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RUGBY SEVENS

*Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Under-14 7s,
Roehampton Vale, 21–25 March*

The Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s began in 1939; since then, it has evolved into the world's largest rugby tournament with over 10,000 boys and girls aged 11–18 competing annually. Gareth Edwards, Will Carling, Lawrence Dallaglio and many more legends of the game have graced the tournament's playing fields. 2023 will forever be remembered as the year Harrow School dominated this famous old tournament.



First up on the Tuesday was the Yearlings VII, fresh off winning the QE Barnet Under-14 7s. With the weather conditions already beginning to hamper the playing surfaces, the Yearlings performed well on day one, beating King Edward VI Camp Hill 39-0 in their first game, Collegiate 24-15 in their second and then Emanuel School 33-5 to win their group. To qualify to day two, they then beat Barnard Castle 29-14 to advance into the knockout group stage. Tori Backhouse, *Druries*, Oskar Bray, *Druries*, and Eli de Venecia, *The Head Master's*, the pick of the players on day one. In their first game of day two, Harrow drew with Radley College 7-7. This set up a nervy wait for their final fixture of the group, knowing they needed to beat QEGS Wakefield by more than 26 points to qualify on points difference. Unfortunately, despite some heroic work by Nic De Leo, *The Park*, Colville Wood, *Elmfield*, and Rufus Young, *Newlands*, Harrow could only win 29-10, meaning they were knocked out of the tournament, having not lost a single game of 7s all season – a tough blow to take but an excellent performance from the Yearlings.

As Wednesday came around, conditions at Rosslyn Park were holding up but more rain was predicted to add to the squalor and tricky conditions underfoot. Wednesday was the start of the Colts competition. The Colts had shown good form in the run-up to the tournament, losing out in the All-England 7s final to Brighton College. Harrow, of course, were also the reigning champions of the Rosslyn Park Colts competition after our outstanding win in 2022. It was a tough start for Harrow, conceding off the opening kick-off before finding their feet and stretching to a 28-12 win over George Watson's College. Strong wins 40-0 and 40-7 against Collegiate and Dunottar

respectively put Harrow through to the elimination round. They comfortably dispatched Waterloo School from Belgium to advance to day 2, Cameron Knight, *Newlands*, Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, Sammy Clayton-Bennett, *Newlands*, and Patrick Keaveney, *Druries*, particularly shining through the day. In their day 2 knockout group, Harrow defeated Caterham 40-0 and St George's Weybridge 22-7 to begin the day, needing a victory versus King's Taunton to advance to the quarter-final. A last-gasp score by Patrick Keaveney, *Druries*, kept Harrow alive and into the quarter-final against Dulwich. In perhaps Harrow's most complete performance of the tournament, they dispatched Dulwich 33-19 to set up a much-anticipated semi-final against rugby powerhouse Sedbergh. In a gutsy display of defence and clinical attack, Harrow won 28-14 with Clayton-Bennett, losing his shirt in the process, scoring the pick of the tries before Winters scored a superb solo effort to ensure Harrow's spot in the final. In the final, Harrow faced Bromsgrove – heavy rain had settled in and the show pitch was getting heavier underfoot. Despite not having much ball, Harrow's epic defensive work gave Bromsgrove no answer and two well-taken tries from Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, and Clayton-Bennett left Harrow as worthy 12-0 winners and champions of the Colts competition for a magnificent second year in a row.



The Under-18 competition started on Thursday and Harrow were confident entering play, having resoundingly won the Middlesex 7s two weeks before. However, the Under-18 Cup competition is a notoriously tricky beast with the 60 best schools in the country entering, with 2016 being Harrow's closest ever effort, losing in the final. The Under-18s got off to an excellent start, fighting their way to a 40-0 victory vs. Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys. They then stumbled in a slow performance against Myerscough College, drawing 17-17, a last-gasp try-saving tackle from Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, keeping Harrow in the competition. They now needed to win the group on points difference and did emphatically so; the conditions grew worse, but Harrow got better thumping The Judd 56-10 and St. Joseph's College 38-0 to ensure qualification for day two.

On day two, Harrow were drawn into a very tough knockout group – Myerscough again, old foes Trinity, Croydon, and much-fancied and talked about Kirkham Grammar. With the sun briefly shining, Harrow righted wrongs of day one, emphatically beating Myerscough 43-5. Meanwhile, Trinity beat Kirkham, setting up a gargantuan clash again between two of the best sides in the UK. With the rain beating down and wind picking up, Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, scored a decisive try to give Harrow a 19-10 win. This meant Harrow had to beat Kirkham to advance to the semi-final. And they did just that in emphatic form. Ollie Miall, *Newlands*, scored an outstanding solo try, that soon went viral, and Filip Edstrom, *Bradlys*, finished an excellent team score as Harrow won 33-5.

Conditions continued to get worse and the main show pitch, which Harrow would play the semi and final on had seriously deteriorated into a mud bath. However, channelling their Harrow footer skills, the Harrovians continued to improve. In the semi-final against Berkhamsted, a solo try from Griffin kept Harrow in the game at 7-5 at half-time before captain Ellis, again, scored a solo effort, with a well-worked chip and chase as Harrow advanced into the final with a 21-5 win. This brought Harrow into their second-ever Under-18 Cup final, facing a strong Brighton side that had knocked out pre-tournament favourites Sedbergh and Clifton en-route to the final.

