

*Truths within truth are overrated,
Truths within fictions are far better stated.*
By Ben Davies, The Grove

*The enigmatic ocean,
allurement impearled,
true beauty beneath,
in an ostracized world.*
By Alexander Adefarasin, The Grove

*Truth is the shield
that guards us from
A reality of lies*
By Roland Eveleigh, The Grove

*Opinions warping and morphing
shifting,
But I stand steadfast, I am truth.*
By Olufemi Lijadu, Druries

*Some honeyed words from politicians?
No!*

-. - . - . - . - . - .

That's all you need for truth.

By Leo Cho, Rendalls

*Drink your Hemlock fluoride
And buy into conspiracy;
Plato's cave retails well.*

By Que Zanjani

*Heavy,
always hanging.
Never quite forgotten.
And in the silence,
it speaks.*

By Theo Nash, The Grove

*Lies nowadays spread like wild fire
Yet truth doesn't seem to inspire*

By George Sage, The Park

*First days unknown,
Years gone by;
The curtains unfold;
and bubbles pop*

By Jun Wha Shin, Elmfield

*Truth hurts for a grain of time
Lies will hurt a lifetime*

By Harry Morse, West Acre

*Adorned in carefully scavenged stones,
it sparkles silently.
But it's gone now.*

By Edos Herwegh Vonk, Newlands

*If a tree falls in the forest,
it was probably chopped down*

By Ryan Cullen, The Grove

*Silent voice, unspoken words
Lips that will never touched
Sweet unrequited love*

By Newton Zhu, The Head Master's

*The intruder jingled through the house.
And then he heard it.
'Santa?'*

By Zac Yardley, Druries

*Will their inhuman suffering,
a people collectively broken,
ever convince stubborn minds?*

By Adam Ait El Caid, Druries

*I love her
I think
At least I think
I love her*

By Vir Singh, The Park

*Boris struts about
in number 10,
saying he'll get us out.
Lies.*

By Jude Esposito, Newlands

WEEK IN SCIENCE

Aum Amin, Elmfield

This week, the winners of the most prestigious prizes for science on the planet were announced. Of course, I am talking about the Nobel Prizes. Started in 1895 by Alfred Nobel, who wanted to improve his image after reading his own mistakenly published obituary in which he was called the 'merchant of death' for inventing dynamite, the prizes have become the symbol of having reached the pinnacle of scientific achievement. This week's article focuses on the winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Chemistry Nobel Awarded to Goodenough, Whittingham and Yoshino

The trio of chemists were awarded the Nobel for their remarkable achievements in the field of lithium-ion batteries which are now used in almost every electronic device on the planet. The star of the show here is clearly lithium which, alongside hydrogen and helium, was created in the first few minutes of the Big Bang. The third element in the periodic table was discovered in 1817 by Swedish chemists who were taking samples of minerals in mines near the Stockholm archipelago. The element was originally found in the form of an unreactive salt, as natural lithium is highly reactive because it only has one electron in its outer shell, which can very easily be given up; it is usually stored under oil to prevent it reacting with air.

The main catalyst for the development of lithium batteries came in the early 1970s when the West had been brought to a standstill because of a lack of oil from the Middle East during the Yom Kippur War. American oil production had peaked around this time, meaning that oil giants like Exxon sought to diversify and invest in new technologies that could see their business outlive oil. It is at Exxon that our story begins. Whittingham moved from Stanford University to Exxon in 1972; his previous research was about atom-sized spaces in the structure of solids where ions attach. This phenomenon is called intercalation. The behaviour and properties of the material change when ions have attached to these spaces. One of the materials known for exhibiting this phenomenon is tantalum disulphide (TaS₂), which was used in Whittingham's investigation. Whittingham found that potassium ions affect the conductivity of TaS₂ and the material's voltage was a couple of volts when TaS₂ interacted with the K⁺ ions. Following this discovery, he decided to change tack and focus on developing technology that could store energy for electric vehicles, something which people like Elon Musk are researching today. Whittingham had the positive terminal of his battery, in which he had replaced the heavy tantalum with the lighter titanium (the Cathode), but he needed a negative terminal (Anode). The anode had to be something which easily gave up electrons, and no other elements gives us electrons more easily than lithium.

Despite the novel discovery, not everything went according to plan. The high reactivity of lithium combined with the fact that small 'whiskers' of the element grew out of the anode after repeated charging (creating short-circuits) meant that the battery was incredibly unsafe. By 1976, the fire brigade had had to put out so many fires in Whittingham's lab that they threatened to make Whittingham and Exxon pay for the chemicals used to put out lithium fires. The battery was made safer by adding aluminium to the anode and changing the electrolyte (the solution through which electrons travel between the two terminals), but cheaper oil in the 1980s made Exxon abandon the project.

Goodenough took over where Whittingham left off. He realised that the cathode would have a high electrical potential if it was made using a metal oxide instead of a sulphide. His team tried and testing countless oxides before the ideal candidate

was found, lithium cobalt oxide (LiCoO₂). This new design meant that batteries could be charged after production. This new battery was the lithium-ion battery. The replacement of the cathode made Goodenough's battery twice as powerful as Whittingham's at four volts and, for those patriots among us, it was made at the University of Oxford.

The final stage of the story takes place in the far East, in Japan. Many readers alive in the 1980s will know that the word 'electronic' essentially meant Japanese at this time. From JVC's VHS tapes to the Sony Walkman, Japan was the birthplace of most technology in the 1980s. The Japanese technology giants at this point were desperate for small batteries in order to make their electronic appliances smaller, and here is where Yoshino steps in. He decided to play around with the material the anode was made out of. It had been proven that lithium ions could be intercalated in layers of graphite, but the electrolyte in the batteries caused graphite to break down. He decided to instead use petroleum coke, the final product of oil refining. When charged with electrons, the coke attracted lithium ions and created a battery with much higher potential (literally). Akio Yoshino had just invented a world-changing battery.

Yoshino's battery did not use actual lithium, making it safer and allowing for the battery to be charged hundreds of times before performance deteriorated.

Finally, I would like to add a word or two about the significance of this discovery. The stranglehold that oil had on the world of the 1970s and 1980s still exists today. The invention of the lithium-ion battery paved the way a renewable future and made things like today's electric cars possible. Had it not been for lithium ion batteries, we would not have had the laptop or indeed the mobile phone, and the world would have been a very different place. So the next time you shove an AA into your TV remote, or change the battery in your Surface Pen, spare a thought for all the effort and hard work that went into giving you that battery in your hands.

JOURNEY

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A new project was afoot: Myles and Brooke needed a base of operations, a fort. It was no good trying to formulate plans under the watchful eye of parents, especially when those plans often involved conning them in one way or another. But how would they do it? It was all well and good to say: "I need a fort," but actually making one would be no easy task. The first issue was location; there wasn't a good spot to build anything in Brooke's garden, and his parents wouldn't let them anyways. Myles' was too small; nothing substantial could fit on the ground. Nothing on the ground...

"Aha!" Myles exclaimed, "a tree-fort!" He was a little put off by Brooke's amused grin, but he wouldn't be stopped now. "We can't build anything on the ground," he continued, "and we're not allowed to go out unsupervised yet, so the only option is to build it in a tree."

"Sure, but... how?" Brooke had always been cautious, so this reaction wasn't entirely unexpected. "On the ground it's safe, but up in a tree, if we mess up, it'll hurt. A lot." The silence was broken by a truck hurtling down the nearby road.

"We get my dad to help!" Myles' face lit up; there was little

he loved more than playing tricks on his parents. Getting them to make the base from which more tricks would stem would be the ultimate prank, in his mind. Brooke's eyes darted from side to side, as they often did when he was deep in thought.

"That... could work". He made less of an effort to hide his doubt than he did to conceal his excitement, but some seeped through anyway. "We'll tell them that its for sleepovers, or something."

"Great, I've got a tree in mind already!"

It took some convincing, but eventually Mat caved. The project had begun. Within a few days, they had made blueprints – which, much to Brooke's dismay, were drawn on white paper, not blue – and found suitable planks of wood; birch, Mat had called them, for the flooring.

