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HONG KONG ON THE BRINK

*Oriental and Palmerston Societies, Mr Nathan Law,
Speech Room, 19 September*

Mr Nathan Law, Hong Kong's youngest lawmaker, currently lives in political asylum in the UK. Entitled 'Hong Kong on the brink', his talk explored his love for the city he grew up in, his own life story and the reason he started protests against the Hong Kong government. Mr Law's life was tough from a young age; he spent his childhood in a poor district in Hong Kong, living in council housing with his parents. Neither politics nor law-making were options for him at the time; to achieve his present position, Mr Law had to overcome many struggles with only hard work. When he was young, he had no plans or aspirations for a future career, but his life was changed forever at a candlelit gathering in Victoria Park, which was held in memory of students who lost their lives at the Tiananmen Square protest of 1989.

Mr Law described this gathering as his "coming-of-age" experience. Hearing people chanting for 'democracy' and 'freedom'; he realised the extent of Hong Kongers' passion for their city, as well as the city's unique status of enhanced political independence. This event inspired him to become a politician. As a college student, Mr Law was involved in student activism. He quickly gained influence and became the leader of the student activist club in his school. As his influence grew, he began taking part in small-scale peaceful protests. This culminated in the 2014 Umbrella Movement, where he was one of the leading student activists. Finally, he was recognised and chosen as one of five students who held a debate against members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. His great oratory skill was uncovered during that debate.

From 2014–16, Mr Law continued the student campaign for democracy. Meanwhile, he decided to pursue a career in politics, aiming to become a fully-fledged politician. In 2016, he ran for a seat in the Legislative Council and won by a considerable margin, becoming the youngest lawmaker in Hong Kong's history. But after only nine months as a lawmaker, Mr Law was removed from his seat, due to "not being solemn enough" in his oath-taking ceremony. He was disqualified from his seat along with five others. Mr Law was then sent to prison due to his contributions to the Umbrella Movement in 2014. After three months of imprisonment, he was released and continued to campaign. This dramatic rise and fall were the result of the CCP governing policies becoming tighter and harsher while the people of Hong Kong continued to question the democracy of this special administrative region.

2019 marked the largest-scale protests in Hong Kong in recent years. People marched on the streets, singing anthems and demanding political reform. Mr Law, who was at the centre of the protests, united with others who wanted the same political freedoms as him; these were promised by the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle set up in 1997, a result of earlier negotiations between the Chinese and British governments. Under this principle, Hong Kong was allowed the democratic election of its leaders, along with other freedoms. On paper, this controversial constitutional principle lasts until 2047, but Hong Kongers argue that the Beijing government has not adhered to it. This is the underlying cause of tension in Hong Kong.

During the time of these protests, Hong Kong was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; to avoid further civil unrest, the Hong Kong government put its foot down and stamped out the voices of protesters by passing new laws. Thus, many of Mr. Law's friends were imprisoned and Mr. Law fled to the US to pursue further studies. He was granted a full scholarship to study for an MA in East Asian Studies from Yale University.



Upon finishing his studies, Mr Law returned to his homeland. But after a few days, he was forced to flee from Hong Kong again; this time, he arrived in England under political asylum. Many of his friends were not as fortunate and were imprisoned. Mr Law was recognised by much of the Western world as the face of the Hong Kong protests and became a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Talking about what prompted him to take action Mr Law said that his compulsion was the demise of democracy in Hong Kong. He cited that Hong Kong was ranked 140th out of 180 countries for press freedom, due to the press' affiliations with Chinese companies and the CCP. He also referred to the freedom index, where Hong Kong's ranking was lower than the likes of the Philippines and Togo. The city was also ranked low in the political rights index.

Mr Law concluded by emphasising that he has never thought about himself as a special or influential person; he still sees himself as a young man who loves the place where he came from – Hong Kong. His final message was to believe in your dreams and hold true to your ideals; as long as you follow your heart, you will touch the lives of many others, and your life will be successful and impactful. Mr Law's cause and protests have been echoed throughout the Western world and people around the world sympathised with his cause.

BRITAIN AND THE MAKING OF THE MIDDLE EAST

*Cross-Curricular Lecture 'Unintended Consequences',
JPM, 'The best laid plans', 8 September 2023*

The packed OSRG buzzed with excitement. As the audience snatched the Tesco-trumping loyalty cards, ADT introduced the long and illustrious Cross-Curricular Lecture Series' theme for the term – Unintended Consequences.

Amidst a chorus of applause, JPM began with a desolate yet powerful image: the empty, unfinished Palestinian Parliament outside the town of Abu Dis in the West Bank. Once, it was a beacon of hope for Israeli-Palestinian peace, but now it lies abandoned and untouched: a concrete skeleton buried in a sandy graveyard. Today, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a frequent topic for tragic newspaper headlines: it is violent and unending, with horrific terror attacks, bombings, shootings and stabbings. However, to uncover the source of this conflict, JPM believes that we must examine the unintended consequences of Britain's "best-laid plans" for the Middle East.



Then, like Doc. Brown, JPM guided us back in time to 1917. At the time, Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire, but not for long; when the Ottomans were on the brink of defeat in December 1917, British prime minister Lloyd George humorously ordered General Allenby to deliver Palestine and Jerusalem "as Christmas presents for the nation". And so, the Holy Land fell into British hands. Immediately, Britain wanted to make the best-laid plans for the region, with Allenby promising to "maintain and protect" the existing customs of its three religions. JPM revealed that these plans would soon collapse.

Firstly, the Zionist movement, fostered by antisemitism in Europe, was beginning to gain support. In 1896, the Austrian Jew Theodore Herzl wrote *The Jewish State*, arguing that the Jews needed 'a part of the globe big enough to meet the Jews' rightful needs.' Accelerated by the chaos of WWI, the Jews' millennia-long search for home was revived. Some Arab leaders supported the Zionist cause, saying, "We look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement". By the outbreak of WWI, there were 500,000 Arabs and 90,000 Jews living harmoniously in Palestine. However, all this was to change due to the unintended consequences of British policy in WWI.

JPM explained Britain's wartime promises in the Middle East and their significant, unintended impact on the region. The Middle East was important to Britain due to its strategic position and its richness in oil. Looking for allies against the Ottoman Empire, Britain made many wartime promises to gather support and achieve victory. In 1915, Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, exchanged letters with Hussein bin Ali, the Sharif of Mecca, intending to secure Arab support. In the McMahon-Hussein correspondence, the British promised to 'recognise and support the independence of the Arabs' in exchange for an alliance against Ottoman forces. However, it also gave the Arabs a glorious vision of self-determination.

The 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement, a secret Anglo-French plan to divide the Middle East into six parts, encapsulated the second of Britain's promises. Britain's Ottoman expert Sir Mark Sykes famously said, "I should like to draw a line from the 'E' in Acre to the last 'K' in Kirkuk", sliding his finger across a map spread out on a table at 10 Downing Street. Thus, Britain and France drew the Sykes-Picot line. By agreement, the two were to have areas of direct control and zones of influence. Palestine was ambiguously labelled as an "international sphere".

Moving on to the third of Britain's conflicting promises, JPM explored the ambiguous Balfour Declaration. The Declaration,

announced in November 1917, attempted to win Jewish support and dismiss French influence in Palestine. Arthur Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, wrote to Lord Rothschild (a prominent British-Jewish leader) in support of the 'establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people... [without] prejudice [of] the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.' Therefore, Britain had now promised the Jews the territory of the Palestinians. Thus, JPM concluded that the British promised the Holy Land to three parties: the Arabs in the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, an "international guardian" in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the Jews in the Balfour Declaration. JPM explains that the British attempted to achieve some compromise, but the "consequence for the Holy Land was an unholy mess."



Britain had intended to please everybody: the Arabs, the Jews and themselves. However, the unintended consequence of these promiscuous promises was that nobody trusted or thanked the British. Despite this mistrust, in the interwar period, Britain attempted to "promote the wellbeing and development" of Mandate Palestine as the League of Nations stipulated, modernising Palestinian infrastructure by expanding railways and roads, laying pipelines, and building schools. However, the political burden of simultaneously "establishing a National Home for Jews" and "preparing Palestine for self-government" proved impossible. As both the Arabs and the Jews believed Palestine to be theirs, there was no room for co-operation or compromise.