With the pitch now worse than Hempstall 5, Harrow produced a performance for the ages to bring the trophy to Harrow for the first time. Player of the tournament Miall picked a good line off Ellis to score Harrow's first try and a 5-0 lead (drop-kick conversions were practically impossible on the muddy pitch!). Brighton soon struck back, offloading well to score in the corner and bring the score to 5-5. Griffin then produced a moment of solo magic, getting into the corner before offloading back to Miall who miraculously scooped the ball off the floor to gather and score. Harrow had a 10-5 lead at the half. Straightaway, Brighton struck back with a superb individual effort to tie it up at 10-10. As the light faded, it looked like Harrow's chances were fading too as Brighton drove for the line; a tackle by Hammick, *The Knoll*, forced the ball free and Brighton dropped it over the line. In response, Harrow's defence drove Brighton back up field. Edstrom forced a scrappy turnover at the breakdown, Ellis pounced on the loose ball, stepped one defender and fed Ivan Thayil, *Rendalls*, to score. With the score at 15-10, time had expired but the final kick off had to take place. As Brighton recycled the ball, John Edwards, *Moretons*, made a huge hit forcing the ball free and Charlie Cross, *Newlands*, booted the ball out to secure Harrow's place in history.

A magnificent double triumph and a hugely momentous few days for the Rugby Club. Congratulations to all the players involved – whether in the tournament squads or helping in the training to prepare, the support of all the grandparents, parents, Old Harrovians and beaks – either at Rosslyn Park supporting or covering for those of us that were – throughout the week and the exceptional work of all the coaches and medical staff involved.

Harrow Under-18 squad: Cameron Ellis (*Rendalls*) ©, Toby Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, (vc), Reggie Hammick, *The Knoll*, George Simpson, *Newlands*, Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, Charlie Cross, *Newlands*, Gabriel Black, *West Acre*, John Edwards, *Moretons*, Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, Ollie Miall, *Newlands*, (player of the tournament), St John Smith, *Newlands*, Ivan Thayil, *Rendalls*, Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, Filip Edstrom, *Bradlys*.

Harrow Colts squad: Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, © (player of the tournament), Cam Knight, *Newlands*, Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, Ben Leinwand, *Moretons*, Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, Sammy Clayton-Bennett, *Newlands*, Henry Dargan, *Druries*, Patrick Keaveney, *Druries*, Algy Royle, *Rendalls*, James Talamai, *Druries*, Alex Akinluyi, *The Head Master's*, Oliver Campbell, *Newlands*, Henry Snow, *Rendalls*.

ANSELL BOWL COMPETITIONS

12 March

The Ansell Bowl held on Sunday 12 March 2023 was taken by storm with a Moretons squad of 12 not only sweeping up The Geoffrey Ansell Bowl trophy but also the HSOTC Drill trophy, Drill sector, Best Drill Cadet (Charlie Allday), and Endurance trophies, respectively.

Drill: The two guests of honour marking the Drill competition, were Turnout assessor Cpt N Edge (Honourable Artillery Company), and Drill assessor Sgt Anderson (ex-Yorkshire Regiment). The Drill competition, starting bright and early on Sunday morning, began with the *Lyon's* drill squad setting the bar for the rest of the morning. After many more squads scavenging for the top spot, Drill instructor Archie Tait, *The Head Master's*, bombarded the crowd with enthusiastic drill instructing, securing the Best Drill Instructor trophy. This was followed in quick succession by *Newlands* and *The Park* with spectacular drill performances, and *Newlands* grasping a perfect score in the inspection. I am sure EWH had nothing to do with that.



But soon came the nail-biting Moretons Drill squad, who were placed ninth in 2022 and were hoping for a better result this year. Having arrived in untrue navy fashion (not 15 minutes early) to the parade square, Moretons scrambled onto start line and got each other in open dress. With cameras not rolling and cadets out of line, we started and flicked the switch. Having gathered our confidence after the bombshell of a statement to the Inspection assessor from Victor Grant, "Yeah, I'll be playin' at Lord's this year," we started. With arms in time and clean salutes, we marched off the parade square feeling hopefully of a top-three spot.

Endurance: After a short break and a fulfilling brunch, the Endurance competition kicked off. The first couple of Houses swiftly took off in orderly fashion with some notable performances from standard performers. Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, swept up the best Endurance Event captain with a fierce performance on the log run. We were soon met with the favourites, *The Park*, who stormed through the assault course with a sub-7 time and an adequate log run, giving them the top spot, for now...

The start line was then faced with a barbaric Elmfield squad, with fans cheering and a bagpiper piping away: "Literal goose bumps." But soon came the blue and white of Moretons, having forgotten belts and looking slightly timid, we soon cranked down the nerves and got into the assault course.

A few moments later, the blue and white visage appeared from the depths. We were then flinging each other over the 10ft wall with the Head Master calling Tom Emery's last man performance "textbook". From the grit of our Captain Tom and the team, we claimed second spot with another sub-7 run. Thereafter, the log run was started and finished in decent time for Moretons. Having bolted across the finish line, we were met with the Shoot, assessed by the Stanmore Pistol and Rifle Club, for which miraculously Moretons claimed another first-place spot with full marks in the shooting.