First, the support pillars had to be put in place. The four poles were all attached through an intricate web of scaffolding to the tree trunk so that it remained sturdy. From there, the first few floorboards could be put in. They were hammered into place before a pulley system was set up so that the children could give Mat the planks without having to climb up themselves. For the time being, that was their job. Myles was distraught; he wanted to be up there already. Brooke, however, was relieved. He was more than happy to stay on the ground and watch.

The flooring was finished within the week. Next, the walls. Myles and Brooke took a more active role in this part, drawing up designs that could be cut into the walls to serve as makeshift windows. Myles planned to peer out of dragon shaped holes into the night, whilst Brooke had gone with the far more subtle octagon, a shape he had heard of at school a few days before. Two such shapes were cut out beside one rudimentary carving of a dragon with something vaguely resembling a flame spewing from his mouth.

Finally, the roof. A great deal of planning went into this, as it would not do to have it collapse. Support beams were set out with triangular blocks of wood supporting their connection with pillars in the walls. The thinnest layers of wood were laid out over the top of these and nailed in place.

The final product was off-limits for a week after completion – an idea suggested by Brooke – to make sure that it was safe before the two could have it to themselves. Surprisingly, it remained standing. At long last, their base was complete and new plans began to bloom.

SUDDENLY STORY

A Group Yarn

David was brought back to reality by the eerie sound of crows. Clouds painted the sky a melancholy grey, the trees danced in the wind. When he looked up, he saw her, the figure in the distance. Her hair an unending forest that swept that ground as she walked. And an aura of terror surrounded her.

Suddenly, huge jagged spikes emerged from the ground beneath him, narrowly missing his helpless body. He strained to jump to his feet, as he shot a worried glance over to the eerie woman. Her arms were raised demonically in the air, her hair was swooshing around in the gusting wind. A heinous smile crept across her crinkled face, as she watched her victim struggle to escape the perpetual volley of spikes. Eventually he scrambled to his feet and launched his daunting escape.

OPINION

HILL LIFE

'Where Sheridan and Peel began', where 'Ashley vow'd to serve the Crowd' and where 'Byron woke to glory' is the place we are lucky enough to call ours for our brief tenure as Harrovians. It is a place that screams "*Giant!*" in almost every sense of the word: the towering War Memorial is certainly giant as we pace past it day to day, as is the 'sea of faces' that we look out on in Speech Room as Shells, but perhaps what is most giant are our homebred OH 'Giants of Old'.

We are constantly reminded of those who have trodden this Hill before us. Not only through the names that honour our societies, prizes, buildings or calendar highlights, but also whenever in more mundane circumstances such as playing snooker in Rendalls on the same table that Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt competed on; or when debating in the Fourth Form Room with the liturgy of names graffitied into the wood all around us; or, more simply, walking on the very same stones that the giants walked before us. It is nigh-on impossible not to feel the hands of these colossal figures of history watching, guiding and contributing to our everyday life on the Hill, channelling each and every Harrovian's 'inner giant'.

And yet, whilst we are reassured that ultimately, we all 'come up to the giants of old', my question to you, dear readers, is not will we, but should we?

This isn't a quaint attempt to shift the expectation of greatness that comes from the shadows cast by those names, but rather is the reality as the current political and global landscape becomes ever more 'woke'. Gender neutrality, sexual fluidity, going green, world peace and our global community are the primary concerns of today.

By the late twentieth century, the developed world had rejected many of those war-mongering and nationalist traits that were evident in many of our giants, including Churchill (who once said that those who rebelled against the British Empire tended to have a 'strong aboriginal propensity to kill'). Neither is there a place in Britain for the hereditary peerage and all the wealth and inequality that comes with it, which benefited Byron so helpfully. Harrow has seen this and adapted: an early abolisher of fagging, no longer does the lauding Upper Sixth smoke and drink his way through School with junior "fags" at his beck and call. But, as the 21st century demands fresh change, how will the School adapt and change?

In the last decade, it is clear to see how Harrow has embraced the technological revolution. However, it becomes far harder to discern the ways in which our School has embraced more contentious societal matters such as sexual freedom and/or gender neutrality. Would a biological female identifying as a male be admitted, we must ask? If not, would this leave scope for a Gina-Miller-style legal challenge against such prejudice? What about those uncomfortable with their sexuality: are all-male bathrooms even appropriate for them? If a boy followed the singer Sam Smith's example by identifying as "they/them", would that person be addressed as such in Speech Room?

Moreover, surely criticism (or abolition) of the great tradition of Harrow songs, that sustained Churchill in his darkest hour, is but a tabloid headline away, given the misogynistic and imperialist goading they implore, as well as their historic gender stereotyping? How is it still considered an appropriate and celebrated aspiration for any Harrovian to follow in the footsteps of 'Little Brown' and seek a career in the army? Please do not make me even consider implications of 'loving less manly games' in the modern sense, or the derisory reference to the 'month-of-May' loved only by girly swots...

As our Deputy Head Master explained, the recent dramatic changes to our rules are an attempt to bring them more into line with the situations the School thinks current Harrovians will face as we enter the *real* world. However, it does seem, at least to me, that we face a constitutional (in the Harrovian sense) fracture between modern and old, between tradition and conformity and between our rich history and future Hill Life as these contradictions play out.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIRS,

In response to last week's Poll of the Week, dated October 12, 2019: the question was, "would you rather know when you are going to die, or how, you are going to die?"

The piece ends with the view, that the 'when' and the 'how' presently remain hidden from human knowledge, and that is 'probably' for the best.

Probably!? ... There is no probably about it!

Now I appreciate that some questions are simply for discussion. Simply for academic purposes, but this piece actually came equipped with a bar chart that suggested that some people had actually made a choice. Making any choice from the options given, and then for that choice to become a reality, would lead directly to one's life being decidedly worse than it was just a moment before. There are no up sides. It is a bit like being asked which mountain top you would like to topple off.

If it turned out that you were going to die from a laser beam directed at you by an alien from the planet Zobon, then you could, possibly, relax a little, kidding yourself that an alien invasion was quite a way off, maybe even eighty or ninety years.

On the other hand, if you were due to die by being involved in some form of motor vehicle incident then, in today's vehicle-sodden society, you would be permanently in a state of severe upset and unease. So much so, that the only course of action available to you when out and about in daily life would be for you to have previously fashioned, and then be ready to perch yourself atop, some form of portable, motorized commode, such would be your unrelenting nervousness.

I remain staggered that anyone given the choice (and not forced to make one, academically or otherwise) would have chosen to choose at all. The bar chart should have read zero percent, as a result, for both choices.

Unless of course, all of this is purely academic and I have missed the point and made myself look look like a complete chump. Ah well, I'll take the chance.

Having said that, If this topic was raised in a Philosophy class, and was purely academic, it still does not negate the fact that a choice appears to have been officially made, and that choice then moves the whole business away from the purely academic and into the real world, and that, plus the result of the bar chart.....Well you get the idea.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PORTER

DEAR SIRS,

If one strolls onto the BBC news platform, or any media platform in the passing days, you need not look far to see a plethora of articles on the 'Turkish Invasion of Syria' and 'The Plight of the Kurds'. Some such articles are evocatively named 'The Kurds Have No Friends But The Mountains'. I fear, that this has brought up a disturbing trend in Western politics that has been left untouched ever since its beginning. The allowance of unabated militarism and barbarity in the people we call *allies*. I am confident that I need not to remind this publication's readers about the terrible humanitarian disaster occurring in Yemen. Yet we are all too quick to forgive our allies' involvement in these

circumstances. In fact, the United Kingdom sells weaponry and other such *logistical support*, as the government is quick to call it, to Saudi Arabia, who have been bombing Yemen for the past four years. Some of this *logistical support*, which has cost the taxpayer over £650 million, includes self-guiding missiles, bombs and rocketry. On further research, around 20,000 Yemenis have been killed using British-made weaponry, the majority of whom are non-combat casualties. How can Saudi Arabia get away with this? How can we help them do this? I fear that the story of Jamal Khashoggi was quickly swept under the rug, in the name of friendship. Ensaf Haidar was given ‘1,000 lashes and 15 years in prison’ for insulting Islam, yet ask someone about her story, empty shrugs and “U wots?” shall be your only answer. Our country needs to wake up in the Middle East and take far more responsibility for its actions. Back in the time of Lawrence of Arabia, Englishmen have obviously seen the Middle East as their plaything, and are always quick to criticise the United States, Israel and Russia for their visible involvement, while our littlefinger-esque influencing from the shadows must be adjusted. Our country’s current involvement in the Middle East is still as toxic as it was when Sykes-Picot was drawn up and we, along with Saudi Arabia and Turkey, must change the prevailing tone of the Middle East to one of liberty, forgiveness and healing for our past mistakes.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY RIDLEY, THE PARK

DEAR SIRs,

I write this week for further clarification on the ideas expressed by the Head Master regarding my initial letter to you on the subject of award ties (vol. CXXXI No. 25).