In 1929, the heated tension between the Arabs and the Jews finally evaporated the transient dew of post-war peace. A bloody clash in August slaughtered 133 Jews and 116 Arabs. During the 1930s, Jewish influence and population grew in Palestine, much to the concern of the Arab community. By the end of the 1930s, there were 467,000 Jews in Palestine, almost a third of the total population. This pressure prompted the Arabs to rebel against Britain's mandate, which was responded to by the Peel Commission. It found that there was 'no common ground between [the Arabs and the Jews]' and that the 'conflict was inherent...from the outset'. Summing up the situation, JPM commented that Britain's chaotic mandate days left British officials in a "mandate daze".

By the end of the Second World War, Britain's mandate of Palestine was on the verge of collapse. In September 1946, Britain made a futile last-ditch attempt to rescue the region, calling a conference between Jewish and Arab leaders in London. Finally, in February 1947, Attlee's government referred the unsolvable "Palestine problem" to the UN. In November, the UN Special Commission recommended Palestine's partition into separate Arab and Jewish states. On 15 May 1948, Britain formally abandoned the mandate and withdrew her army from Palestine.

Britain's policies in the Middle East tried to please both the Arabs and the Jews; however, the unintended consequence of these conflicting promises was distrust, division and dysfunction in Palestine. The Palestinian Parliament building in Abu Dis lies empty to this day, symbolising the harsh political reality of the region. JPM concluded with some intriguing final questions: was there a road not taken by Britain at the time? Was there a way

to maintain peace between the Arabs and the Jews in Mandate Palestine? In proposing these questions, JPM emphasised the significant impact of consequential hindsight on our opinions. Context and what the decision-makers knew at the time are essential to understanding their decisions. It is a difficult task; though he has spent many summers studying documents about Mandate Palestine in the National Archives at Kew, JPM is yet to find an answer to these questions.

HAVING A STROKE

Medical Society, Penn Behagg, Elmfield, 18 September

Delivering the first lecture of the Medical Society in Autumn 2023, Penn Behagg, *Elmfield*, discussed the mechanisms and details of a stroke. He drew the audience's attention by giving a detailed insight into neuroscience and how the NHS deals with patients who have experienced a stroke.

First he described the differences between the two main types of a stroke: haemorrhagic (when a blood vessel bursts) and ischaemic (when a vessel is blocked). Haemorrhagic cases occur when the blood vessel wall weakens, and the pressure overcomes the wall's strength, resulting in a vessel rupture; ischaemic stroke is caused mainly by a blood clot or a plaque (accumulation of fat). Penn then described the risk factors for these types of strokes. The risk factors of haemorrhagic strokes are head trauma (physical damage to the brain), aneurysms (swelling of blood vessels leading to its burst) and brain surgery (which can inadvertently damage the blood vessels in the brain or give an inadequate supply of oxygen). For ischaemic strokes, any heart problem (like atrial fibrillation or atrial septal defect) is the main culprit. Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heart rate resulting in blood stasis (blood stagnation in the heart chambers). Atrial septum defect is blood stasis induced by the inactivity of heart muscle contraction. Inactivity of the body, not just in the heart, is also a significant cause: for instance, sitting on a plane for many hours can cause blood clotting in several areas of the body. Hence, moving and stretching occasionally during a long flight is essential. In addition, mistakes in surgery can cause ischaemic stroke. In both types of strokes, hypertension and diabetes (patients with high cholesterol levels) are risk factors.

After explaining the causes of different types of strokes, Behagg elaborated on the immediate symptoms of a stroke. Initially, a patient can experience weakness, numbness, nausea, hallucination, mood shift and headache. Additionally, in many cases, most patients need help distinguishing what they see. Penn showed a picture reflecting how patients view the world; the objects are jumbled into unrecognisable things.

Then he talked about existing treatments for strokes. Ischaemic stroke requires catheter surgery, which injects TPA (tissue plasminogen activator), an enzyme that dissolves blood clots, into the human body. However, this treatment can be dangerous since blood clots can break down during the surgery and spread to other places. After the surgery, patients are put on blood thinners for three months, which help prevent blood clots from forming. However, this can lead to internal bleeding, so doctors must choose suitable methods for different patients. The third method is using thrombectomy, a mechanical instrument containing a self-expanding stent, with a wire structure within a catheter. The wire structure grabs the blood clot and shrinks back into the catheter with the thrombus. The most developed type of thrombectomy currently is a stent retriever.

On the other hand, treatments for haemorrhagic strokes are more complex and time-consuming, requiring constant blood pressure monitoring. In addition to surgical methods of physically removing or destroying blood clots, patients are recommended to follow long-term treatments for mental symptoms. For instance, being hospitalised for 3–4 weeks alone can cause

mood shifts, so doctors prescribe suitable antidepressants to alleviate the symptoms.

Behagg also explored case studies of patients with different areas of stroke and described their various symptoms. For instance, a 50-year-old male who experienced an ischaemic stroke in the cerebellum would experience a lack of co-ordination of movement and sense of balance. On the other hand, a 75-year-old male, having suffered a haemorrhagic stroke in the Broca area of the brain, can experience difficulty in communication.

Last but not least, Penn explored how the NHS handles patients with a stroke, using a flow chart that illustrated different steps for patients with varying stroke severity. Initially, in the best-case scenario, all stroke patients are hospitalised and assessed for their condition. If the patient is hospitalised immediately after experiencing a stroke, they are less likely to suffer from severe strokes, so they can be sent home with a carer or a familial relation. However, if the stroke is severe, the patient moves to a rehabilitation centre, where they undertake physiotherapy and practise basic body movements that they may not be able to do after the stroke. This process of relearning takes a long time and differs across people. Thus the rehabilitation plan lasts four weeks in the hospital, and requires suitable exercises with care equipment to return to normal.

It was a successfully delivered lecture and the audience engaged with questions at the end. The Medical Society awaits the following lecture in the series.

ECONOMETRICS AS DATA

Pigou Society, Mark Liu, Druries, 21 September

Mark Liu, *Druries*, spoke to the Pigou Society on econometrics, a university-level topic that is often misunderstood. The talk started with Liu addressing the definition of econometrics, which he simply stated is 'data'. He later expanded on that, by stating that econometrics is the use of real-world economic data to quantify economic relationships using models. Indeed, there are multiple applications of econometrics, such as modelling economic relationships, data analysis and hypothesis testing.

Liu introduced two concepts in his talk, the first one being simple linear regression. In simple terms, a simple linear regression is just like a typical $y = mx + c$ graph, except that the y term is the dependent variable, and the x term is the independent variable. Using wage and education as examples, Liu stated that if we compare wage and education on a simple linear regression graph, the results show that the higher the number of years of education, the higher the wage a person gets.

However, such a graph can only show the correlation between the x and y variables, but it doesn't show the actual causality, which he later explained that causality requires *ceteris paribus*, which means 'all other things being equal'. Then Liu introduced the second concept, called multiple linear regression. Multiple linear regression works in the same way as simple linear regression, except instead of having one x variable like in simple linear regression, there are multiple x variables in multiple linear regression, which allows it to have *ceteris paribus*, as it holds all other factors constant. Reverting to the wage and education example, Liu introduced a new variable called IQ into the equation, and by doing a comparison between the simple linear regression without the addition of the x -variable IQ and the multiple linear regression with the variable IQ, we see that there is a significant difference between the resultant amount of wage.

Liu further used the example of pay discrimination. After using a software called STATA, which enabled him to analyse and produce graphical visualisation of data, Liu showed that if we use simple linear regression and simply comparing the gender and the wage, there seems to be a significant increase in men's wages than women's. However, if we use multiple

linear regression and use more variables such as years of education and IQ, we learn that the difference between men's and women's wages weren't as significant as the results we saw in the simple linear regression model.

Lastly, Liu introduced another application of econometrics in macroeconomics, which is the Phillips Curve. In a normal curve, the lower the inflation rate, the higher the unemployment rate. However, historical data has shown that while that is true between the years 1900–40, in the 1960s, the graph showed the opposite, as when the inflation rate was decreasing, the unemployment rate also decreased. Here, Liu reintroduced the usage of multiple linear regression, where he factored in variables such as unemployment gap, inflation expectations and past inflations to showcase the reasons that the trend in the 1960s did not follow the Phillips Curve.