All in all, the Ansell Bowl competition was a well fought battle between the Houses this year and showing the of true colours for many.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

'Quantum computing: building your first quantum circuit', Vincent Song, The Head Master's, 9 March

On Thursday 9 March, the Computer Science Society gathered in Physics Schools 2, where Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*, created a quantum computing workshop for fellow computer scientists to test and understand how the world of quantum computing functions.

Song started off by explaining the fundamentals of quantum mechanics. He explained that normal computers use binary digits 0 and 1. However, in quantum computers, they use qubits, which are super-imposed states, and are mathematically presented as vectors. He then introduced the Bloch sphere, which represents a qubit's geometrics. He stated that quantum logic gates can spin different states of a Bloch sphere to do different things and went on to mathematically prove how these quantum logic gates work.

Song explained that a Bloch sphere can spin up and down, which are called states, where the x gate spins the x axis, y gate spins y axis and the z axis spins the z axis. These states are orthogonal, meaning they are perpendicular to each other. This allows qubits to store more values at the same time, therefore quantum computers can do a lot more things than a normal computer at a faster rate.

Song ended the talk by introducing a website called IBM quantum computing, allowing the audience to use their own laptops and try out a bit of quantum computing themselves. This is a platform like Replit, where you can input certain quantum logic gates and operations to construct a Bell gate, which generates a particular maximally entangled 2 qubit state, which then manipulates the Bloch sphere.

In conclusion, it was a fantastic workshop by Song, and his demonstration of his knowledge in this particularly challenging field truly shows how rightfully deserved to be one of the Computer Science Society heads.

CHORAL SOCIETY

St Marylebone Church, 21 March

As in every year, the Choral Society, there was some fantastic singing from both choirs at St Marylebone Church. The concert started with renditions of Byrd motets, namely *Ne Iscaris Domine*, *Miserere Mei Deus*, and *Emendemus in Melius*. One could only be amazed at the angelic sounds coming from Harrow's touring choir, made up mostly of the elite of the elite of singers who can pull off even the most difficult polyphony there is. Indeed, Byrd's *Ne Iscaris Domine* is a very challenging but mesmerising piece, and one that the choir sang to perfection under the leadership of our very own PJE. Following the Byron Consort, the Chapel Choir sang some Joubert (*O lorde the marker of al thing*) and some Moore ('Evening Prayers' from *Three Prayers of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*), accompanied by the award-winning Sebastian Gillot at the organ, whom we were very lucky to have. You could feel the tension in the room as the choir started the Joubert in unison, so quiet you could hear a pin drop before the piece erupted into dissonant grandeur that shook the hallowed halls of the church. Then came the Moore, whose *Venite* was sung in St Paul's to kick off the bankruptcy-inducing Harrow 450 celebrations. This piece was once again sung with such clarity and emotion, reflecting the words, written by Bonhoeffer in a concentration camp before his execution due to his being a Nazi dissident. Once that absolute masterpiece was over, the Francis Holland Choir, directed by Una Murphy, with the tenors and basses from Harrow, sang a selection of gorgeous 20th-century pieces by Stanford, Beach (Slay for women

composers), and Ešenvalds, whose juicy harmonies either make your Whitacre fan sob from joy or your high-brow Boulez enjoyer plug his ears. Regardless, there was some very classy singing from all, especially the Francis Holland soloist who often had some tricky corners, but executed them to perfection, accompanied by some splendid bitonal glasses. Francis Holland's own repertoire then graced the ears of the audience in the form of Gray's *Sanctus*, which was particularly rousing, energetic and electrifying with some mellifluous harmonies that Chapel Choir could only dream of. After all that faff with the individual pieces, we were lucky to hear Rutter's eardrum-busting *Gloria* performed by a brass ensemble, both schools together, and directed by the one and only DNW in a monumental performance. The first movement, *Gloria in Excelsis*, which took us from the thunderous unisons to the subtle and soft harmonies of Rutter. Supported by teachers, the tenors unusually shone in their singing, with the altos and basses sometimes struggling at tricky corners. As we went into the second movement, *Domine Deus*, the organ intro was played to perfection, setting up the still yet spellbinding atmosphere of the movement. In this movement again we were blessed with some impressive solo singing by Francis Holland singers, as well as some piercing trios from their altos. As we sauntered into the final movement, *Quoniam tu solus sanctus*, you could feel the audience on the edge of their seats, eager to hear the finale, or perhaps just eager to leave, one can never tell. The final movement brought us back to that eclectic and energetic feel, with some very agile singing from all parts, though perhaps with the exception of the tenors, who did a fantastic job throughout, deafening the audience with top Gs. Ultimately, this movement rounded off a very successful concert, one rivalling perhaps even Harrow's infamous yearly Music for Lent concerts, but nevertheless one that all involved should be proud of.