I do not feel that ties should be handed out like cotton candy to anyone who walks down the High Street. In fact, it is my personal belief that too many awards are handed out in some areas and not enough in others and would perhaps suggest a cap on the number of ties that can be in circulation for each society to mitigate this problem. Perhaps another way to regulate the quantity of awards given is to introduce a policy in which the head of a society or master-in-charge has to provide written justification.

However, I do still stand by my point that a straight line in the sand between the Fifth Form and Sixth Form is wrong. Let’s consider a not-so-hypothetical situation: there is a Fifth Form or Remove boy who has attended every single lecture at a society since he joined the School and has put in an outstanding amount of effort in constructing and giving lectures – but he is not entitled to wear his tie. By way of contrast, there are many self-confessed examples of Lower Sixth boys who have received their society tie by merit of showing up to two consecutive lectures starting that year just to get the tie. How can this be a fair method of rewards and sanctions?

I think that experience should have a premium attached to it, but what I mean is that it is subject-specific experience rather than purely age. A boy who has put in more hours to a commitment should be better rewarded, whether aged 13 or 18. The hierarchy at this School is at times archaic. For example, I am extremely pleased with the crackdown on lunch line cutting, but we still have quite a long way to go. I urge anyone reading this article who has cut in front of a younger boy in the lunch queue to have a serious think about whether they are making change for the better or the worse, has a duty to prepare us for the workplace – a fact that is often broadcast when trying to usher in a new piece of School policy that carries a harsher punishment. But in the workplace, a 46-year-old who is working for the first time in an industry does not necessarily command more respect than a 26-year-old who has spent eight years in that field. In this School, we should mimic the real world by putting a premium on relevant experience, not age.

Now, I am not saying that it is never wrong to consider age.

I would not support the idea of having 13-year olds speeding down the M4. I would not suggest that they should have the right to drink and I certainly wouldn’t want somebody who is not informed enough to make a judgement to vote. But I do think they should be rewarded accurately for the incredible amount of work they put into the Super-Curriculum.

I also think that there is too much of an emphasis on long-term thinking when it comes to rewards in this School. Although the Harrow Prize is a noble motivator for participation, I don’t think it does enough to encourage Shell boys to participate since the reward is so far away. Many people in the Lower School would say that there is no point in going to lectures or debates because they cannot receive anything for their efforts until the Sixth Form. To create an environment in which more people are motivated to take the opportunities afforded them by their privilege, we need more than the instant dopamine release of an iSAMS email.

But I also recognise that this ongoing review is a step in the correct direction for the future, and join the Head Master in complimenting the impressive Jun Wha Shin, *Elmfield*, and the work he is doing without reward for the betterment of the School.

Yours sincerely,
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON’S

DEAR SIRs,

Yet again, editors? Imagine my horror noticing that a name of a close friend of mine was misspelt in your hallowed columns. What makes this error even more unforgivable is that one has only to look to the next page of *The Harrovian* to see his name in size 20 font on the advert of his hat repair company (J.W.Shin & Co) – which, by the way, I highly recommend. Just another blunder by the Editors of this “fine paper” (for others please see Chris Liu’s previous letters, *et passim*). I wish to echo Chris Liu’s points again in my belief that these sort of blatant mistakes in such a paper are an outrage and I wonder whether the editors of this paper are now more or less effective at their job than a chocolate teapot.

Respectfully yours,
ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

[*In abject, and grovelling apologies, the Editor in Chief will rusticate himself for the next 10 days as penalty. – Eds.*

DAME VAUGHAN AGONY AUNT

Dear Dame Vaughan,

Player One has entered the game, O Avatar of the Airy-Artistic Atrium, and is ready to roll and blast my way through half-term. X X O R1 L2 Toggle Right, Strafe Left, X OOO Δ L2. Achievement Unlocked. For too long we have been under your thrall: ooh this book will sort this problem. Aaah this novel will sort that issue. Oooh look at me, I can also suggest non-fiction and contemporary academic writing, and all the while provide a witty anecdote that shows off how fabulous I am. Well, ready, aim and fire: BOOM. Sorry, Dame Vaughan: You weren’t the Boss. You were just one of his minions in the end. I just defeated you; proceed to the next level. I just wanted to let you know that this half term I shall solely be gaming – and yes, I made sure my adverb split my auxiliary verbs and verbal phrase, just ‘cos I knew the grammar would really annoy you. Try finding a book that’s gonna grab me away from Fortnite and Fallout 4. Ah dear, Dame Vaughan: GAME OVER!

Yours virtually,
Mario Bandicoot.

Dear My Aggravatingly-Arrogant Avatar,
 To quote that much lamented and oft spurned hero of the Star Wars prequels, Jar-Jar Binks: ‘How rude’. Really, one expects better manners from an Harrovian. Alas, I must put it down to the incendiary medium with which you glean your entertainment. A virtual-reality mode which encourages, nay, endorses and rewards aggressive and incisive action, and promotes bravado and the triumphs of wit could only lead to your current manner. Nevertheless, I blame you not: I too was once caught up in the thrilling world of online warring. Why, I was once the chief games tester for Playstation, and Lara Croft is modelled after me and my time as an archaeologist. Indiana Jones was always jealous of that – although, as I tell him when we meet up for our monthly cocktails and catch-up sessions, he had a movie franchise created for him, so I think we’re even. I was a three-time winner, internationally ranked *Call of Duty* gamer before I retired: always leave on a high, that’s my motto. Let that be a lesson to you all. As for your book suggestion, I think you’ll find, my young noob, that I am the Boss, and you have in fact underestimated my powers. A more riveting, immersive and technologically gripping novel you will not find than *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline. Set in an environmentally crippled, barren dystopia of 2044, the population, including young Wade Watts, escapes into the sprawling virtual utopia of OASIS, where you can be anything you want to be, where you can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets. Like most of humanity, Wade is obsessed by the ultimate lottery ticket that lies concealed within this alternate reality – OASIS founder James Halliday, who dies with no heir, has promised that control of the OASIS – and his massive fortune – will go to the person who can solve the riddles he has left scattered throughout his creation. When Wade stumbles onto the key to the first puzzle, he finds himself pitted against thousands of competitors in a desperate race to claim the ultimate prize, a chase that soon takes on terrifying real-world dimensions – and that will leave both Wade and his world profoundly changed. Of course, relax and game – you deserve it – but I think you’ll find this thrilling novel will also more than fulfil your technological yearnings.

Yours invincibly,
 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]

GAFFE AND GOWN *Quips from Around the Hill*

“Frozen milk is just cheese, right?”

“Boys, in this practical do not eat the kiwis.” “Why not, sir?”
 “They’re from Tesco, not Waitrose.”

“We are living in an age of equality, now everyone has equal rights, such as the BLT Community.”

“Sir, what is the bit of *The Harrovian* that you most value?”
 “It’s useful for lighting my fire on a Friday.”

“It’s not so much The Debating Society, as it’s the Being A Jerk Society.”