THE SPACE RACE

Astronomical Society. Nicholas Robu-Malaure, Bradbys, 21 September

In the inaugural lecture of the Astronomical Society, Nicholas Robu-Malaure, *Bradbys*, explored the Space Race – the American and Russian rush to the Moon. Mankind, for a brief 12 seconds before a bone-breaking crash, set flight with the Wright brothers and their aeroplane in 1903. The first kiss of the sky signalled a flurry of scientific and engineering innovations fuelled by humanity's age-old obsession to reach the stars.

A part of the craze evolved from a Cold War American-Soviet arms race from 1957 to 1969. The US and USSR recruited hundreds of Nazi scientists to develop weapons and military equipment to gain an advantage in the technological show-down. The White House concentrated funding into the first Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), which travelled above the Earth's atmosphere with speed and precision. Realising ICBMs, potential as rockets, a part of the research group broke off to develop missiles that pointed at the Moon, not Earth.

In 1955, President Eisenhower announced that the US would send a man-made object into space by 1959. Three days later, the USSR bettered the US's statement, saying they would do the same by 1958. The US and USSR fulfilled their promise to the public one year ahead of schedule; in 1957, the Russians sent Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, into space. The satellite relayed radio waves for three weeks before its batteries died.

Frustrated, President Eisenhower created NASA from tax money in 1958 to boost the country's chances of victory in the space race. However, the Russians maintained the lead, landing Luna 2 on the Moon in 1952 and capturing the first photos of the far side of the Moon with Luna 3. The US Ranger programme desperately attempted to match the Soviet achievement. Rangers 1–4 exploded in flight. Ranger 5 reached the Moon five years after Luna 2, yet crashed upon landing. After three years and \$300,000,000,000, Ranger 7 granted the US its first successful Moon landing. The US successfully retrieved four lunar images from 28 attempts, whereas the Soviets retrieved three from 11.

On board Vostok 1, Yuri Gagarin became the first man to enter space on 12 April 1961, and became a national icon in Kazakhstan. The US's chimpanzee astronauts faced a less ideal fate, left to die in space by US scientists unable to recover the vessels. John Glenn became the first American to enter orbit in 1962.

The leader of the Soviet space programme, Sergey Korolov, passed away in 1966. Hopeless and lost without his encouraging presence, many scientists quit. Meanwhile, the Americans were rapidly moving towards something promising. The US raced past the Soviets with the infamous Gemini spacecraft, perfecting re-entry methods, calculating orbital sling-shot procedures, and training for long-term missions in low-Earth orbit in preparation for a human Moon landing. The final stage of the

race commenced with the Apollo project. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the Moon on 20 July, 1969, enabled by the 11 Americans and many more animal astronauts who had died since the Mercury programme. Their spacecraft, Apollo 11, is now a world-famous name, recognised and deified by all generations.

Meanwhile, the Russians faced a crippling economy. Distracted by the struggling people, the Soviet's hope of reaching the Moon was over. As the three-man Apollo 11 crew stepped out of their capsule after a 21-day quarantine, the United States marked its victory in the Space Race.

FUTURE OF THE ARCTIC

Senior Geography Society, Ben Taylor, The Knoll, 'The future of the Unclaimed Territory', 22 September

With Old Music Schools bolstered and locked down, like a prison, at 9pm on Friday night, ten of the keenest geographical troopers in the School ventured to The Knoll Bill Hall in order to listen to Ben Taylor's 'The Arctic: The future of unclaimed territory'. JLM took great pleasure in adding mood lighting to create an atmosphere of serenity and peace and, within no time, we were set to begin.

Taylor began passionately discussing a brief history of the Arctic and the conflicts that have occurred in order to claim the barren land. Particularly interestingly, the area's history dates back to 330 BCE, a time in which most humans would not even think of carrying out an expedition more than ten or 12 miles from their home. We then proceeded to the issue of climate change and the obscenely large impact it is having on Arctic ice. As ice melts, sea levels rise, creating an Albedo effect that could mean that we are ice-free by 2400, if not sooner. There are, however, ways to combat this. For example, natural plant growth, agricultural opportunities and the reduction of emissions can all help to contribute to a slower ice melt.

A particularly interesting part of this talk involved resources in the Arctic and the way in which humans exploit them. To begin with, I believed that the Arctic had very few or even no resources at all, but this could not be further from the truth. Ninety billion barrels of oil, 44 billion barrels of gas liquids, and 1.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas all exist in the Arctic. This is naming only a few. All these resources, of course, mean competition from different countries. Russia, Canada, the USA, Norway, and Denmark, also known as the 'Arctic Five' have all been competing for the abundant resources that exist. Competition naturally leads to the introduction of armies, the fifth main concept in Taylor's talk. Denmark has created an Arctic response force, Russia has built six new military bases and Canada has been steadily reinforcing with tanks and troops. It is clear to say that tensions are rising. Thousands of tanks, jets and ships have been allocated to the Arctic purely to defend resources.

Planning has also become an important subject, especially in the form of 'icebreakers'. These are huge boats that can take one billion dollars as well as ten years to build. Russia currently has 45, whereas the USA has one. Obviously, some countries seem to care more about the Arctic than others. China has just commenced the building of one of these vessels, whereas Russia plans to create a floating nuclear power plant capable of withstanding the weight of 10 feet of ice. Taylor believes that icebreakers will become far more common as more ships travel the uncharted waters around the Arctic.

And so, in conclusion, the Arctic has seen a rapid increase in desire to safeguard military and commercial routes and resources. There has been an overarching sense that what is lost is others' gain and so no losses can be allowed to occur. Problems that were once theoretical have suddenly become very real due to the rapid melting of ice and this means that

decisions have to be made – fast. Laws have been passed to ensure the protection of the Arctic ice has been taken into consideration. Territorial disputes and treatment of minority peoples have also been included in these laws.

Taylor summed-up the entire talk in one, extremely powerful line: ‘In order to benefit the future of our planet and to ensure that the Arctic remains for our future generations to explore and discover, we must first overcome our suspicious human nature and start making a difference.’

HIGH & LOW CULTURE

Debating Society, The OHs v The Boys, ‘This house believes there should be no difference between high culture and low culture’, OSRG, 22 September

Editors’ Note: While this piece seeks to be impartial, it is not entirely devoid of personal opinion!

According to some Old Harrovians, Taylor Swift’s *Cruel Summer* carries the same cultural weight as *Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No 2*. The reason? ‘This house believes there should be no difference between high culture and low culture’.

In the Boys v OH debate last Friday, OHs Gareth Tan (*Moretons*, 2019³), William Warhope (*The Knoll*, 2017³), Aakash Aggarwal (*Lyon’s*, 2017³), and Haiwei Li (*Bradlys*, 2020³) addressed the OSRG in favour of the motion above, against the firm opposition of Robert Young, *The Grove*, Arturo Saville Mascioni, *Rendalls*, Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry, *Lyon’s*, and Ben Shailer, *Rendalls*.

What exactly is ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture? The boys suggested that ‘high culture’ comprises both classical masterpieces (Beethoven, Renaissance works, Shakespeare) as well as unpopular innovations (e.g. the more radical end of modern art palatable only to a few). In contrast, ‘low culture’ are forms of culture that have mass appeal. This definition sustained most of the debate.

The rest of the exchange and discourse, I believe, revolved mainly around three themes: the creation, appreciation and preservation of culture.

Side proposition advocated for a world where ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture can mix freely, claiming this provides artists with a greater arsenal of tools and lays fertile ground. They contended that if we distinguish between high and low culture, artists are more likely to grow into these stereotypes, actively harming the creative process. Meanwhile, side opposition argued that great revolutions in culture often lose money initially; without the banner of high culture, people are less incentivised to fund and support innovation, leading to less artistic progress.

Side opposition also countered the proposition case by citing Andy Warhol’s *Campbell’s Soup Cans*. They explained that the distinction between ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture itself can be used as a source of artistic richness – by laying mundane ‘low culture’ in the medium of ‘high culture’, Warhol subverted expectations and created a timeless piece of art.