JOINT SLAVONIC SOCIETY AND PERCEVAL SOCIETY

*USSR and Africa: A Surprising Symbiotic Relationship
Luka Safronov, Lyon's, and DJ Banda, Lyon's,
21 March*

Luka Safronov, *Lyon's*, swiftly started us off by talking about the relationship between Russia and Africa. He showed an interesting timeline with some key dates of links between the two. DJ Banda, *Lyon's*, explained to us why the Africans wanted the economic support of the USSR. He showed how Africa was in desperate need of economic aid and much more. Safronov followed by elaborating the USSR's response to this. They produced military and economic aid for countries such as Angola, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Even though the USSR made some inroads, the US still had more of an impact across the continent. The reasons why Africa needed military support from the USSR was explained. Many African countries suffered from the fact having been colonised by other empires. The ANC (African National Congress), it was explained, was a movement in South Africa during the era of apartheid and was a system of racial segregation. Its goal was to maintain white minority rule. Banda explained to us how the ANC's goal was to achieve equal political rights for the people of Africa. Safronov continued by showing the significance of the USSR's aid. The Soviet Union forged several relationships to exploit the rich resources of Africa such as crude oil, which they obtained from Nigeria and Angola. The Soviet Union also invested in the diamond industry. We were shown a map illustrating the resources that all the African countries exported.

The speakers explained how the Africans and the Soviet Union built a relationship as an escape from colonialism. An example of their relationship was the construction of the Aswan Dam in Egypt. The USSR provided equipment and materials for the construction. A monument that was built in Aswan to show the relationship between the two countries. Another example was the ties that Mozambique had with the Soviet Union. Safronov demonstrated a table of the arms transfer of Mozambique compared to the other countries in Africa. Banda followed up by explaining anti-colonialism and how African countries were trying to build back after WWII and saw the USSR as a natural ally in their struggle against Western domination. He described how Africans saw the opportunity to exploit the USSR's military power. Safronov explained the key benefit that USSR had from Ethiopia due to their longstanding interest in the Red Sea region. The USSR noticed the access that Ethiopia had to the Red Sea and the Middle East. We were able to see the relationship when the 'People's Friendship University' was established in Moscow and how it was renamed into the 'Lumumba University' after the former Congolese leader. Safronov then spoke to us about the Ogaden War between Somalia and Ethiopia and how the Ethiopians sided with the USSR and the US backed the Somalians. The Somalians lost the war, forcing them into a civil war. Banda explained the Congo crisis and how Congo was on the verge of splitting. The UN refused to step in, which encouraged the president to side with the USSR, strengthening the relationship between the USSR and Africa. Banda rounded off by explaining the long-standing relationship between Moscow and Africa and how it has dramatically changed since the dissolving of the Soviet Union.

PERCEVAL SOCIETY

AFCON and the growth of football in Nigeria

*Alex Edu, Lyon's, and Anthony Anenih, Rendalls,
15 March*

On Wednesday evening in Maths Schools, boys were lucky to receive a marvellously delivered lecture entitled 'AFCON and the growth of football in Nigeria', given by Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, and AJ Anenih, *Rendalls*.

Edu began the talk by exploring the background of the Nigerian National Team. He explained that the side was established in 1945 and, since then, has won three AFCON titles. In addition to this, the Nigerian National Team has competed in the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup. Edu mentioned that football is by far the most popular sport in Nigeria and is considered to be the powerhouse of football in Africa.

Edu passed on to Anenih, who delved into the problems with the youth system, and the lack of structure in football in Nigeria. Anenih explained that there are many reasons why Nigeria do not perform as well as they could in international tournaments, but the main points were that there is a poor scouting network in the country. This restricts many young players from displaying their footballing talent. As well as this, he explained that there is not enough money put into the youth system in Nigeria, due to corruption, which Edu looked at in more detail later in the talk. Lastly, the talented players often choose to represent other nations instead of Nigeria. This has a significant effect on the Nigerian National Team.

Following this, the pair explored the golden generation, wasted talent, and the problems that came about with the golden generation. In Nigeria, the golden generation is seen to be the team that won the Olympic Gold medal in 1996. The team was led by Kanu Nwankwo and Jay Jay Okocha. Despite their

notable performance, many said that the side underperformed in this competition. Reasons for this include the fact that fans were over-ambitious, and this ambition changed to dismay as they were knocked out in the second round of the knockouts of the World Cup.

Anenih looked at one of the major issues of the Nigerian National Team, which is its management. Other African nations brought extremely qualified coaches in from all over the globe that train at a high standard of football such as Borussia Dortmund and Ajax. The Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) decided to appoint their technical director who had been inactive as a manager for the previous five years. The NFF refused to appoint a 'foreign' manager. Anenih said that the NFF is full of businessmen who have no real passion for football and are only trying to gain money from being a part of the board.

This leads to the pair's next point, which is age fraud and corruption in African national teams. Age fraud is a major problem many African teams face. The most recent example of this is Cameroon. The newly appointed chairman of the side started testing players' ages by looking at their bone structure, which gives an approximate figure. Many players in the team were found to be older than they claimed to be. Edu said that age fraud is not the only issue in African football. Corruption is a problem throughout Africa because many teams accept bribery.

Anenih explored Jurgen Klopp's controversial comment that he made on AFCON. He made the unfortunate mistake of referring to AFCON as a 'little tournament'. This resulted in him and Ojora Babatunde from OJB sports getting into a heated argument. Babatunde demanded an apology from Klopp. Klopp's comment brought great attention to the tournament, which helped it reach 950 million views altogether and 3 million watch-time hours.