SUDOKU

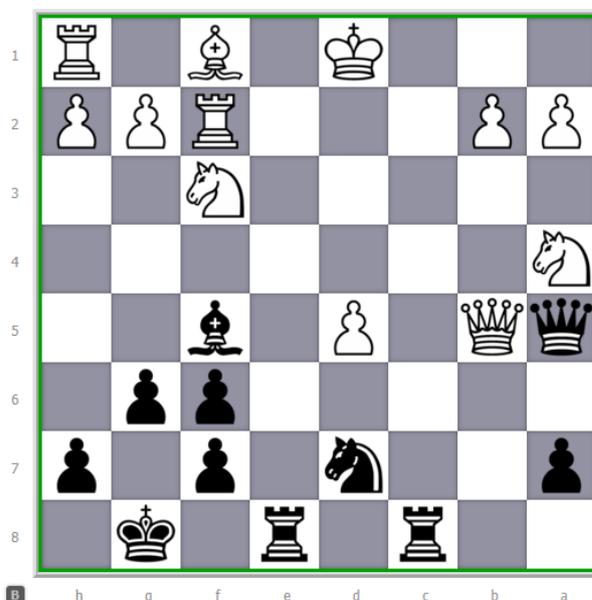
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CHESS PUZZLE

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 3 moves.

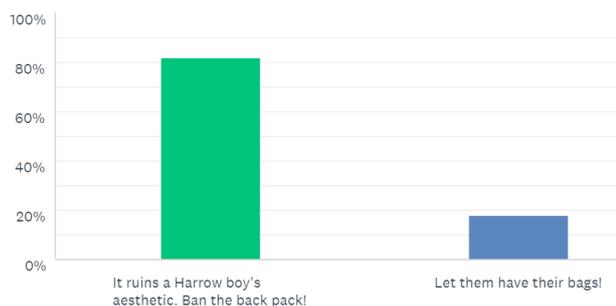


Last edition’s answer: 1. Kf8 f6 [black’s only legal move] 2. Nf7#

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!

POLL OF THE WEEK

Are backpacks a public nuisance, or a helpful accoutrement?



The backpack: useful to poor little Shell boys struggling to carry their books, or a symptom of boys growing soft? As editors, we would be remiss not to point out the major health issues caused by lumbering around with a heavy bag on your back: it causes both literal and metaphorical weakening of the spine. And for many Shells, the weight is not evenly distributed in the bag. This only leads to further distortion of their posture, and further accentuates the already poor co-ordination of a teenage body. Moreover, many can see that some of the smaller Shells are running around with backpacks that weigh more than 150% to 200% of their own body weight, and this is 100% not useful. There is also an informal and garish “Backpack Personalization” programme running among the boys – who can have the one that stands out the most – is this in violation of a uniform code? A final concern is an increased concern about School security. With “Rampart” drills and lockdown, how do we know some unhinged Shell hasn’t stuffed his backpack with hand grenades to take out the Physics department at the right moment? With 607 votes cast, the School has spoken – ban the backpack. Will the SMT listen?

SPORTS

SKIING

English Finals, 5 October

The birds were chirping on the Hill as the ski team left at seven in the morning for another dry slope race (English finals). After two hours of driving, the boys were already exhausted arriving at Norwich. After taking the seven pairs of skis out of the minivan, they trudged slowly to the dry slope and started warming up. Overall, it was quite a nice day to do some dry slope skiing. At the open practice, Jack Behan-Woodall, *The Grove*, showed off his technical skill for the sport, probably drawing the attention of the ESSKIA scouts (England Team), opening the possibility of his third year in the England Skiing team. He destroyed the gates, reportedly breaking three gates on the way down. The coach of the rival team, Dexter Lee, is thought to have said “damn, he’s fast”. Finally the course inspection started and the team quickly realised that it would be tricky to get a large advantage on other skiers as it was a pretty non-technical and regular course. Behan-Woodall was the standout skier, picking up some nice times with an air of nonchalance. Tiger Powell, *The Grove*, and George Williams, *Moretons*, had a bit more of a struggle, both crashing once over the course of their two runs. Unfortunately, they probably wish that they hadn’t completed their other run as they were forced

to ski without poles due to regulations. It was like watching golf players using branches as golf clubs: it looked out of place. An honourable mention should go to Cooper Swan, *The Grove*, and Adam Chambers, *Rendalls*, who made some good progress on their debut on plastic, although there is still some work to do. After the race, the team quickly packed up to get to the hotel as quickly as possible to get a good amount of rest before the competition the next day. Overall the boys went into the next day with a chip on their shoulder, with a slightly disappointing day in their rearview mirror. Due to the bib collection starting early, the team then had to get up for a 7am breakfast. The downpour had already begun in Norwich and would continue the whole day. Although the conditions were horrible, it did mean that speed could be gained quickly on the slopes, meaning mistakes could more hastily corrected compared to the previous day. The team prepared all their skis during the coach briefings, waxing and sharpening them. The course inspection shoed off an unforgiving course, with all the forerunners coming out at one gate in a special set. The day started off strong with everyone except for Powell finishing their runs. This put the As (Tom Gianasso, *The Grove*, Powell, Behan-Woodall and Rupert Cullinane, *Newlands*) in a position to qualify for the British National dry slope championships. This caused the pressure to mount as each racer went to the top of the slope and descended. Behan-Woodall skied well in his final run, improving his time by a substantial amount, with Gianasso following in a similar suit. Finally as Cullinane reached the bottom, the As had a complete set of times to qualify for the British Championships. This left Powell at the top, full of ambition as he had not finished his previous run. He took an aggressive line straight out of the gate, practically lifting the gates out of the ground with his brute force. The crowd stared in awe as he flew down the course, showing off some extreme angles. Just as it looked like he would make it through the finish line his skis betrayed him, catching a gate and flipping him forward. Due to his lightning reactions Powell had the time to extend his arm in front of him to prevent his face from hitting the plastic, but to his detriment this turned out to be a mistake. He ended up dislocating his arm from his shoulder socket and had to get evacuated from the slops. While Powell was brought to hospital, the team went for a sober lunch. The wait was dreadful, with the rain tapping on the roof of the minivan for the whole experience; some thought they might go crazy. Thankfully, due to the great staff from Harrow and the hospital, Powell was smiling within five hours of his accident. I’m sure that the squash squad will miss his sporting prowess as much as the skiing team. We are happy that it wasn’t anything worse. Overall I believe the team performed at a high level to qualify, meaning the trip was a success except for Powell’s unfortunate injury.

RACKETS

The School v St Paul’s School

Senior 1st Pair Won 3-0

A strong performance from Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master’s*, and Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, who showed resilience to overcome a fight back from St Paul’s to close out the third game 15-13 for a 3-0 win.

Colts 1st Pair Lost 0-3

A very spirited effort despite a 0-3 loss for Federico Ghersi, *The Head Master’s*, and Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon’s*.

Junior Colts - 1st Pair Lost 0-3

A very close 3rd game was won by St.Paul’s to complete a 3-0 win for them. Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, showed determination and promise for the future.

Junior Colts - 2nd Pair Lost 0-3

Adi Gupte, *West Acre*, and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, gave their all despite losing 3-0 to a strong pair.

SOCCKER

A XI v Whitgift, School won 4-1

On a sodden afternoon in north-west London, several Harrow boys looked decidedly confused by the new lines that had been drawn on their home pitch of Park Lake. Luckily, Alex Hall, *Rendalls*, had got the memo and turned up correctly kitted out with pads and a helmet. Ben Smith, *Bradby's*, Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, and Tom Ward, *West Acre*, lined up as defensive linemen. John Koutalides, *West Acre*, and Alex Hall were the wide receivers with Kit Davidson, *Rendalls*, pulling the strings at Quarterback. Father Nic had a tight end after deciding to wear five layers.

As the umpire signalled the start of the match, Harrow went with a blitz defence, pressuring the Whitgift defenders and forcing turnovers deep in Whitgift territory. Josh Davis, *Moretons*, spurned a number of glorious opportunities while Ben Harrison, *West Acre*, was creating chances down the right-hand side. Whitgift were conservative in their approach, allowing Harrow's defenders time and space on the ball, but they were compact in defence and difficult to break down at times.

As the half came to a close, Harrow were indebted to two outstanding saves by Harrow goaltender Harrison Scott, *Rendalls*, one of which had looked like a certain goal. Even though the score at half-time was tied at 0-0, it had been one of the most enjoyable halves of football NT and ADJT had seen in a long time.

In the second half, Harrow employed their punter to exploit space behind Whitgift's defence. This tactic worked as Holmes' exquisite through-ball unleashed Davis on the right-hand side and his first touch enabled him to fire an accurate left-foot shot into the bottom corner.