However, the OHs pointed out that Warhol’s works were well-received publicly. Works of ‘high art’ may also appeal to the populace; indeed, Shakespeare’s plays were enjoyed by people across all classes and professions. Thus even without the tag of ‘high culture’, these forms of art are still likely to survive. Hence removing the tag of ‘high culture’ does not necessarily remove funding. Additionally, by blurring the lines between what constitutes which type of culture, the OHs made the rest of the debate a much harder battle for the boys.

From side proposition came the idea of accessibility and personal fulfilment. Without a clear separation between types of cultures, people are more encouraged to mix and explore genres, improving their ability to experience culture as a synthetic whole. Side opposition refuted this via some rather ingenious demonstrations: Young showed the audience how his pocket watch operated, and narrated a vivid story of watching

The Simpsons (‘low culture’ apparently) while using it (‘high culture’). He also reminisced about the time he went to “watch an opera in jeans”. Moral of the story? Distinctions between cultures do not stop individuals from appreciating culture across all spectrums. Or so claimed a white male going to an all-boys independent boarding school.

The biggest idea from the opposition was cultural preservation. By classifying certain relics as belonging to ‘high culture’, society is more prepared to recognise and preserve them. However, side proposition discerned that culture is neither static nor objective. It is an organic mess without clear boundaries. Works of culture are constantly shifting between ‘low’ and ‘high’ culture: *Narnia* may be a children’s book (‘low culture’), but its discussions of the Christian faith has undeniable roots in ‘high culture’ – and that’s why it is a modern classic. Moreover, even if we could reliably recognise works of ‘high culture’, it is unrealistic to preserve ‘high culture’ of the time for rediscovery and revival by posterity. Classics are created when their value surpasses time and continues to inspire future work, not the other way round, because they are placed on some pedestal of ‘high culture’ to be maintained and inspected.

The outcome of the debate was, ultimately, in favour of the proposition.

The opposition terrified us with a vision that culture without delineation descends into chaos, satisfying mass consumerism, curbing innovation and destroying classics. Meanwhile, the proposition argued that ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture are inseparable and neither of them inferior; that in an ideal world, there should be no boundaries between the two, allowing for greater artistic expression and enjoyment.

In a sense, perhaps culture is a self-winding machine. Greater diversity spurs artistic progress, and I am not entirely convinced by the rigid picture of culture offered by the opposition. However, I also remain sceptical that ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture can mix into a homogenous whole; some works of culture will always be enjoyed more readily by a minority rather than the masses. The question is whether we should give them different names, or simply settle it as a question of taste.

METROPOLITAN

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

‘Human’ (Adjudicated by Joseph Li, The Grove)

1st Place: MJM

MJM’s photo is really, really simple, but it carries a lot of information. It shows the reflection of light against worn stairs in Auschwitz. This suits the theme extremely well, as it reads in MJM’s own description: ‘Most who walked here were not thought of as “human”. Others who walked here saw themselves as fully and naturally “human”, but were the most inhuman.’ I usually dislike long descriptions for photo submissions, as I firmly believe that photos speak for themselves. However, in this instance, it gave me much more context to appreciate the photo, aiding my understanding of the truth and beauty behind it. Forgetting about the context, this photo is still stunning. From a visual perspective, the very simple black-and-white editing of the stairs, only leaving the outlines, gives a very comfortable image to look at and understand. One small suggestion from me is another approach to cropping. The square cropping is perfect for this image, and it would be even better if it were to be more zoomed in on the top five outlines, spreading them evenly across the composition. But in all other regards, it is a very beautiful picture and very well done.



2nd Place: Oscar Bearman, Moretons

Bearman's photo is visually stunning. The photo perfectly expresses the harmony between humans and nature; the city in the background alongside the magnificent mountain line blends in with the human cultural rituals being performed here. The haze over the city and the smoke around the people co-operate to emphasise the subject of the photo. The subject is elevated even more as all the others stand around him. One suggestion is to work more on the brightness in editing. The bottom of the photo can be darker, leading towards the mountains and the subject; alternatively, even a vignette would work. But anyhow, it is a very well-taken photo.



3rd Place: John Ye, Elmfield

This photo is very impactful as it shows human curiosity about the past. It employs many photographic techniques (which the photographer himself might not have known about). The slow shutter speed (automatically adjusted by the phone due to the darkness) slightly blurs the movement of the people watching the statue, emphasising the number of people watching it and the crowded nature of the location. As well as this, the lighting is perfect; the background is completely dark and becomes lighter at a gentle gradient when it shines at the people, concentrating the brightness on the subject. One suggestion is to hold the phone more still next time, as the subject is quite blurred when

zoomed in. There is also a little overexposure on the subject, which can be resolved with some editing.



JUNKY

A review by Jonathan Ford, West Acre

In an interview with *The Paris Review*, William S. Burroughs likened the writing process of his book *Junky* to boredom: "I didn't feel compelled. I had nothing else to do. Writing gave me something to do every day. I don't feel the results were at all spectacular. *Junky* is not much of a book, actually. I knew very little about writing at the time." His numb, dispassionate disregard for the novel that established him reeks of a typical irony: Burroughs became a crack cocaine junky for the exact same reasons. "You become a narcotics addict because you do not have strong motivations in any other direction. Junk wins by default. I tried it as a matter of curiosity."

Yet, Burroughs overlooks the blade-sharp observations of *Junky*: its morphing, unsettling depictions of time, places and humanity appear more fascinating the further they recede into the rear-view mirror. His Beat-influenced, hard-boiled prose and clipped, plosive sentences have aged with the intellectual grace of film noir, biting and scathing:

"The cat screamed and clawed me, then started spraying piss all over my pants. I went on hitting the cat, my hands bloody from scratches. The animal twisted loose and ran into the closet where I could hear it groaning and whimpering with fright.

"Now I'll finish the bastard off," I said, picking up a heavy painted cane ..."

Reading superficially as humorous, it burns with a horrific essence; Burroughs evokes a detached yet manic disintegration. In his 1977 introduction, Allen Ginsberg praised the novel as 'a notable accomplishment; there is no sentimentality here, no attempt at self-exculpation but the most candid, no romanticisation of the circumstances, the dreariness, the horror, the mechanical beatness and evil of the junk life as lived.'

Yet, to describe *Junky* as 'good' would be to ignore the work's challenging analysis of morality. Upon an aesthetic level, it suggests the compulsions of art and sex and pleasure as easily forgone within a life measured with needles and drugs; morally, it takes a position beyond conventional cities and limits. Cat torture is meagre. Perplexingly, this is overlaid

with a sense of moral turpitude: it was subtitled 'Confessions of an unredeemed drug addict'. Its editor, Carl Solomons, hurried a worried introduction: 'From its very first lines, *Junky* strips down the addict without shame in all his nakedness ... There has never been a criminal confession better calculated to discourage imitation by thrill-hungry teens ... His own words tell his that he is a fugitive from the law; that he has been diagnosed as a schizophrenic, paranoid; that he is totally without moral values.'

Yet, Burroughs was not schizophrenic; neither was he writing *Junky* to discourage emulation. In a letter to Allen Ginsberg, he wrote: 'I don't mean it as justification or deterrent or anything but an accurate depiction of what I experienced while I was on the junk. You might say it was a travel book more than anything else. It starts where I first make contact with junk, and it ends where no more contact is possible.' Perhaps Burroughs' travels through the world of narcotics fittingly continues with *Queer*, originally intended to be published alongside *Junky*. Written 'off the junk', its explicit queering of the novel through theme and structure provide context to *Junky*'s pre-meditated madness.

Whilst the novel's long, twisting passages may be understood as a form of self-excoriation or condemnation of Burroughs himself, this interpretation ignores that eventual revelations are irrelevant to Burroughs: broken, disjointed, deconstructed, *Junky* merely aims to destroy constructs of life, basking the reader in a world through the eye of a junky. 'Kick is seeing things from a special angle'; *Junky* destroys visions and perception, realigning itself into a position of horror, complacency and humanity.