Finally, the pair gave an overview of the African Cup of Nations. It was first held in 1957. Since 1968, it has been held every two years; however, it switched to odd-numbered years in 2013.

ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY

*'Lunch atop a skyscraper: the NYC builders
who risked their lives to build'*

Maxi Farah, The Park, 2 March

Maxi Farah, *The Park*, first introduced the Rockefeller Centre, which is one of the most iconic buildings in the world. Its magnificent design shows the way which the workers, architects, engineers and photographers who contributed at the time broke the limit of manmade building, more precisely skyscrapers.

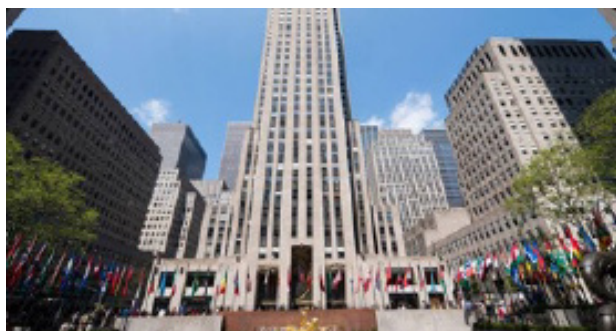
The photo shown is called 'Lunch atop a skyscraper', taken in 1932 by Charles C. Ebbets. The photo is extremely well known even to people with no interest in architecture, if such a person could exist. Nevertheless, the photo is hard to believe and imagine as there are 11 construction workers sitting on a steel beam, hundreds of meters above the ground. Despite risking their life in a dangerous employment, they relax and have fun as they have lunch on the steel beam. Therefore, the



photo captures a sense of adventure, daring and excitement associated with the construction of the skyscraper around this area. The workers show courage and confidence in contrast with the scary height at which they sit. The whole process of building a record-breaking skyscraper is also to celebrate the development of technology and human potential. Ultimately, this photo inspires all people about these major buildings and skyscrapers.

The history of skyscrapers dates back to the 19th century. In New York City, the first skyscraper was built in 1885, the Home Insurance Building. Furthermore, one of the first notable skyscrapers was the Tower Building, completed in 1889 and standing at 11 stories. Nevertheless, the iconic Flatiron Building in 1902 is the one that really sparked the skyscraper craze in the city. The Chrysler Building completed in 1930, held the record for the world's tallest building for a short period of time.

On the other hand, although the workers in the photo by Ebbets looked fearless, the contractions of a skyscrapers are daunting, especially to workers. They face the problem of safety, which



was challenging, especially one hundred years ago. The weather can also increase the risk of falling especially from the top of tens of floors when it is windy. The construction of Rockefeller Centre faced both logistical and economic challenges. Due its location in the city centre, the space was limited and the traffic around was affecting the surroundings. The workers were mostly migrants from Europe. Unfortunately, 2/5 of them either died or became disabled during the construction. A wrong step when walking hundreds of meters high is an absolute disaster.

The method of building skyscrapers during 1920s to 1930s was to use the advantage of the rock-hard steel beam in providing a strong base which acted like skeleton bones to the building. Techniques such as reinforced concrete and curtain wall construction were employed by contractors to build taller and more complexed structures. Again, these factors show that the workers and the construction of skyscrapers is really a way of illustrating the developmen of what was to become the future world.

VIDEO GAME SOCIETY

'The Formula for Making a Popular Video Game'

Harrison Gray, *The Park*, and Olly Filo, *The Park*,
13 March

Harrison Gray, *The Park*, and Olly Filo, *The Park*, gave an exciting lecture on the formula for making popular video games. Their talk focused on some of the mainstays in video games such as *Minecraft* and *GTA V*, highlighting what made them so popular in the first place, as well as giving their own thoughts on each of these games. The speakers then proceeded to list a lot of games that had potential but, for the large part, underperformed massively. Games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Halo Infinite* were in this list. The pair ultimately concluded

that games that had been extremely successful had features such as a cheap price, easy-to-pick-up gameplay and a wide target audience – they were also finished products with the time taken to perfect the game. On the other hand, the two stated that unsuccessful video games generally were unfinished, boring, and/or difficult games with an extremely narrow target audience and not much replayability. These games were often overpriced as well, making it not worth buying the game at release. All-in-all, it was a fun and engaging lecture to attend.

JUNIOR LABORDE SOCIETY

'Cities Don't Work: They Could'

Kerry Zhang, *Rendalls*, 14 March

On Tuesday night in the OH Room, Kerry Zhang, *Rendalls*, made his debut talk to the Junior Laborde Society, with the highest-ever attendance I have ever seen at a Remove lecture. The talk was filled with statistics, graphs, plenty of enthusiasm and a few potentially "offside" jokes. Initially, Zhang explained what a transit city is, as well as their benefits to our society. He mentioned noise pollution as one of the main problems with "car-centric cities", with this excess noise leading to heart disease, high stress, obesity and more. Next, Zhang explained a set of graphs, each of which showed where in the city were the economical profits and losses, with great links between where public transport is and where the city profits the most. On the flip side, the places further from public transport tended to be where there were far more economic losses than gains.