Davis caused havoc just moments later as a Hail Mary pass from centre Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, found the Whitgift keeper in no-man's land. His skewed clearance found Davis, who showed a cool head to fire into an empty net from 25 yards out. Matt Harrison, *West Acre*, kicked the extra point. He then put together their best passing move of the match, playing the ball out from the back and down the left-hand side. The resulting cross fell to a rampaging Koutalides, who came storming in at the edge of the D to smash a brilliant volley into the bottom corner. Whitgift grabbed a goal back with five minutes to go but Harrow continued to attack.

The name Ben Smith is often muttered in the same breath as greats such as Usain Bolt and Trevor Tang, *The Grove*, and he showed great pace and determination after he was unleashed by a diagonal pass on the right-hand side. He forced a fumble from the Whitgift cornerback and his cut back found Finn Scott, *Rendalls*, in space and his deflected shot ballooned over the keeper and trickled over the line just before Koutalides tried to pull a David Nugent (Andorra v England 2007).

Whitgift left dazed and confused having been dazzled by the Harrow's running routes, blocking and passing. Next up, the Harrow Lyon's are on the road at the Winchester Scholars.

Junior Colts A v Princethorpe College ISFA CUP Rd 1 Won 5-1
Scorers: Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, Luke Walton, *West Acre*, Charlie Young, *Newlands*, Kit Keey, *Druries*, Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*.
Man of the Match: Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*.

An outstanding team performance that demonstrated real grit and considerable quality, enabling this Harrow team to win our first-ever game in this competition. In an evenly matched first-half, Elliott Taylor and Luke Walton, both *West Acre*, provided calm authority in the middle of the park to help ease some nerves and exert pressure in the Princethorpe half. Harrow deservedly took the lead when Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, poked the ball home, following superb work by Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, down the right flank. A wonder goal from Walton just before half-time then put Harrow firmly in control. The final 20 minutes provided some of the best football seen by a Harrow footballing side, with high tempo passing and supporting runs giving a very solid Princethorpe team real headaches. This allowed Charlie Young, *Newlands*, Kit Keey, *Druries*, and Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, to give the score a more flattering outlook.

The School v Eton College

Development B XI Won 2-0

Scorers: Finn Scott, *Rendalls*, Afure Moses-Taiga, *Druries*,
Man of the Match: Afure Moses-Taiga, *Druries*.

After a scrappy first half in which neither team really got into a rhythm, it took a moment of real class from Yiannis Chatzigiannis, *The Park*, to spring a beautiful team goal involving fast one-touch play that was ultimately despatched by the superb Finn Scott, *Rendalls*. Harrow then took control of the game with better possession and quality on the ball, with Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, and Afure Moses-Taiga, *Druries*, tying things together nicely in the middle of the park. Ultimately Eton were never really able to trouble Harry Scot, *Rendalls*, in the Harrow goal and Harrow took a deserved win after Moses-Taiga managed to bundle home a second from a Luke Esposito, *Newlands*, corner. A positive second half now must lay the foundation for the rest of the term for this improving side.

Development C XI Won 3-1

Scorers: Ed Pagani, *Lyon's*; Sam Lussier x2, *The Knoll*,
Man of the Match: Hari Moondi, *The Park*.

The CXI achieved an excellent victory against Eton, battling back from an early concession to win. The home team started strongly and went ahead from a corner, the first of many dangerous deliveries into the Harrow box. The CXI settled quickly though and started to impose their own passing game, with Ify Ogbonna, *The Head Master's*, showing some silky touches and Kyle Debrah, *Elmfield*, offering thrust down the left wing. It was, however, from a splendid team move on the right side that Harrow equalised, Felix Majumdar, *The Knoll*, crossing for a composed finish from Ed Pagani, *Lyon's*. The remainder of the first half was somewhat scrappy, with the home side carving out a number of good chances but narrowly failing to score. It was a different story in the second period, though, due in no small part to the composed passing of Roger Litton, *Newlands*, and the drive of Andrew Cheung, *Rendalls*, in midfield. Despite some fluent passing interchanges, it was two battling finishes from Sam Lussier that sealed the win: the first, a cute slot from a tight angle and the second a brave right-footed plant under pressure from the home defender. Harrow saw out the final minutes confidently, with an outstanding display in an unfamiliar role from Hari Moondi, *The Park*, meriting the man of the match award.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Marlborough College tournament

1st A Team came sixth of 23 teams in rather blustery and wet conditions at the Barbury Shooting Ground.

SQUASH

The School v Lancing (away)

10 October

1st V Won 4-1

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-1SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Won 3-0WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Won 3-0FAW Murley, *The Park*, Lost 0-3H Qureshi, *The Park*, Won 3-2

Junior Colts Won 3-2

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-0AC Seely, *The Head Master's*, Lost 2-3HAM O'Shea, *Druries*, Won 3-2IWJ Doyle, *The Park*, Lost 0-3DG Doros, *Elmfield*, Won 3-0*The School v Jesters (home)*

Sunday 13th October

1st V Drew 3-3

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-0SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Lost 0-3WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Won 3-2FAW Murley, *The Park*, Lost 2-3H Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 1-3HAX Sie, *Newlands*, Won 3-1

BADMINTON

The School v Bloxham School

1st Won 8-0

In an impressive tour de force, Pairs 1 and 2 beat their opponents in straight games.

In our first-ever fixture against Bloxham, the 1st VIII played with characteristic precision and aggression. Pair 1 (Kingston Lee, *Elmfield*, and Lawrence Leekie, *West Acre*, both Upper Sixth) set the bar high for their teammates and absolutely annihilated their opponents. Particular mention goes to Yi Zheng Gan, *Elmfield* (Lower Sixth of Pair 2), who joined the School in September and has already proved to be an invaluable addition to the team. It was most pleasing to see Taaj Adetula and Marcus Tung, *West Acre*, make their debut in the team this academic year. This pair have worked incredibly hard to earn their place, and demonstrate that perseverance and dedication can take you far in sport. It is clear that our new strength and conditioning sessions are paying off, as Tung attributes his powerful smash to the blood, sweat and tears shed in the Middle Gym. William Wang, *The Grove*, made a guest appearance in Pair 2, where he certainly made a great impression.

The spirit of fellowship was alive and well as eight club players came to score the fixture. They were: Arvind Asokan and Simon Luo, *Bradlys*, Iggy Abaroa and Daniel Sandell, *Moretons*, Cody Xu, *The Grove*, James Yuen, *Lyon's*, Kevin Zheng, *Newlands*, and Alex Locke, *West Acre*. They completed this task with aplomb, flicking the numbers on the scoreboards and bringing the fixture to life for those spectators who had come to watch.

GOLF

The School v Charterhouse Drew 3-3

After thunderstorms postponed Tuesday's fixture, the boys were excited to be heading back out to the Buckinghamshire for the eagerly anticipated match against Charterhouse. Much chatter had been made on the circuit, and in the tabloids, about the strong Charterhouse line-up, headed by a new female import playing off scratch. JRP was worried how the boys would fair given their unfamiliarity with the fairer sex, and the bookies had the boys an unlikely 4-1 to win on the day. After a long warm up, a quick snap in the clubhouse with a local "celebrity", a hearty rendition of *Forty years on* and a reminder that without a win there would be no McFlurry, we were off.

First out saw Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, take on the opposition star and he did not let the nervous butterflies get the better of him. He started in impressive fashion and refused to let his opponent back into the game after racking up a lead going into the back 9. Rumours of a first shank in over two years were most definitely unjust as he produced a wonderful approach on the 12th. Shirvell sealed a win in the first match 5&4.

Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, started strongly with back-to-back birdies on the opening two holes. He followed this up with birdie on the fourth to take the score to 3 up. While his Russian opponent was complaining of the cold, Toby turned up the heat. He stormed through the rest of the back 9, equal to everything the young Russian chap could throw at him, and ultimately coming out on top, winning 5&4 also.

Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, had a solid start and was rewarded with a 1 up lead. His opponent, however, clearly had some game, seeing as he was off a +2 handicap when he was 13 and he roared back to take the lead. This lead increased thanks to a poor chip by Matheson. Matheson was not about to lie down and be beaten (this has already happened metaphorically during the Maths test in 2e) and just before the turn he threw caution to the wind in an all-out attack on the Carthusian (again metaphorical). Matheson was denied any reward, however, when he bravely knocked it over the water to leave a short shot into the eighth. Then, when it looked like Matheson was going to stage a comeback, the Carthusian holed a monster to maintain his lead. Matheson was not rewarded either for his large string of pars and he finished with a 5&4 loss. Matheson struck the ball well on the day but came up against a very strong opponent.

Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, despite finally getting rid of the yellow linen number, still couldn't quite remember how to dress himself for golf. He wore jeans. He lost his match. Custos.

Henry "Ferdinand" Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, played well throughout the day but got several unlucky breaks. He struggled to gain momentum after a poor start and found himself on the back foot throughout the match. On the front 9, Oelhafen went 5 down in the match and he knew he had lots of work to make up going in the back 9. He fought back, demonstrating courage and honour, to find himself now only 1 down through 9. He ended up losing the match 6-4 but with a strong effort throughout the match (a good deal of humility and fellowship towards Charterhouse shown in the final stages – 4/4).

George Webster, *Druries*, started well on his debut for the School team going 2 up through two holes. However, due to some strong play from the opposition and the cold conditions, the match was in Charterhouse's favour for the majority of the rest of the match. This plucky young green-horn was not to be perturbed however. As darkness fell, and everyone else was back in the bus, Webster was still battling hard. He found a can of Tango at the bottom of his bag and this proved to be the difference between two well-matched golfers. Webster demolished the Tango and won the last three holes, having been 1 down after 15 to seal a 2 up victory for Harrow. He was on cloud 9 and repeated the phrase "you've been Tangoed" all the

way to the golden arches.

The odds were against the team, but they battled through the cold conditions to secure an impressive draw. A great result, team, but not good enough for any ice cream! (No bets were placed on the outcome of this fixture or any other.)

*School v Stowe and Radley
Sunningdale Golf Club, 10 October*

In this friendly three-way tie, the boys were treated to the delight/terror of the new course at Sunningdale Golf Club. The sun was out, for maybe ten minutes, and the wind was hard into the nervous-looking faces of a strong Harrow side. Minibus motivation (sponsored this week by Coco Pops) was again courtesy of Leo Wright, *Elmfield*. The team listened intently to his opinions on the new Behavioural Policy and were stunned into silence by tales of his childhood, stories of his dangerous obsession with Coco Pops and how he is currently serving a ten-year abstinence from this dangerous breakfast cereal. Please do beware of withdrawal symptoms including consistent waffling, claims of grandeur in his Maths GCSE and a tendency to slip into a "South African" accent. Please evacuate the SCDH if he comes into contact with Coco Pops, and notify the Armoury.

First on the tee, fresh from a bounce-back victory on Tuesday after carding a round even WJC would have been disappointed with on Saturday, was captain Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*. The nerves were most definitely jangling but he stepped up and did what he does best, absolutely hammering it down the fairway. The first on the new course is no straight-forward starting hole. At 466 yards into a damned stiff breeze, the par 4 would intimidate even the most experienced golfer. Not the Harrow boys. In an unprecedented first, all six boys found the fairway. Odds of such an eventuality were similar to that of Leicester winning the premiership in 2015 and, in hindsight, placing a bet on them all missing the fairway was regrettable. Max parred the opening two holes but lost rhythm, bogeying the next three. He dug deep in tricky conditions, birdying the 6th to get back on track. He steadied the ship and found himself 5 over through 11 holes but carded back to back bogeys on holes 14, 15 and 16. A birdie on 18 salvaged a respectable 77.

Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, was second out, and he had clearly decided on eating both fingers of his white chocolate Twix on the outward journey as he drove his ball into orbit, cowabunga! Driving honours go to Toby this week after a towering smack down the right-hand side of the first, opening up the green. Sadly, this was about as good as it got for Toby, but he did enjoy the honour of playing at Sunningdale again. Birdying the par 5 13th was one of a few highlights of a long and challenging day out.

Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, was next out and followed suit with a drive finding the fairway, 'ba-ba-boom' came the shouts from the onlooking pensioners. Connell continued to be steady off the tee throughout the front nine, but the short game was coming up...short. The back nine was a totally different story, Connell clearly decided that he wanted to explore the countryside off the tee, but his short game had decided to come to his aid at last. He made some fine par saves from difficult positions to finish on 26 points.

Next up was Finlay Matheson, *Drurries*. Again, Finlay was full of joy and anticipation, no doubt fuelled by the inspirational words from IH during his 2c Maths lesson. This motivation was channelled into his opening customary silky-smooth swing, finding the short grass off the opening tee, whapping! Finlay's frustration of having absolutely no idea about partial fractions then got the better of him. By the time he caught up with JRP on the 13th, he had contacted eBay, GolfBidder and even webuyanycar.com to get quotes for his clubs. He was clinically fed-up and Sunningdale was giving him nothing! He

was striking the ball well but finding trouble and struggling with the putter. After some motivational words from JRP, he three-putted. This was a day to forget for Matheson, but we know he will most definitely come back stronger!

Wright, the local hero, was up for a fight and he also started strongly, managing to string together some pars on the front nine. On a new diet of Rice Krispies, he was able to snap, crackle and pop his way into a strong position. This new-found form is most likely due to wearing the correct kit for the first time in over three years. (Thank you, father, and AJC). It was brilliant to see young Wright enjoy his golf after a few frustrating rounds recently.

In the final three-ball we had the young pretender, Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, out for Harrow. Williams is without doubt the happiest man in golf. He lives and breathes the game and he did not disappoint with yet another superb opening drive, shabbadabbadoo! The going was difficult, and he found his fair share of heather but it would take more than that to wipe off that smile. He recorded a sensational par save on the par 3 15th and managed to complete his match walking up the 18th in almost total darkness.

Sunningdale was most definitely the winner today.

School v Mill Hill 3-0, 9 October

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, 8&7

Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, 7&6

Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, 5&3

After thunderstorms caused a postponement from the previous Tuesday, the School's leading golfers began their ISGA Matchplay campaign on 9 October with a convincing win over Mill Hill. Considering the handicap difference between the boys and their opponents, Harrow was the strong favourite for this scratch fixture and the team's quality shone through. Despite some truly biblical rain arriving an hour into the matches, the boys maintained their focus and the scoring to par was strong, with Toby Shirvell birdieing four of his first six holes, and Max Shirvell winning seven holes on his front nine. Johnny Connell's par on the first represented an excellent recovery and another par on the second was enough to go two up. His match was the closest, but Connell was deservedly three up at the turn and closed out the match on the 15th hole.

FIVES

The School v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools

Senior Won 1-0

A convincing win for J Barley, *The Grove*, and F Prickett, *The Park*, who dominated from the start to easily overcome their opponents 3-0. Strong cutting from both boys snuffed out any chance of Mill Hill gaining a foothold.

Junior Colts Won 1-0

Yearlings Won 1-0

School v Various

Seniors v St Olave's Grammar School, Kent Lost 0-2

A tough day for the boys with conditions being difficult to master. After a hop around the M25, it was apparent that the boys would need to be ready quickly as their opponents were very experienced and used to the slippery surface. Whilst they all put up a good fight, particularly towards the end of the matches, I would like to signal out Fred Prickett, *The Park*, for raising his game and showing some amazing cutting in particular.

Yearlings v Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet Won 5-1
Some great performance from the Yearlings today with the piers being mixed around. Noteworthy performances from Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, James Feltham, *The Park*, Digby Emus, *Rendalls*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*. Useful wins for also for Rob McCorquodale, *Elmfield*, and Alex Anikin, *The Park*,

Yearlings v Aldenham School Won 2-0

A great performance from the team. Wins for both pairs with excellent cutting from James Felton, *The Park*, and strong all-round play from Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, who were too strong for their opponents. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Digby Emus, *Rendalls*, cut strongly and overcame their opponents comfortably in the end.

RUGBY UNION

*Junior Colts A v Champion School, Essex
Under-15 National Cup Round 2, Won 68-7*

Tries: Edjua x 3, *Lyon's*, Smith x 2, *The Knoll*, Nsouli, *The Knoll*, Neal, *Moretons*, Du Roy De Blicquy, *Elmfield*, Calvert-Davies, O'Brien, *Bradlys*,
Cons: Keey x 4, *Druries*, Ellis x 5, *Rendalls*,

After a slow start against an aggressive and motivated Champion side, Harrow managed to gain composure and identify gaps in the oppositions defence. With straight, hard running lines and excellent hands, the narrow start soon became a thing of the past. Tries were scored from all areas of the field and by a multitude of players. Support play and identifying space are the key reasons for this positive result. The boys are happy with their performance but there is an understanding that the competition will become much tougher very shortly and the details of our defences need to be worked on to ensure our consistent place in the competition. Epsom this coming weekend will be a great test and we are looking forward to the challenge.

*The School v Epsom College
1st XV Lost 7-17*

This was a very physical encounter which saw both sides aim to win the territory battle and force mistakes. Harrow were combative in defence in the first half and took their sole opportunity to take a 7-3 lead into the break. Going down the hill in the second half, Epsom fought back and pinned Harrow deep into their own half. Pressure told as Harrow dropped off some simple tackles and Epsom were able to power over for two second-half scores. Harrow showed tremendous resilience and grit throughout the game but a few moments were all it took.

2nd XV Won 17-12

Despite a plethora of individual errors and poor decision-making, the second team showed the necessary grit and determination to bring home a victory from Epsom. Defending our own line for the final five minutes of the game without conceding was certainly the highlight of the fixture.

3rd XV Lost 0-12

Despite a strong defensive effort and excellent performances from Dat Doan, *Bradby's*, and Billy Llewellyn Palmer, *Lyon's*, the 3XV were well beaten by an organised Epsom side, losing 12 points to nil.

4th XV Won 19-10

Tries: Burt, *Moretons*, Kinnaird, *Elmfield*, Hagg-Davies, *Rendalls*, ;
Conversions: Smith, *Bradlys*, x 2
Harrow went to 14-0 down the slope through early tries from

Burt and Kinnaird, with Smith coolly adding the extras. Epsom had more possession and territory throughout the match, but committed tackling and good organisation by Harrow forced mistakes. Eventually Epsom managed to get the score to 14-10 with two unconverted tries, and the tide seemed to be turning their way with 10 minutes to go. Nevertheless, Harrow started to get the ball into the right areas of the pitch, due to excellent kicking and positional play by Kinnaird and Walsh, *Rendalls*, and they were rewarded with a slick try in the corner by Hagg-Davies on the last play of the game. Anyone who had seen or read about the heavy defeat against St Paul's in the previous week would scarcely believe that this was the same team. The boys deserve a lot of credit for turning in a vastly improved performance that showed it is possible for this group to win against a well-organised and on paper physically superior side.

5th XV Won 55-0

Tries: Seb Rugge-Price, *The Park*, x5, Guthe, *Elmfield*, x3, White
Cons: Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, Azagra Tojar, *Bradlys*, White, *West Acre*, Morrison, *Newlands*, Bird, *West Acre*.
In the worst conditions we have played in this season, the Vths put in a strong performance against a spirited Epsom team, but one that was lacking a number of important players. Harrow dominated, at one stage scoring every three minutes. However, discipline was maintained and a spirit of good sportsmanship was prevalent. Seb Rugge-Price, *The Park*, scored five tries and Robin Guthe, *Elmfield*, three. There were fine debuts from Otto Heffer, *Elmfield*, and Alex Bethell, *West Acre*. In a depleted front row, Bethell played particularly well, in a strong scrum, and was my man of the match.

Colts A Won 35-19

Tries: Garuba x 3, *Newlands*, Cullinane, *The Knoll*, Dunn, *Rendalls*, Cons: Cutler x 2, *The Knoll*, Pens: Cutler x 2, *The Knoll*,
The Colts trip to Epsom on a dreary autumnal day seemed fitting, having sung the Harrow Song *October* just two days before. Harrow started the match on the front foot, using the first-half slope to their advantage. Following three points from Cutler, *The Knoll*, Cullinane, *Newlands*, forced his way over for the opening try. An error midfield gifted Epsom seven points and the Colts realised they were in a proper match. Chatwin, *West Acre*, at fly half, was pulling the strings, pushing the opposition deeper into their own half. Once in position to strike, Harrow took their opportunities well, finding space for Garuba, *Newlands*, to touch-down twice before half-time.

Against a slope and into the wind, the second half was a different prospect. Harrow defended with resilience but Epsom pressure told as they found space on the wings to score first. Harrow didn't panic and showed maturity to stick to their game plan. With the rain still coming down, strong line-speed in defence forced an Epsom drop, which Newall, *Druries*, pounced on, creating a 2-on-1 to gift Garuba his hat-trick. Shortly after, Dunn, *Rendalls*, broke off a maul to sprint over from about 20m. Such a high-scoring game in difficult conditions demonstrates the team's skill level and ability to control a game. Heading into half-term off the back of a satisfying win should help the Colts push forward into a string of home matches in November.

Colts B Won 22-0

Tries: Quist, *The Grove*, Falcon, *West Acre*, Chiimba, *Newlands*, Hedley, *The Head Master's*.
Conv: Blackwood, *Elmfield*.

Another away day and another long journey. As usual, the lads were still on the bus for the majority of the first half. Poor decision-making and dropped balls put us under substantial pressure. This meant the defence on our own try line was tested time after time. No score showed just how much better our organisation and line speed has become. Luckily, through Charlie Digges', *West Acre*, box kicks, we managed to get out

of our half and play in their territory. This gave us the chance to string some phases together and keep the ball for a while. Unfortunately, the crucial final pass kept falling short taking us into half-time with zero points on the board.

The slope was with us in the second half, which immediately made a difference. We played to the corners off the boot, allowing us to set up a calculated and well-executed attack in the poor conditions. More aggression at the breakdown paired with some textbook body positions from Archie Powell, *The Grove*, Michael Chiimba and Yoh Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, kept us on the front foot. Clinical hands and strong communication from both the forwards and the backs made life easier for the team, meaning we were able to keep our field position and play with momentum and tempo. Pair this with strong carries from Vlad Skorobogatko, *Rendalls*, Jack Hedley, Thomas Kemp, *The Park*, and Jack O'Connor, *Druries*, meant we looked very impressive. These carries gave us consistent overlaps out wide which we converted into two tries through Ben Falcon and an excellent individual run from Sam Quist. Our conditioning and determination showed through all the way to the end of the match as we sealed the win with two more tries in the centre of the pitch. Michael Chiimba and Jack Hedley both ran strong lines to split the defence.

A very pleasing performance implementing the shape we had worked on the day before. If we can continue these small improvements match by match, the second half of the season looks very bright.

Colts C Lost 5-7

Try: George Leigh, *Elmfield*.

Miserable is an understatement to describe the conditions this Saturday afternoon in Surrey. After a disappointing weekend at St Paul's, the Colts were revitalised by a return of several players from injuries and other teams. Harrow kicked off and it was quickly apparent that it would be a close and hard-fought game. Both sides struggled in the wet conditions and many scrums were conceded. Harrow managed to break the deadlock after 22 minutes when George Leigh, *Elmfield*, put 5 on the board by the touch line. Epsom rallied and pushed into Harrow's half. Harrow defended well but were unable to hold up Epsom over the try line and the scores were equalled. Epsom, with their better try scoring position, were able to covert and put the score to 5-7 as the half-time whistle blew.

The second half descended into a brutal war of attrition and the Harrow forwards and backs fully committed to this style of play. Both sides struggled to keep hold of the ball for more than a few phases of play. Harrow held fast in defence but suffered several injuries in keeping Epsom out of the in-goal area. Hasty substitutions had to be made several times, but the boys adapted well. The Colts battled through the deteriorating conditions and heavy-handed tackles from Epsom but couldn't fully break their lines. The match ended in a frustrating 5-7 loss. The Colts C team played some of the best rugby seen so far this season and all boys can be proud of their efforts. The focus on set pieces has paid off greatly, with Harrow stealing several Epsom line-outs. Training will need to focus on handling in the wet, especially as the weather worsens into November, and moving the ball more quickly from the ruck.