THE GRADUATE

Film review by Mac McDowell, Elmfield

Moving swiftly on from last week's review of the Japanese film *Rashomon*, I thought I'd welcome us into the new school year with a movie emblematic of teenage defiance and the stressful transition between adolescent folly and getting on with things, one of my favourite films of all times, *The Graduate*. Directed by the famous Mike Nichols, *The Graduate* follows the life of Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman), a college grad who's living with his parents and, despite numerous attempts, is unable to avoid the question of what it is he wants to do with his life. A boring summer of laziness on the California coast goes south when he embarks on a relationship with one of his family friends, the 40-year-old Mrs Robinson (Anne Bancroft). What starts with awkward, cumbersome, and purpose-driven evening escapades turns into a bizarre love-triangle, as the one girl who was "off limits" to Benjamin, ends up being the love interest, Elaine Robinson (Katharine Ross), the daughter of Benjamin's middle-aged friend-with-benefits.

Thought of as the quintessential coming-of-age film, it has strangely divided audiences, with many having loved the film when they were in their twenties, but years later they regard the film as a ham-fisted example of a nerd, regarding Benjamin Braddock as a creep. Others are awestruck by the film's genuine understanding and depiction of teen angst. Having just recently watched it, I couldn't help but fall in love with the film, not only because I sympathise with Benjamin's angst (which I do), nor simply just because I felt a vicarious release during the closing scene when Benjamin finally breaks free from societal norms (which I did). Think of it like *Romeo and Juliet*, which in many respects it is not far from: a gushing teen love story that, when looked at from afar, may seem pathetic and immature, the infatuation of one's first love. Upon reading *Romeo and Juliet*, a younger audience might feel passionate about their love and sympathise with their tribulations, not understanding Shakespeare's deeper criticism of adolescent

obsession. I think the way to look at *The Graduate* is from a few steps back, a look inside an age, a generation; the movie is a feeling, an aesthetic and a story to be appreciated. *The Graduate* is a fun movie to watch, the constant satire running between plot points never fails to make me laugh, and despite Dustin Hoffman's character Benjamin being a rather serious and vulnerable young man, the situations he finds himself in are so ludicrous one can't help but smile. These situations seem to hinder Benjamin's journey of self-discovery in a way that makes the viewer eager to keep watching the back-and-forth struggle and keeps us waiting patiently for the next amusing scenario. Backed up by the incredible soundtrack of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, *The Graduate* so perfectly captures the aimlessness of early adulthood. This is achieved through a specific look sought after by Mike Nichols, having instructed his Director of Photography (DoP), the genius Robert Surtees, to experiment with techniques, it's this creative freedom in the right hands that allowed *The Graduate* to be one of the most visually captivating films of its generation.

Ben is often isolated in shots, showing us how alone he is; zoom shots make him seem small in comparison to others, and his wistful looks into the distance, brilliantly achieved by Dustin Hoffman, draw us in close to the character. One might not catch it upon first inspection, but motifs of water are repeated throughout the film. Above-the-shoulders shots of Ben sitting in front of a fish tank create the illusion that his head is under water, which in many respects it is. For his birthday present, Benjamin is given a scuba-suit and, in a hilarious train of events, is made to march out during one of his parent's cocktail parties and dive in the pool. Utter embarrassment can be seen behind the water-logged mask as Ben struggles to get in the water. Upward shots of Ben being almost drowned by his enthusiastic parent show how helpless Ben really is. Where, at the beginning of the film, are scenes of Ben under water, struggling in it, wading through it, once he starts seeing Mrs Robinson, Ben is shown floating on the surface of the water on a raft, more able to deal with life and, in a way, now, 'on top of things'. This sense of fleeting confidence is repeated more than once in the film, only to be toppled over by something completely left field. Another instance of Surtees's photographic experimentation is a shot of Ben running in pursuit of Elaine, the shot is held from far away as if to imply the lack of progress Ben is making. Having a good DoP is crucial in creating a timeless film and Robert Surtees is the man in this respect, having been behind the brains behind the cinematography of films such as *Ben Hur*, and *The Sting*.

The Graduate is far more cynical than many realise. Ben's pursuit of Elaine is at times obsessive, stalker-like and creepy, at one point even driving up to Berkley and waiting outside her classes for her, eventually following her to the zoo. Mrs Robinson's seduction of Ben is not at all subtle and comes off as predatory. However, laced with satire by Nichols, all these scenes come off as charming. The 1960s' aesthetic in *The Graduate* makes for an irreverent atmosphere that draws you into the plot.

The final scene of the film punctuates the whole experience. The escaped lovers, Elaine in her white wedding dress, and Benjamin in a common black shirt, both beaming with happiness and laughter as they sit on the back of a bus driving further and further away from what would have been a terrible mistake. Simon and Garfunkel's 'Sound of Silence' plays as they sit still on the rocking bus facing the camera, the judging old faces on the bus looking back at the couple contrasting with the fresh promising young faces smiling back. The shot of Elaine and Benjamin is held for a full 40 seconds, beginning with loving looks between the two until a tangible sense of realisation dawns on them both. We realise that the movie's sense of uncertainty that's followed us for one hour and 46 minutes has not gone away, only faded momentarily. What Benjamin thought he wanted most, he's now achieved: the girl he fell in love with

by his side, both of them at last broken free from their family dramas and now burdenless, they can finally be happy. The feeling of ecstasy wears off and we are left looking at two young people who are just as directionless as they were before the movie even started. We root for the couple of rogues and, when responsibility sets in, we see how real their situation is, and, in this respect, the film comes alive for audiences. The final scene, teeming with drama and tension is the cherry on top of what is a brilliantly directed and tight film.

I hasten to remind you to send any of your own movie suggestions to 21macdowellm@harrowschool.org.uk.

SHEPHERD CHURCHILL

From the Archives

Welcome back to From The Archives. This week, our article is relatively recent. It comes from Volume 117, No. 26, published 29 May 2004. Naturally, the SCH is still changing around us today, but the principle still stands; around the School I often here complaints about the food from the Shepherd Churchill, I have often done the same (the School must learn how to cook here), but this witty and intriguing article might just shift your perspective a little and we could all learn to be a little more grateful for the three meals we eat every day.

My, my, my, how some people love to hate school food! It's dull, they say, tasteless and repetitive. But what an easy target the Shepherd Churchill is. We have no choice but to eat there, we only have certain choices of what to eat when we get there, and there is the feeling that the food happens to us without any input from us. What is more, the Central Dining Hall itself is an essential social centre for everybody. We go there three times a day, we meet friends from other houses, we socialise and relax - all this makes the place a vital focus of day-to-day life, maybe not as important as the houses, but more important in some ways than the form rooms. While these feelings might go some way to account for the high profile the Shepherd Churchill has in our lives, they don't explain why it is sometimes the target of such astringent whingeing.

Perhaps the main problem the Domestic Bursar has to face is that we invest so little of ourselves in the School food. We feel free to criticise it because it is arranged for us - most importantly it is not paid for at the point of consumption. No coolly independent observer could say that much of the fast food we eat (take for instance the pizzas which are delivered to the houses on weekend evenings by a seemingly endless column of cars, vans and mopeds) is tasty, quality fare, stuffed with vitamins and minerals. But if you ask anyone if it is nice, they reply with a cheery affirmation, "It's great!" If you have just shelled out ten quid of your own money from your own pocket, what are you going to say? If you take a fair look at the Shepherd Churchill food in this light, you will surely see that it is really rather good: varied, full of flavour and thoughtfully produced with the teenage consumer in mind. Clearly not everyone will enjoy every dish, but there is a choice. And this choice is expanding with the recently introduced fish, salad, rolls, fruit and yoghurt options at lunch, as well as the more frequent return of more popular dishes. While there is a good quantity of the fried, fatty food (like chips) that most people enjoy, there is also a decent measure of protein-filled, high value meat, as well as interesting vegetarian options, fruit, salads and so on. The quality of the ingredients used is evidently good, and the cooking of them is industry standard, as those of us who visit other schools for matches must surely see. It is nonsense, though, to compare school catering with either home cooking or restaurant food.

The Shepherd Churchill kitchens have to feed about a thousand people three times a day. Each meal must last no more

than about forty minutes. Surely these facts require a different approach to cooking and to service than would be employed in different circumstances. We must expect the outcomes to be different. Not worse: different. Of course, nothing is perfect, and occasionally things go wrong, but by and large the staff who cook and serve our food are a dedicated and thoughtful team, who have a great deal to put up with in terms of unhelpfulness from some customers.