Zhang linked these graphs to examples of transit cities, especially emphasising Amsterdam, where only 20% of people use cars as their main method of transportation, cycling and public transport being the top two. Indeed, he said cities such as Amsterdam, Hong Kong and London are leading the way for the rest of the world, talking about the steady expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone in London and the new Elizabeth line, while also mentioning the 185% Farebox ratio in Hong Kong. His final point about Hong Kong was interestingly how the Metro system funds the government, not the other way round. It is the most successful and efficient underground railway in the world. Next, Zhang introduced a statistic about green area frequency and how this has a direct effect on modes of transport. His latest case study was the city of Oslo in Norway where 95% percent of residents are within 300 metres of a park, which entices citizens to walk more and drive less. Next in the immaculate "Canva" presentation were some beautiful pictures of the Washington DC architecture. Initially, I struggled to understand how this was relevant to the talk, until Zhang made a brilliant point about taking pleasure in travelling. Many people find driving entertaining, so DC made the train stations aesthetically pleasing and an enjoyable journey too.

Zhang's final section of the talk was entitled 'Mankind's Greatest Sin', which of course was directed at the idea of flying cars. Among the numerous valid reasons why they were impossible to create, Zhang talked about the demands of a flying car that just couldn't be possible. Each car would need their own runway, or at least a large space to take off and land. Indeed, the cars would be completely pointless for short-distance journeys, and for longer-distance journeys a plane would be cheaper, better for the environment and much easier to arrange. There was also a mention of the flying car industry being very difficult to sustain, as 99% of the world wouldn't be able to afford it and the other 1% would come to their senses and just buy a private jet. Other ideas, such as the hyperloop, would be "just as insane" in Zhang's terms for plenty of reasons. The economy of scale would never add up; maintenance and accident recovery would be highly difficult unless there was medical support on every carriage; and finally the fact that it was a vacuum meant if there was any hole in the carriage, it

would implode. With no windows and little ventilation, it was a very farfetched idea.

The last two slides demonstrated the things that we can do to help: “use your vote” to elect a campaigner in your constituency who will fight for what is right in this topic, and to “live car free” and use public transport as much as possible were his two main slogans. We hope that Zhang will be back to grace us with another tremendous event from the Junior Labor Society.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

The Cold War through the US lens

Henry Miell, Lyon's, 9 March

On a frosty Thursday evening on 9 March in MLS, Henry Miell, *Lyon's*, took members of the Slavonic Society on a stop-whistle tour through history to the period of the Cold War, but from an American perspective.

Miell began his talk where all good things begin: the genesis. In order to refresh the memories of the History GCSE-takers among the audience (the Cold War is a topic all historians cover in their syllabus), he listed several different factors attributed to the outbreak of the Cold War. Prominent and most important among these were: a competition of power and strength between the US and USSR, the different ideological and political views of the USSR (communist) and the US (capitalist), and the Potsdam conference, which he rightly stated set this war in motion as it first highlighted the difference in ideologies and revealed the US suspicions of the USSR, fuelled by the Soviet expansion into Eastern Europe. He also listed some other factors, namely the creation of the atomic bomb and the pessimism of the leaders regarding each other's political views and ideologies.

Once a firm foundation about the beginnings of the Cold War was cemented amongst the audience, Miell began to encroach deeper into the war itself, and what better way to sum up the American take on the Cold War than with the US Policy of Containment. In its essence, this policy aimed to prevent Communism from spreading to other, weaker countries, especially poorer ones, as Truman believed poverty to be the cause of Communism. Truman also felt it to be the duty of the US, as an ardent defender of capitalism, to come to the aid of any country under the threat of a Communist takeover. However, he stated that this simply angered Stalin as he was convinced that the Americans were conspiring against the Soviet Union. But Truman did not only leave it at this. He went one step further with his plan of Marshall Aid, which involved giving monetary funds and help to countries under the threat of a Soviet takeover. This, again, angered Stalin, and he claimed that the US was simply using its ‘dollar imperialism’ to dominate Europe.

Miell then went on to deeper describe another result of the Cold War, and this was the infamous ‘Iron Curtain’. Fundamentally, this was an imaginary line that split Europe in half during the Cold War, a tangible form of this was the Berlin Wall. The communists had their sphere of influence on the Eastern side, and the capitalists had theirs on the Western side. However

as time marched on, the line did not simply play the role of a mere divider between the two contrasting sides. In 1949, the Western Powers met in Washington DC to sign an agreement to work together, which was known as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). The two most important articles of the Treaty were Article 3, which stated that the members of the Treaty will keep up their own armies to a certain standard, and Article 5, which stated that if one of the members of NATO is attacked, it would be considered an attack against them all. This then led to the USSR creating their own version in 1955, which was named the ‘Warsaw Pact’.