Junior Colts A Won 31-7

Tries: Ellis x 2, *Rendalls*, Edjua, *Lyon's*, Smith, *The Knoll*, Neal, *Moreton*

Cons: Ellis x 3, *Rendalls*.

"Defence wins championships" Paul 'Bear' Bryant. An apt quote in the week that the Carolina Panthers visited Harrow and Arnaud Du Roy, *Elmfield*, and Casper Davis, *Elmfield*, tested their wide receiver potential.

Sadly, typhoons at the RWC meant England didn't play France this morning but a better game happened in wet weather on

Julian 1 against Epsom.

The Harrow defence was tested and answered with superb organisation and big tackles. Emmanuel Olowe, *The Grove*, and Ollie Miall, *Newlands*, put in superb tackles all day long.

Fin Scott, *The Knoll*, finished the first TOUCHDOWN superbly on a play that started with a Harrow scrum after a wayward lineout in an attacking position for Epsom. Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, orchestrated the offence superbly and Gabriel Black, *West Acre*, organised the defence like a Field Marshall.

Charlie Cross, *Newlands*, put in superb try-saving tackles and caught every high ball as Epsom wasted some possessions in good positions by looking for the ever-revolving in popularity cross-field kick. Their first couple looked dangerous and had some (limited) success but Harrow clocked on quickly.

Ellis scored two tries and Dani Neal, *Moretons*, scored the final try after an aggressive and effective driving maul and peel. Both boys could have been Mnd of the Match, with superb performances carrying the ball and making great shots, as could Miall or either prop. Matthew Gaffney, *Bradbys*, carried well and defended lineouts aggressively. Tiarnan O'Brien, *Bradbys*, also scrimmaged superbly and defined Mr Finch's principle of "everyone plays", as he kept his depth on the wing on a 2 on 1, received a pass from Ellis and made 10m before cutting in to ensure possession was maintained. It could also have been Black or Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, or any number of other players. It was a complete team performance, particularly in the previously lacking defensive element of the game.

The challenge now is to get fitter and stronger in the next three weeks before Tonbridge and the next cup game. Please check if Baba Obatoyinbo, *The Knoll*, has been in the pool and if Black can manage 60 press-ups he claimed to be able to do at the start of the season.

Junior Colts B Won 35-10

From the outset, the Junior Colts Bs knew that Epsom would be a real challenge in the wet conditions, and they would need to adapt if they wanted to win. It took ten minutes for the boys to hit the scoreboard with an outside break from Kurran Calvert-Davies, *Druries*. Henry Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, converted to reset with a 7-0 lead. Shortly before half-time, Epsom received a string of penalties, one of which saw Harrow a man short in defence. Epsom were able to capitalise with the extra man in attack and a successful conversion locked the scores at 7-7. Harrow would have to dig deep if they wanted to hold Epsom out whilst a man down for the next ten minutes. From the restart, two Harrow boys attempted to tackle the same Epsom player and managed to clash heads. The injury saw the half-time whistle blown while the boys were tended to. The match was incredibly tense, with the scoreline locked at half-time and the prospect of being a man short for the beginning of the second half. Harrow knew they would have to be patient and wait for the right moment to capitalise.

Epsom threatened the Harrow defensive line under the direction of their flyhalf, who proved problematic for Harrow. They were particularly quick out of the line in defence, which put the pressure on the Harrow attack. Epsom tested the edges of the Harrow ruck and Harrow were on the back foot. Epsom received a penalty approximately 20m in front of the posts. They correctly opted for the penalty and converted to secure a 10-7 lead. Harrow were now back to 15 men and were ready to respond. Harrow were on the attack down in their 22 when the forwards called for the pick-and-go. Three or four very composed phases edged the boys closer to the posts before Bobby Dunne, *Elmfield*, put the cherry on top for an outstanding team try. Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, converted to give Harrow a 14-10 lead.

The boys were very fired up and put the pressure on Epsom down in their 22. Bebo Morales Quintanal, *Rendalls*, broke from a defensive line-out like a bat out of hell to lay one of

the hardest textbook tackles I've seen in junior rugby. To credit the Epsom attacker, he got straight back up and was ready for the next phase. Morales Quintanal's efforts catalysed the gear shift for the Harrow boys deep in Epsom territory. Harrow won a scrum 10m out from the tryline and knew they needed to maintain composure if they were going to score. Scrum-half, Tom Emery, *Moretons*, identified a gap on the blindside and managed to thread the needle from the back of the scrum to tip the scoreline to 19-10. Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, extended to 21-10 with 15 mins to play. Emery's try seemed to be the nail in the Epsom coffin as Harrow now had a spring in their step and were very quick to react to Epsom's attempts to get the ball out of their 22.

Giancarlo Urselli, *The Grove*, and Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, added their names to the scoresheet late in the second half to secure the 35-10 result. Woodcock kicked seven from seven in the wet, which makes me wonder whether we should insure his boot...

I was so proud of the collective effort from the Harrow boys in that they remained composed when the pressure was on and patient in attack. When the opportune moments arose, Harrow were able to return pressure on the scoreboard. The boys demonstrated their maturity as a playing group and secured their spot as a seriously competitive side.

Junior Colts D v Epsom C team Lost : 7-31

Junior Colts E v Epsom D team Won 14-12

Tries: Max Morgan, *Moretons*, Jojo Kunitomo, *The Knoll*,

Conversions: Louis Lord x 2, *Lyon's*,

Yearlings A Won 49-0

Tries: Charlie Griffin x 3, *The Head Masters's*, Sebastian Brindley x 2, *The Park*, Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*,

Cons: Phillip Edstrom x 6, *Bradbys*, Johnny Codrington, *Rendalls*, The Yearlings A are yet to be challenged this year and, as we get closer and closer to those big games, they are encouraged to remain focused and motivated to keep working hard to improve their skills. Complacency would only mean disappointment later on in the term when the thoughts of an unbeaten season start to become a real possibility.

Yearlings B Won 53-0

Tries: William Wright X2, *West Acre*, Joel Balogun X2, *Newlands*, Aanu Ajibade, *The Grove*, Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, Digby Emus, *Rendalls*, Higuchi, Akindele.

Conversions: Stanhope x4

We fielded a mixed B/C team for this week's fixture, overcoming a tenacious Epsom side through collaboration and clinical play.

This weekend gave a great opportunity for some boys to debut for the Yearlings B. Having focused on integrating the new arrivals in training this week, Harrow were able to produce an organised, efficient display of rugby. Epsom came firing out the blocks, with positive ball carrying and width of attack. It wasn't long, however, before Masato Higuchi, *West*

Acre, capitalised on a turnover and crossed the whitewash for Harrow's first of the afternoon. Driving rain did not deter the home side. Relentless as ever with the ball in hand, the boys doubled the total straight from the kick-off. Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, rounded the opposition winger with agility and pace in abundance to dot down under the sticks. Epsom maintained high energy levels and enthusiasm throughout the fixture but were not able to prevent the flow of tries that one felt was inevitable from the get-go. A special mention must go to Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, who represented this team for the first time. He looked at ease in his surroundings, running with aggression and evasion to thwart Epsom's defensive efforts. The boys defended with intensity when called upon to do so and the effort merited the clean sheet that was achieved. Guy Paton-Smith, *Elmfield*, led the midfield line, making countless tackles behind the gain line and pressuring Epsom into making mistakes.

Yearlings D v Epsom Under-14C team Won 26-7

Yearlings E v Epsom Under-14 D team Won 50-0

FENCING

Open v Westminster School

Lost 65-90

Foil 1 lost 22-45

Foil 2 lost 43-45

Open v Bradfield College

Won 135 blades-99

Foil A Won 45-41

This match was within a few points for the whole game. All boys fenced well, with particular credit to Francois de Robert Hautequere, *Lyon's*, who pulled us into first on a couple of occasions.

Foil B Won 45-18

This was an easy match up with good performances from all three boys.

Epee Won 45-40

Harrow pulled away towards the end though and looked much stronger than Bradfield. All boys fenced well. Finn Deacon, *The Park*, was very consistent but almost lost out to Bradfield who scored 11 in the final pairing.

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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