The Head Master has recently announced further improvements and extra expenditure on food which will continue the developments of recent years. Even the building itself, which was so controversially modern in the 1970s, is being constantly reviewed to see that it continues to meet the heavy load which is daily placed upon it. So how about not joining the instinctive complainers? How about taking a positive view of one of the undervalued strengths of our school life?

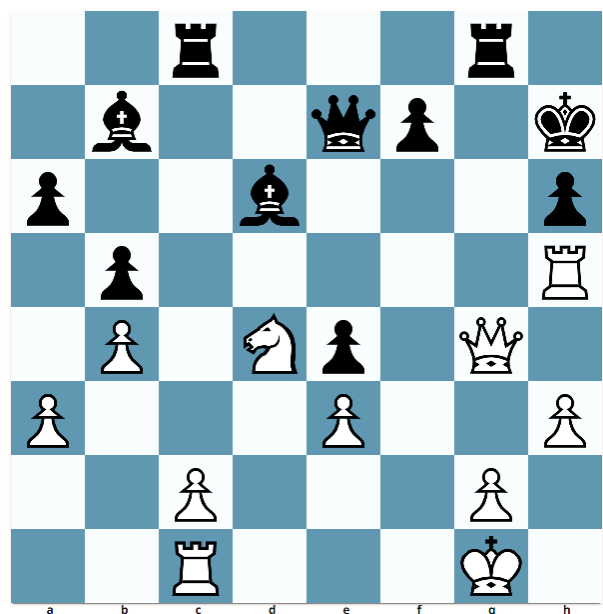
CHESS

The weekly puzzle set by JPBH. This week's comes from an anonymous online game from 2020 (perhaps less glamorous than some of the other puzzles, but no less interesting!).

Submit your solution by email (jpbh@) to enter the termly competition.

White to play and mate in 3 moves.

Last week's answer: **1. Re1+ Rxe1** (else 2. Qxc1 leads to mate) **2. Rxe1 Qxe1 3. Qb7#**.



Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

HERE AND THERE

Congratulations to the following boys who have been awarded honorary Art scholarships: Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, Nick Arnison, *Moretons*, William Chen, *The Knoll*, Artur Kuner, *West Acre*, Arturo Saville-Mascioni, *Rendalls*, Jonathon Dolby, *The Knoll*.

Congratulations to Joseph Li, *The Grove*, who has been awarded an honorary scholarship for swimming.

Raulph Lubbe, *The Grove*, and Naryan Seehra, *Lyon's*, have been awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship this year. This is a highly competitive national scholarship in the field of engineering.

OPINION

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

‘Why are we queueing in cross country? Harrow truly is a very British School’

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRS,

I am writing with frustration. These blasted backgrounds on our computers! I understand that they must be School-mandated, for obvious reasons, but perhaps the School could offer some alternative options? Perhaps some close-up shots of the Houses or colours to show House pride, or a view of the playing fields for the sport-focused boys? The inside of Speech Room, Chapel or St Mary’s? These could be beautiful desktop backgrounds. What about some images from our Raleigh Observatory? In this way boys could retain some semblance of individuality whilst being a part of a collective whole. For two years, I have greeted a bird’s eye view of the High Street. For three years I have glanced upon a greener Speech Room. For three years I have born witness to our School’s beautiful crest, in case I forget where I am.

I have not forgotten what School I go to and I promise – I swear on my copy of the Bill Book – that I will not forget the name and crest of the school I attend if we change those cursed backgrounds.

Yours most emblazonedly,
ARJUN KULAR, *ELMFIELD*

SPORT

RUGBY UNION

The School v Wellington, 21 September

Colts A, Away v Wellington College, Won 10-7

The Colts A squad showed immense courage and fellowship to turn a 20-point defeat in their previous season into a well-deserved victory.

Colts B, Away v Wellington College, Lost 12-24

The Colts Bs made a slow start to the game after a shortened warm-up and struggled to get into the flow of a fast-paced game. Many careless handling errors halted any go forward ball and momentum. The second half saw a more resurgent Harrow Colts team playing with confidence and skill. Good support play and physicality saw them dominate a large portion of the second half. Unfortunately, a basic handling error, after sustained pressure, saw the opposition extend their lead with a breakaway try. The Colts did come firing back, running in a late try but a little too late.

The 1st XI v Wellington, 23 September

The 1st XV were made to battle hard for their victory on Saturday by a physical Wellington side. Despite not producing the performance they would have desired, the team adapted well

late in the game and dealt with the pressure of the occasion fantastically. Tries from Freddie Dinan, *Rendalls*, Reggie Hammick, *The Knoll*, Kepu Tuipulotu, *Druries*, and Seb Brindley, *The Park* and 6 out of 6 kicks from Filip Edstrom, *Bradby’s* were enough to lead Harrow to a seven-point victory.

2nd XV, Home v Wellington College, Won 24-5

The 2nd XV continued their winning start to the year with a 24-5 victory at home to Wellington College. In their most complete performance of the season to date, the 2nd XV showed plenty of dog and determination in defence, alongside some clinical attacking touches off set piece to overcome a strong Wellington College 2nd XV.

3rd XV, Home v Wellington College, Won 15-13

The match started with an intense defensive set from Harrow where they appeared to have the better of Wellington. As the half went on, the Wellington carriers began winning the collisions with extra leg drives, winning crucial hards and putting the defence on the back foot. Wellington powered over twice to take a 10-0 lead at half-time. The competition at the breakdown was fierce with Oscar Sutherland, *Lyon’s*, Digby Emus, *Rendalls*, and Seb Boreham, *Elmfield*, all over the ball quickly. Tobi Olorode, *Elmfield*, secured what he described as the first jackal of his rugby career. Wellington also competed aggressively at the breakdown. The injuries piled up for both sides. Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master’s*, and Michel Quist, *The Grove*, carried the ball willingly and tirelessly but were consistently repelled. Eventually, a quick tap penalty from the nuisance that was Charlie Nelson, *Bradby’s*, drew the score back to 7-10. Hugo Evans, *The Park*, later powered over in the corner for Harrow to take the lead the lead for the first time in the game with ten minutes left (12-10).

Some ill-discipline from the Harrow defence and a couple of penalties led to a shot in front of the sticks from 30m out, which Wellington scored. 12-13 with five minutes to play. Harrow quickly got the ball back in the Wellington half and forced a penalty. Edward Swanson, *Druries*, stepped up to the plate and side-footed a curling kick over the crossbar from 35m out, more reminiscent of David Beckham than Jonny Wilkinson but certainly better than South Africa’s kicking. 15-13 with two minutes to play. Wellington did the same and got the ball back quickly in this ping-pong match. They got a penalty but decided it was a little too far out and kicked for touch. Unfortunately they overthrew their lineout for Sutherland to sweep up for the third time in the match. Harrow then very wisely chose not to kick the ball away. Nelson screaming at the ref to know when time had elapsed so he could kick it out after a series of big carries. In the end he didn’t need to as Wellington infringed to end a hard fought and attritional match with great running rugby displayed by both sides.

4th XV, Home v Wellington College, Lost 17-33

Junior Colts A, Home v Wellington College, Lost 12-29

Harrow started off slowly conceding two tries early on. However, a brilliant run from Colville Wood, *Elmfield*, who picked up a loose ball, muscling his way through a shaken Wellington defence and scoring a great individual try as Harrow went into half time behind. Wellington’s kicking game was strong throughout but Harrow dealt with it well. Wellington went on to score another three tries in the second half, extending their lead. However, Nic de Leo, *The Park*, with five minutes remaining, was rewarded for his strong running throughout the match charging over the line to score a consolation try under the posts.

Junior Colts B, Home v Wellington College, Won 22-10

The JCBs rallied from going 5-0 down to eventually achieve a 22-10 victory. A pair of outstanding solo efforts from Henry



Zhu, *Bradlys*, accompanied by two short-range, powerful finishes by Sebastian Sasegbon, *Moretons*, ensured that The Diggers recorded a well-deserved win.

Alongside the try scorers, special mentions go to Abraham Babalola, *Druries*, who celebrated his birthday by seemingly tackling every Wellington player on the pitch, and to Digger of the Week, Lere Pedro, *The Grove*, who came off the bench to produce two remarkable charges up the field as well as act as a general nuisance to the Wellington defence throughout.

A brilliant game of rugby, played in a wonderful spirit by both sides.

Junior Colts C, Home v Wellington College, Won 78-12

A magnificent display of free flowing and eye catching rugby saw the Junior Colt C end with a 78-12 victory over Wellington. Tries by: Tito Odunaike x3 Zino Mendicino x3 Bomi Shodipo x2 James Ho x2 and 8/13 conversions Billy Browne Prejeev Suhitharan Rupert MacDonald. Man of The match James Ho, *The Knoll*.

Yearlings A, Away v Wellington College, Lost 0-17

Despite big steps forward, Wellington were clinical with their few opportunities.

Yearlings B, Away v Wellington College, Lost 17-35

A well fought first half left Harrow in a strong position going into the second half. However, Wellington College were very aggressive in the breakdown, causing problems for Harrow, who couldn't add to their half-time score.

Yearlings C, Away v Wellington College, Won 44-0

During the campaign in the Iberian Peninsula in 1810, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, in whose memory Wellington College was founded, remarked of his soldiers: "I don't know what effect these men will have upon the enemy, but, by God, they frighten me." If he had watched Harrow's Yearlings C team train this week, he might have expressed the same sentiment. The team that boarded the coach to confront Wellington at their East Berkshire home was a much-changed side to last week, and even seasoned Under-14 rugby forecasters were struggling to predict how they would fare against this week's opposition. However, like the Duke of Wellington's campaign in the Peninsula, it turned out to be a one-sided affair.

Playing on the famous Bigside for the first time in recent history, Harrow kicked off uphill and rarely left Wellington's half. Although Ayomide Ajayi, *The Knoll*, had forgotten his shorts, he remembered how to tackle, putting in the first crunching hit of the game, and he proved to be energetic and physical thereafter. Within the first few minutes of the match, some strategic kicking by Loic Du Roy De Blicquy, *Elmfield*, and clever lineout play by Hugo Boreham, *Elmfield*, and Alwin Huang, *The Head Master's*, saw Harrow cross the try line, but only for the ball to be dropped. This proved to be one of Harrow's few errors of the afternoon, and these three boys

continued to stand out all game. Du Roy de Blicquy marshalled his men with growing assertiveness and confidence, and he tackled with ferocity. Meanwhile, Boreham and Huang carried the ball into the Wellington line with impunity. It took Harrow seven minutes to score the first try, Boreham's breakthrough presenting fellow forward Nedum Njoku, *The Head Master's*, with an opportunity to score. Du Roy de Blicquy kicked the conversion, the first of two in the course of the game. Other highlights from the first half included Henrick Willet's, *Druries*, determined running, and Ethan Francois', *Rendalls*, pace and step to score the second try. Chuyang Peng's, *Druries*, momentum and power, even when under attempted restraint by multiple Wellingtonians, allowed him to score two tries just before the end of the first half.

Confidence was high when the team mustered to reflect on the 24-0 scoreline at half-time, and Wellington faced an uphill struggle, quite literally, in the second half. Recent Yearlings C recruit Larry Jang, *The Park*, set the tone for the rest of the game within the first few minutes of resuming; his evasion skills are impressive, and he made enormous gains in territory every time he received the ball. Boreham scored the first try of the half, running down the left wing, and Huang scored from the halfway line soon after. Jang was finally rewarded with a try in the final minutes of the game, we managed to earn a further five points for Harrow just before the whistle went. Kiran Patel, *Druries*, deserves special mention for grasping the principles and positioning of playing at fullback at short notice, and he proved to be as effective at finding gaps in attack as he was at being reliable in defence. He has great potential in this position. If there were any criticisms of the team's performance, Harrow gave away too many penalties for high tackles, and the space on the wings was not exploited; these will be areas on which to focus in future training sessions. This is essential because this season will bring greater challenges than the Wellington College side the boys faced this week.

Although Wellington College was one of the 21 founding members of the Rugby Football Union in 1871, the Harrovians showed the Wellingtonians how to play the game on Saturday afternoon. It was great to see such an embryonic team play with cohesion and fellowship throughout, and they will go into next week's exeat both ebullient and unbeaten.

FOOTBALL

Development A XI, Home, Whitmore High School 1st, Won: 6-1, 21 September

A committed team performance with pleasing attacking intensity and adventure. It was pleasing to see the whole team working as one hard-working unit, with excellent goals from Max Baygual-Nespatti, *Elmfield*, Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, Max Bloomfield, *Elmfield*, and a brace for Teddy Tarbotton, *West Acre*.

Development B XI, Home, John Lyon School 1st, Lost 1-4

Harrow started brightly, moving the ball nicely through midfield and create some good chances. Before we had a chance to make the most of our possession, John Lyon won a penalty after some miscommunication in the Harrow penalty area. The home side responded well and were soon level thanks to some brilliant centre-forward play from Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, who twisted away from the defender and played the ball across the box for Max Bloomfield to tap in at the back post. Half-time came at an opportune moment for John Lyon, who were forced onto the back foot towards the end of the half.

An early goal for the visitors in the second half saw Harrow heads drop, before John Lyon added a brilliant third and fourth. The overall performance did not merit a 4-1 loss, and Harrow

will keep working to eliminate individual errors in the future. It must not be forgotten that Harrow were facing John Lyon A team, and the team should be proud of their efforts.

Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, and Cameron Childs, *Newlands*, were outstanding on the day, showing composure both on the ball and in 1v1 defensive situations.

Development C XI, Home, John Lyon School 2nd, Won 4-1

The third game of the season saw the Dev Cs' host John Lyon School in a fiery Hill derby that certainly lived up to expectations. From the start it was clear to see the extra work the team had put into training, and, having been boosted by an impressive draw against the Dev B's earlier on in the week in training, the Dev Cs immediately put John Lyon's under the cosh with Leo Mazrani, *The Park*, rattling the crossbar before a composed finish from Tochi Orji, *The Park*, gave Harrow the lead. No matter how hard the John Lyon's attackers tried to find a way back into the game, they were unable to breach the impenetrable defence provided by centre-backs Louis Deshpande, *Moretons*, and Babade Fasinro, *Lyon's*, whose tenacious tackling struck fear into any opposition player who dared take them on. In midfield, Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, and Eddie Cooke, *The Park*, continued to pull the strings and shift the play so quickly that by the time a John Lyon's player was able to touch the ball he was having to pick it out of his own net as Rocco Desai confidently dispatched the Dev Cs' second goal of the game. Fullbacks Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, and Luke Smedley, *Druries*, once again put in commendable performances and provided the width which the Cs had so crucially missed in their previous outing against Forest. Oscar Bearman, *Moretons*, demonstrated his versatility by slotting in for a great shift at left back, before moving into midfield, while Jamie Jevons, *Lyon's*, came on to provide a threat with neat link-up play across the front line. Wanting to prove the haters wrong, goalie Will Wright, *West Acre*, displayed his proficiency in distribution, an ability only top keepers possess, as he teed up Tochi Orji for a third Dev C goal just before half-time. In the second half John Lyon appeared to come out with some renewed vigour, ultimately dissipating in some rash challenges. Tochi Orji then showed his mettle, slotting home a penalty to secure his hat-trick and putting him top of the goalscoring leader board across all the development teams. A brilliant game of football ended with the Dev Cs sealing a resounding 4-1 victory against their local rivals.

GOLF

Neutral, Berkhamsted School Mixed-Under-18A, Won, Swift Foursomes 2023, Swifts Foursomes Cup Match v Berkhamsted, Won 3-0, 19 September

The golf team were looking to bounce back in their second group game of the Swifts National Foursomes competition against a Berkhamsted side, coming off the back of a 3-0 win last week.

First out were Fred Hwer, *The Park*, and Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*. A good drive from Hwer on the 1st put the boys 1up. A birdie on the 4th saw Harrow go 3up after four holes. A wayward tee shot on the 5th and clumsy approach on the 6th from Hwer meant the boys went back to just 1up. A smooth flow of pars soon steadied the ship; thus, Hwer and Cheuk would find themselves 5up on the 13th tee, managing to seal deal on the 15th to win 4-3.

Gus Stanhope and Sam Phillips, both *Moretons*, took on the Berkhamsted second pair. It took a bit of time for the duo to get settled in, which translated to a slow start on the front nine. However, with Stanhope managing to sink some long puts and Phillips striking his irons beautifully, they managed to come home with a 2&1 victory!

Third out were Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, and Kieran Wee, *Newlands*, looking to make it a clean sweep. They started off shakily with a double to halve the hole on the first and a clutch putt from Campbell-Johnston on the second to keep the match all square. In the following five holes, both teams played solid golf with the match continuing at all square. However, this marked the turn for the Harrovians. Four pars in a row on the next four holes led to them going 4up through 11 holes with a ball-striking clinic from Wee and many drained putts from Campbell-Johnston. From here, the Harrow boys played steady golf and after both Berkhamsted boys hit their tee shots long on the par 3 15th they won the match 5&3.

Back to winning ways and looking forward to an outing at Sunningdale for the annual triangular with Stowe and Radley.

CLIMBING

23-24 September, HarroWall Big Comp

The annual Big Comp competition resumed at HarroWall this weekend, with its customary blend of beats, chalk and boulders. This a major competition on the calendar, attracting many of the country's best climbers, including both senior and junior Team GB athletes.

Jaden Lim and Vincent Song, both *The Head Master's*, represented Harrow in the senior category on Saturday. There were only two age brackets: below 16 (juniors), and, you guessed it, 16+ (seniors). Against climbers many times their age and experience, Lim and Song waged primarily a mental war: to not be daunted by the presence of an audience and the glory of the greats. They put on a respectable performance despite the tough boulder problems, finishing in top 70 with multiple flashes each.

It was the juniors' turn on Sunday. All the boys who competed performed well: Adam Yeung, *Elmfield*, Meer Veluvali, *The Head Master's*, and Hiro McLinden, *The Park*, were all placed in the top 100. Rupert Lawless, *The Knoll*, managed to achieve third place, but unfortunately, due to the level of competition, he missed out on a finals place by only three points. However, Lawless' result was the best ever in the School's history of competing in HarroWall Big Comp. We look forward to his promising climbing career at Harrow, as he continues the legacy of the oldest society on the Hill – Marmots Club.

RACKETS

The School v Radley, away, 14 September

1st away v Radley College, Lost

It was a tough start against a strong Radley pair for Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, who showed spirit and resilience to win the third game 17-14 from 14-3 down. They finally lost 1-3.

Colts A away v Radley College, Lost

In an excellent match full of twists and turns, both Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, played with spirit and skill but narrowly lost 2-3.

Junior Colts A away v Radley College, Lost

There were some encouraging signs, despite a 0-3 defeat for Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*.

The School v Malvern, 21 September

1st Pair, Away v Malvern College, Won

A fine performance from Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, who kept their nerve in a tight third game,

coming from 10-12 down to win 18-14. Both boys volleyed well in completing a 3-0 win.

2nd Pair, Away v Malvern College, Won

Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, combined well to display the real advances both boys have made in terms of technique and tactical awareness. A 3-0 win was a fitting outcome.

Colts 1st Pair, Away v Malvern College, Lost

Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, showed skill and determination despite a 1-3 defeat. They lost the fourth game 16-17 to just miss out on a deciding game. A high quality match.

Junior Colts 1st Pair, Away v Malvern College, Won

Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, displayed the benefits of dedicated practice and coped well with an away court to win 3-0. Both boys are showing real progress in their skill sets.

BADMINTON

School v Eton, at home, 14 September

1st v Eton College, Drew 4-4

We played our first game of the year against Eton College, which was a close match. The boys put in incredible effort, fighting for every point. Warren Chew, *Bradlys*, and Elliot Chua, *The Knoll*, gave exceptional performances, being the only pair to win both matches. Ultimately, the game resulted in a draw, with our team winning four games and conceding four.

School v Coopers' Company & Coborn, at home, 16 September, Won 8-0

The boys reflected on their previous game against Eton and acted upon their coach's advice. This resulted in a much more harmonious performance by all the pairs, leading to a decisive 8-0 victory. At the end of the game, the boys demonstrated great humility by praising the opposing teams for their outstanding play.

FENCING

School v St Benedict's, 16 September

The School fencing team competed in all three blades against St Benedict's. Epee A's Hing So, *Newlands*, Henry Barker, *The Park*, and Captain Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, made a valiant effort, pulling ahead in the early bouts but narrowly losing 45-40. Foil A's Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Brian Chang, *Druries*, and Alexander Yong, *The Grove*, gained a handy victory (45-29); Chang's impassioned war cry, despite a bleeding injury to the knee, filled the salle with confidence for the Epee B team – Adi Joshi, *West Acre*, Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, and Cyrus Chang, *Druries*. The B's Chang snatched victory at the last second, impaling the opponent to make the score 44-43. Sudeep Miller, *Lyon's*, Sinan Basak, *Elmfield*, and Oliver Mak, *Newlands* of Foil B had a relatively easy win, defeating

St Benedict's 45-38. Finally, Chang, Goff and Aidan Lee, *The Head Master's*, rejoined the piste as sabreurs. Lee's expert swordsmanship made beautiful work of any opposition, rounding the day off with a 45-32 win. Overall, the School won 219 blades to 187, with everyone putting their complete effort into the first match of the season.

School v Westminster, 21 September

On Thursday 21 September, the School fencing team set out on the long and traffic-filled road to Westminster. Arriving slightly late, the team rushed onto the pistes with Epee A and Foil B starting. The fencing captain Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, started off the match but the opposition's secret weapon (ranked no 8 in the country) also started. This put Epee A at a disadvantage at the start. Unfortunately, they were unable to recover from this early setback, losing 45-28. However, Henry Barker, *The Park*, had a spirited and skilled match against the No 8, beating him 9-4 when the time ran out. Hing So, *Newlands*, also fenced admirably and showed much tenacity. The Foil B's had an amazingly gut-wrenching match with twists and turns at every corner. It was the first performance for the School from Wilfred Kent, *Bradlys*, who proved that there is much potential for him over the next five years. Oliver Mak, *Newlands*, and Sinan Basak, *Elmfield*, both fenced skilfully, with Basak doing exceedingly well, scoring a 15+ hit score (the highest the School has had in two years). Unfortunately, in the final bout, Westminster edged the win with Harrow losing 45-42. The next two matches were Epee B and Foil A with Cyrus Chang, *Druries*, Adi Joshi, *West Acre*, and Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, trying their hardest to match Westminster; however, they also lost 45-36. The Foil A on the other hand brought in the first win of the day with a solid performance from all involved, and especially Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, for his 9+ hit score. The match was won 45-34. Finally, the Sabre team showed off their absolute expertise, winning comfortably with a score of 45-27. There were spectacular performances from Brian Chang, *Druries*, and Aidan Lee, *The Head Master's*, in particular. The School drew against Westminster 196-196 (the first draw in recent memory) with a well-fought performance from everyone involved.

School v Godolphin & Latymer, 23 September

On Saturday, the fencing team travelled to Latymer School for an eagerly anticipated match. The first match was Foil A, which consisted of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Brian Chang, *Druries*, and Wilfred Kent, *Bradlys*. Foil A won 45-23 with strong performances from Goff, who achieved a positive 10 indicator. The next match was Foil B, comprising of Edward Shek, *Druries*, Robert Young, *The Grove*, and Harry Benbow, *The Park*. Foil B won 48-43 with a masterful performance from Young, with an indicator of positive 6. Also, congratulations to Shek and Benbow, who both represented the School exceptionally, for making their debut for the fencing team. In a close encounter, Epee A won 45-43 and was represented by Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, Hing So, *Newlands*, and Cyrus Chang, *Druries*. There was a strong performance by Cullinane, who achieved an indicator of positive 8. Finally, Foil B lost 45-37; however, great courage was shown by Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, Adi Joshi, *West Acre*, and Brian Chang, *Druries*.

Overall, the fencing team won by 172-149, and everyone showed great spirit and honour when representing the School.

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