Perhaps one of the most well-known conflicts that occurred during the Cold War was the Korean War (1948–60). Technically, this was a proxy war, as it was fought between the communists and the capitalists indirectly, but through support of groups of people that supported their causes. In 1950, Kim Il Sung, the North's communist leader, ordered his troops to invade South Korea. In this war, the US and the UN came to the defence of South Korea, as per the Truman Doctrine mentioned above, and the USSR indirectly came to the aid of the North. Later on in the war, as the US had regained their ground in South Korea, General MacArthur of the American armed forces made the rash decision to advance past the border and into North Korea, which provoked China who then entered the war. Eventually, after three years of bitter fighting, it reached a stalemate (which it still is now) and the border between the two Koreas remained largely unchanged. Miell then very rightly managed to draw a parallel between the Korean War and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, although he pointed out that the invasion was less of a proxy war as Russia was the one to attack.

To conclude his lecture, Miell touched on Nixon's de-escalation of the Cold War tensions. In his 1972 visit to China, Nixon spoke with Chinese Premier Chou Enlai and regularised relations between the US and China. In this meeting, Enlai informed Nixon that the PRC (People's Republic of China) feared a Soviet invasion, thus Nixon made a deal with the USSR known as the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which had the goal of reducing the number of long-range ballistic missiles that both parties could own. With his final slide, Miell talked about the impact that Reagan had (who implemented very strong anti-communist policies) and Gorbachev, who with the help of policies such as Glastnost and Perestroika allowed much more freedom to the people and much easier separation from the USSR for Soviet states, which led to the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

And thus, came an end to the age-long Cold War.

To offer some final remarks, I thought that Miell's talk gave a succinct summary of the salient points of the Cold War, and that he offered a unique perspective from which to take a closer look at this fascinating war. The lecture was followed by many thought-provoking questions from the audience.

Sincere thanks go Miell for researching and delivering a great lecture and to KAF for facilitating it.



METROPOLITAN

PAUL43, MY DRIVER

Late. Too late. Cold. Cold and wet. Sad noodles, flooded with surgical yellow light, untouched, sit in their plastic cradles like cats' intestines potted at the knee of a luthier's assistant. My tangle of cables weave between the paper bags and disposable takeaway tins on my desk like organ donor bikes speeding on

the M51. The wretched Pho broth sits cold with its thick, fatty film blocking vision into the murky depths below; a skin that bulges and boils and crawls like my own. Late. Always late. I look by my bare, red, blotchy thigh, down at my phone. In the bezel, the reflection stares up at me. Gravity has pulled the blood from the tip of my spine to my puffy, bloated cheeks. My lips turn purple and look like they might burst. Upside-down, I look 40 years older and 50 years fatter. Satisfactory service? I add no tip.

Paul43, by birth Paolo, looked most upset. I saw him in the window, as he strutted up and down the pavement looking down at his phone. But, I suppose, he ought to thank me. Money isn't free, you know. So it was at this point that I turned most grievously away to YouTube.

"What a pillock," thought Paolo, not quite mad enough to shout, groan or even mumble that under his breath (for that would make him look like a junkie, or batty old git or something), but meaning it all the more. He got back on his bike (which was sporadically humming like a nervous choir) and growled her into rage, setting off down the high street.

Ping! A notification from his phone. Pulling over into an empty parking space he read, "bubble bear bubble tea 好喝, order 4303". Note to rider "wait at 'Harrow School shop sign'. Cheers". Bastards. He set off down the avenue. Nasty tanning-bed white lamppost lights sped past him in the opposite direction as though fleeing the space he chased, or chasing the space he fled. In fact, everything that raced past him seemed terrified of where he was approaching so as to run the other way, like a line of Olympian refugee children in a charity ad.

Very few words were exchanged between Mr's Chen and Paolo. He nervously took the cup off her hands, and walked like an amputee giraffe out of the glass shutter door. His breath oozed out of his balaclava, steaming his visor. He slammed the concerningly green cup into the box, and set off into the night and back up the bloody hill.

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs,

We are told, with a higher frequency than that of a gamma wave, that our uniform must be impeccable. It is as if the High Street is a catwalk and we the underfed and abused models strutting down it. I would like to say just how great this is. I think it is brilliant that we must keep our hats firmly on during the walk to lessons. I love polishing my shoes and tightening the choke hold of my tie. However, there is one fatal flaw in the strict code of dress which graces our outside streets, impeding my eyes from their sole focus on study. This rage-filled migraine fuel would be the abysmal standard of the beaks.

I, of course, do not refer to the tweed of the smart SMK or the tie of towering Mr Tolman; for, it is particularly the younger beaks I have noticed lacking in what their own allies would call 'standards' (this should not imply anything about the ages of the aforementioned beaks). As I walk between lessons, my pupils drift to the phones of certain beaks, whose pupils are solidly stuck to the same surface. Somehow one or two even deem it appropriate to keep their headphones covering their ears as if the voices to be drowned out come from the outside world. This particularly irks me, for this very

issue was announced in Call over recently; however, only the boys were blamed.

I do not just want to pain beaks; I feel that it is crucial we increase the standards of all the School's population. This is because I concur with the accepted knowledge that one must dress smartly, and I am also in concordance with the even more widely accepted adage 'Monkey see, monkey do'. Enforcing rules with an iron fist may work to an extent. But to stamp out dissonance, one must destroy any example of it. Could you imagine a dishevelled general? As a school holding great admiration for the military, I think we ought to take a round out of their rifle and smarten up.

The solution is clear. Custos must patrol his eyes over the beaks as well as boys. Ideally, the case of ripped jeans, or jeans at all, would be punished with an early meeting with Custos; however, I suspect there might be a more realistic solution. Corporal punishment. Many other schools across the country refer to their B-tech Custodes as 'beadles'. While they haven't nearly the skill and honour of our knight in shiny shoes, they do have one advantage. Namely, they carry around heavy maces with which they could beat the offender. It is clear that we must employ perhaps two beadles under Custos to police both boys and beaks, beating the bad. Punishing beaks for unironed gowns and wonky mortarboards is the only way to hinder the heightening hypocrisy. That, or we no longer have to be subjected to it.

Yours debonairly,
ROBERT YOUNG, *THE GROVE*

SUMMER TIMETABLE

Alas! The winter passes and spring returns,
And Demeter gladly receives her beloved Persephone.
The season of death and grief adjourns,
The new lives and creatures sing their symphony
Of praise, and of gratefulness that spring
has returned to the earth and once again ruling.
The scene of serenity flows in the idyll
Of nature, things both great and small.
Yet one place on earth are things still tidal
Like the waves before nightfall.
On the Hill, in Harrow, where many live
And work, in silence ruminative.

For it seems that the very laws of nature
becomes defiant, and though we dictate
Through the timetable, the reign of summer,
Nothing but cold and rain here collate.
For though 'summer' is in the appellation,
It has not come, not in this lunation.

For who has known such glorious weather
In March, so warm, and touching, and gentle
Like the breeze in Arctic, hardly moving a feather,
Like the mild drizzle Atlantic, and small clouds continental.
We do love to run and play
On the lovely dry mud of clay.

Snowflakes of every kind takes the choice
At moments most awkward upon us descend.
Hails, rain, and wind take great rejoice
To see us hydrated and ours hats ascend.
Looking from every corner, mockingly at us laughs,
The word 'summer', playing its seasonal bluffs.

SPORT

SQUASH

Harrow v Norwich, Londonderry Cup Final, RAC Club, Pall Mall, 31 March

This is the premier public schools' old boys' squash tournament and is one of the oldest tournaments in the squash calendar, dating back to 1934.

First match up in the five-string format saw Harrow's first string Seigo Masuda (*Rendalls 2011*³) and captain take on his opposite number Ian Cox, a former Norfolk County player. Masuda took the first game to work out his opponent and narrowly lost it 11-7. In the next three games Masuda exerted his youth and experience to take the match 3-1.

On the adjacent court, Harrow's fifth string Rob Dale (*The Knoll 1992*³) took on Katie Cox (daughter of Ian Cox) who has a current Ladies PSA tour ranking of 176. This was an extremely well-contested match with Dale using powerful cross-court drives to create pressure and gain vital court positioning, which resulted in a tight 3-1 in Dale's favour.

Next up was Harrow's fourth string Davide Bernardi (*Newlands 2010*³) playing against Stuart Cowie, a former world number 41. Cowie has great hands and the experience of playing at international level and this was always going to trouble Bernardi. Bernardi battled the hardest he has ever had to and retrieved brilliantly, making Cowie work for every point. Cowie prevailed in the end 3-2 but Bernardi will only get better if he keeps working at his game.



The match was now balanced at 2-1 in Harrow's favour with a crucial third-string match between Harrow's Henry Prideaux (*Bradlys 1992*³) and Matt Bolt, another Norwich county player who has played at a high level throughout his career. This was another very tightly contested match with great short play touches from both players. Prideaux's cool head and calm demeanour carried him through for an excellent 3-1 win and vital unassailable lead to give Harrow the overall win.

Last match on was Harrow's second string Alex Titchener-Barrett (*Elmfield 1993*³) taking on Marcus Cowie (brother of Stuart) and former European Under-19 Champion and England player. The opening game was fiercely contested and nicely

poised at 7-7, with Titchener-Barrett looking to exert his fitness on Cowie, but again the former international used his experience and great touch to edge the game. Cowie dominated the second game more comfortably and similarly took a competitively matched third game.

Overall result 3-2 to Harrow.

Harrow have won this prestigious cup in 1939, 1948, 2022 and 2023. Back-to-back victories have never been accomplished in Harrow's squash history, so to follow up with a successive win was an extra-special achievement.

FENCING

Public Schools' Fencing Championships, Lee Valley Athletics Centre, 14-16 March

On the 14, 15, and 16 March, a few members of the fencing team made their way to the Lee Valley Athletics Centre for the annual Public Schools' Fencing Championships. Each team member put in an incredible effort, showcasing their resilience, perseverance and skill. Throughout each day, the team supported and encouraged one another during their matches.



A few of the top achievements were Aidan Lee, *The Head Master's*, winning Gold in his age group for Sabre, Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, winning Bronze in Epee, and Luke Pain, *The Head Master's*, winning Bronze in Sabre.

Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, Francois de Robert Hautequere, *Lyon's*, Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, and Brian Chang, *Druries*, all made it into the top 15% in their age category and blade. Overall it was a successful three days with each individual leaving the championships with something to improve for next time, as well as something to be proud of in their accomplishments.



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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CELEBRATING OUR PAST
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE