

# THE HARROVIAN

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## GLEES AND XIIS

19 October, Adjudicator Andrew Carwood MBE  
Director of Music, St Paul's Cathedral

Glee: 1st Elmfield, 2nd Rendalls, 3rd The Head Master's  
Twelves: 1st Newlands, 2nd Elmfield, 3rd The Grove

As penguins gather in their terrifying thousands for warmth in the extremities of the Antarctic, so do England's elite flock in more conservative numbers to the newly refurbished Speech Room to participate in the primal joy of music. Winter may be the bitterest time of year for the penguin, but October is surely the greatest month (and perhaps song) for the Harrovian. For the evening of Gleees and Twelves, when all from the timid scholar to the rugby veteran gather in a touching manner, is held in mid-October. So herewith, is how the evening unfolded in the eyes of two rambunctious reporters of *The Harrovian*.



Firstly, *The Grove*. There's no doubt that their Glee ('Somebody to Love', by Queen) was perfectly choreographed, indefatigably rehearsed and pertinaciously constructed. However, we couldn't help but notice that the whole performance was somewhat over-orchestrated. McKie stood in the centre of the semi-circle, like some South American dictator with all his ministers behind him, letting loose the hounds of hell in a solo that was somewhere between "an angel's beckon" to "an acoustic wedgie". A similar feeling was described to me by my correspondents following the Twelve. Although perfectly rhythmical, the song choice of 'You're Nothing Without Me' was perhaps a little vainglorious. Overall, *The Grove* did quite well, and although they were unable to replicate last year's magnificent double, they did receive heaps of sympathy from the Editor's office and those musically minded among the audience.

The Bradbys Glee performed 'Can't Take My Eyes Off You', which certainly gave a strange combination of Pavarotti and Jersey Boy, with a choir of handbells limping along in the background. The physical formation and movements of the singers gave the impression of a large pack of werewolves roaming the frosty Siberian plains. Surprisingly, this did not compromise the beautiful operatic singing. The Bradbys Twelve ('You're Welcome') was a challenging piece for 12 people to sing together and in sync, but they managed to give a convincing

performance. The operatic tone was shed, and instead, they adopted something which the adjudicator likened to "politicians speaking without actual policies" (without specifying whom). This writer would rather compare it to the "Dizzy Rascal court case", though the Editors thought it to be a thoroughly maritime experience.

Then, the Knoll's Glee performance of 'Suddenly I See' swooped in, injecting a certain adolescent charm into the evening. Notwithstanding, the performance was admirable. (Although, one of my correspondents noted that he could not tell whether they were saying "dum-dum" at the rhythmical interludes or "jam-jam"). The Knoll's Twelve performed 'Another Day of Sun'. Conveniently, "another day of sun" is exactly what every Harrovian prays for during Chapel at this time of year. Curiously, however, despite being asked for sunshine, the faces in the audience were somewhat glum. This was all in stark contrast to the gleaming smiles of the Knollites. And so it's hard to fault the performers for this fact. They performed very well.

Druries' Glee ('Happy Together') began the first of numerous reprises of this 'adolescent charm' described in the Knoll's segment, something quite obvious from the very first note, as the room soon swelled with the melancholic melodies of the Druries. I must add that the treble performance was truly amazing and DNW is strongly advised to pick his soloists for Five Hundred Faces from Druries' talented gang of Shells. The Druries Twelve, 'Fly Me to the Moon', filled the room with swing and loftiness (one might even say lunacy) from the very start. Some felt that the arrangement may have been too low for the singers of Druries as, at many points, the distinctiveness of syllables was somewhat lost. Still, this was not mentioned by the adjudicator.



Lyon's now entered the stage for their Glee. I must note the oddness of their white buttonhole flowers. Given their choice of song ('Ain't No Mountain High Enough'), the whole affair brought to mind an advert from an alpine funeral director who has yet to learn the values of subtlety. However, their singing was excellent. The Lyon's Twelve performed 'You'll Be Back' from *Hamilton*. The Lyonians made a terrifying movement that could, in an older gentleman such as the adjudicator, inspire some kind of aneurysm. Though again, their singing was excellent.

The Park Glee, ‘Killing Me Softly with Her Song’, decided to change some aspects of the song, but really, they shouldn’t have tampered with something already perfect. I am referring to the fact, of course, that they changed the famous lyric ‘killing me softly with his song’ to ‘her song’. The Parkites immediately forgot about their change, for they were soon singing ‘his song’ regardless. So it makes this editor wonder whose song it actually is. But their singing was respectable. Their Twelve (‘Alexander Hamilton’) was a piece that relied less on melody and more on the power of words (a sentiment which surely fanned some of the obviously dying-out braziers of happiness in members of the English Department). The rap section was impressively in sync, especially considering the notorious annoying flare of individuality Harrovians always want to exhibit to the world.



Rendalls, for their Glee, performed ‘Ebb Tide’. We thought it was very moving indeed. In fact, this writer felt that it was in tight contention for the top spot. Its soothing Gaelic whispers washed over the audience in a magical way that evoked *Beowulf*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *The Wasteland* all in one funereal melody. Such Wagnerian tones would not have sounded foreign to the German snobs of Bayreuth. It seems that Rendalls may have run out of House budget for the Twelve (‘Evermore’): whichever composer’s ghost was sitting in the audience in their Glee had probably got bored around Moreton’s Glee and thus decided to leave the auditorium, for evermore.

Elmfield’s Glee, ‘You’ve Got a Friend in Me’, brought us back on a sweet nostalgic hot-air balloon ride to our own childhood: it left us hovering over the realms of infantile imagination, living toys and longer, happier days. The singers sang excellently, and (especially considering the limited ability of the composer) they sang all the right notes at the right time, a task that was obviously a struggle for a few other Gleees. As for the Twelve (‘You’ll Be Back’), Elmfield did not do quite so well (with their disappointing second place), though they were judged to be better than ten other Houses. They gave an impassioned performance, of which (given all that talk of reinventing America, an idea that I am not entirely opposed to) the Daily Mail would lap up if they ever got the chance. It oozed with elitism in a most delectable way.

The Head Master’s Glee (‘Mr Blue Sky’) was a technical masterpiece. One must wonder; why invest in a synth when there are ten keen Head Master’s boys (a motley crew that some may confuse with the extras in background shots from Carol Reed’s *Oliver!*) to do the noises for them? The performance was as inventive as it was easy on the ears and a certain high point of the evening.

Unfortunately, largely due to its late placement in the evening, this writer of this segment took no notes on The Head Master’s Twelve ‘Prince Ali’. Therefore, let it be described thus: sensual.

West Acre’s glee up next, with ‘New York, New York’. They gave a good performance, impressive rhythmical energy and a

nice swing. Moon delivered a particularly impassioned segment, which certainly stood out like a chicken nugget amongst the chips, so to speak. We really quite enjoyed their neat little piece. Their Twelve was equally neat (unlike their innovative Thirteen last year). The pianist performed admirably and, to my mind, the singers were but a distraction. But there were some nice individual performances.

Newlands filled the room with energy, delivering a percussive and persuasive performance of ‘Take On Me’. The various rounds of solos call to mind conferences in the Supreme People’s Assembly, in which each senior member takes a turn to flatter the General Secretary. Or, in a similar vein, it reminds this editor of the Colosseum, in which rebellious slaves were taken, one by one, to be mauled to ribbons by lions: and for what? But bouncing on from their solid performance of their Glee, the Newlands Twelve was truly something impressive. The overall control of the singing was excellent: one might even suspect that they were all hiding trebles within their tailcoats. However, there was a messy indecisiveness between British and American accents, but this was something that the adjudicator thought was outweighed by the quality of the singing (which was, naturally, very good).

Then, Moretons came last. Their moving performance of ‘Beyond the Sea’ had swelling harmonies that crashed into the pillars and wallowed among the viewers in the pit, like great waves that rocked many Harrovians into slumber as we approached the end of the Gleees. Closing off the Gleees is always a hard job, as everyone suffers from the natural tendency to become bored after hearing the same type of sound (namely the human voice) for a long time. Therefore, it is no fault of Moretons that their gentle and soothing melody was not the most energetically received. Their Twelve, in a similar way, was underrepresented. Perhaps this is because no one could understand the words that accompanied the amazing melody of Schubert’s ‘Du bist die Ruh’. For those who did, (and it is a very short list since all the German-speaking boys reported that they didn’t understand a word of it), it was an impressive attempt at such a difficult one of Schubert’s lieder, which was highly commended by the adjudicator.

And thus ended Harrow’s annual competition of Gleees and Twelves. It was a glorious night that fully showcased Harrovians’ wonderful all-round talent: from lusty singing to thunderous clapping to swiftly evacuating Speech Room like a herd of stampeding Serengeti wildebeests leaping into a river (fortunately there were no known casualties this year). Well done to all the performers and the best of luck to those performing next year!

## UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

*Cross-Curricular Lecture Series, Part 4:  
Mr W M A Land, ‘The paradox of enrichment and other  
ecological unlikelyhoods’, 9 October 2023*

“Never stop looking at nature,” WMAL began, showing an enlarged image of a crane fly (taken through his bathroom window with an iPhone using 10x zoom). Though these “daddy longlegs” are regarded as a pest by most, WMAL sees them as the epitome of insect evolution, unmatched by any human creation. First appearing 250 million years ago, they are distant relatives of giant Triassic dragonflies with wingspans of 70 cm. However, crane flies have survived until today, though their transient adult life only spans two weeks.



WMAL outlined the structure of a food chain, then that of a trophic pyramid, although evidently some of the Removes had already removed this knowledge from their brains. The producers, mainly photosynthesisers (and a few organisms living near hydrothermal vents) make their own food, which is something that we usually take for granted, but completely amazed the first person to find out. (Imagine going into a glass box with only air, water and light and getting bigger!) The primary consumers feed off them, the secondary consumers feed off the primary consumers, and it doesn't take an A-level in Biology to figure out that tertiary consumers feed off of the secondary consumers.

Although it may seem great to be a primary consumer (also known by the name 'herbivores' or 'vegan') since your food doesn't tend to run away, most of the energy in plants (which make up most of the biomass of producers) is stored in cellulose, which is very hard to digest, so if you're a cow, you need a four-compartment stomach with included petri dishes to grow specialised bacteria that create cellulase to digest cellulose, and even then you can't get most of the energy that you eat. If you're a secondary or tertiary consumer, on the other hand, your prey is much easier to digest, but, somewhat annoyingly, they don't want to get eaten, so you need to spend a lot of energy catching them. In either case, only a fraction of the energy, with 10% as a rough approximation, gets transferred from one trophic layer to the next. So, if you're a lion in a food chain where you're a tertiary consumer, you need around 1000 lions' worth of producer to support you. It's 1000 degrees of hard being a tertiary consumer, even if you're on the Harrow coat of arms! Not all predators are very big though – meerkats, despite selling you insurance, are secondary consumers!



Then WMAL explored the idea of biological enrichment. There are two main types of enrichment, centred on the nutrients needed for producers to grow: either you could increase the amount of water or the amount of minerals. On the vast African savannahs, an unsung hero enriches the landscape: the African elephant (the focus of WMAL's third-year studies). When one learns a little more about this fascinating megaherbivore (a primary consumer with a mass above 1 tonne, which puts it above a mere herbivore), it comes with little surprise why WMAL was enamoured with the African elephant. How can one not be infatuated with a five tonne digestion machine that egests 75kg of dung – WMAL used a slightly ruder word here – every day?

As elephants do not have cellulase-producing bacteria like cows, they can digest very little from their herbivorous diet. This is why, WMAL explained, elephants eat and defecate so much. Unlike the nefarious fox-droppings on the Ducker fields, however, elephant dung actively enriches the landscape. With its high mineral content, elephant dung enriches savannah



ecosystems by speeding up the recycling of nutrients. Some plants, such as acacia trees, rely on elephants for their seed dispersal: the acacia beans are eaten by an elephant, travel through its digestive system and are deposited in a highly nutritious pile of dung.

WMAL questioned the audience about the effect of enrichment in an ecosystem. Timidly raising his hand, a pale Shell replied, "Surely... the producers will benefit?" This seems to be a perfectly reasonable and logical hypothesis: as there are more nutrients available, producers have more starting materials for protein synthesis and growth. Soon, some of the audience began to recall that WMAL's talk was titled: The Paradox of Enrichment. "Surely... there is a catch? Surely there is something more to enrichment?" At the sound of those words, a beaming smile appeared on WMAL's face – he had finally captured the curiosity of the audience (even ADT's) into the exciting and paradoxical realm of biological enrichment.

WMAL explained that, at first, many more producers can grow due to the increased feasibility of photosynthesis. However, the primary consumers, especially those with very short lifespans such as locusts, soon begin to feast on the food and rapidly reproduce. The same now happens for the secondary consumers and the tertiary consumers. If the period of instability ever ends, paradoxically, the population of producers does not increase too much in the end, and most of the energy goes to the higher trophic levels. "Plants never win, but they support everything," WMAL notes. However, the ecosystem does not always return to stability. Sometimes, two organisms can get stuck in a 'boom and bust' cycle, where each has periods of extremely high population size and periods of extremely low population size, such as the snowshoe hare and lynx. Sometimes, something even worse happens – catastrophically, the ecosystem can get so unstable that a species is driven to extinction, such as in a lab experiment with daphnia and algae.

Enrichment is not the only thing that can disrupt ecosystems though – human activity has caused some very short-term behavioural adaptations to occur in organisms, hunting alternative prey. For example, the great skua, which eats may things including fish and birds and cracks open shells of eggs to eat, has added puffins to their daily menu after overfishing became a problem. Despite the overfishing problem having been solved recently, the great skua still hunts puffins (and shells).

WMAL then concluded with a tranquil image of English woodland (attempting to relieve the Shells' fear of the great skua's malice). However, behind the soothing summer foliage was an existential threat to this peaceful ecosystem: climate change. During recent years, there have been capricious changes to seasonal rainfall patterns and volatile fluctuations in temperature (since the lecture last week, the temperature has already plummeted by 15°C). Therefore, the maximum thermal stress of some plants has been tested, and the phenology (seasonal timing) of flowering and germination has changed for others. In short, everything in nature is constantly changing. And to understand nature, we must never stop looking at it.

## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

1 October

164 Harrovians were among the thousands of students nationally who sat the Senior Maths Challenge on 1 October. The boys performed impressively, with 145 earning certificates of achievement, including 33 bronze, 55 silver and 57 gold. Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, scored full marks (125/125), with Alex Huang, *Druries*, Kevin Zhu, *Bradlys*, and Andy Li, *Moretons*, hot on his heels with 120/125.

By virtue of their performances, 14 boys have qualified automatically for the British Mathematical Olympiad and a further 43 for the Senior Mathematical Kangaroo, which will occur in November. As a taster, here's one of the questions from this year's challenge:

In Bethany's class of 30 students, twice as many people played basketball as played football. Twice as many played football as played neither.

Which of the following options could have been the number of people who played both?

A 19 | B 14 | C 9 | D 5 | E 0

Answers on a postcard!

## MEDICAL SOCIETY

'Cerebral Palsy', Aanu Ajibade, *The Grove*, 9 October

On 9 October, Aanu Ajibade, *The Grove*, spoke to the Medical Society about cerebral palsy. Ajibade began with the causes of this condition. While cerebral palsy fundamentally results from damage to the developing brain, the exact cause can often be ambiguous in many cases.

One form of cerebral palsy is congenital cerebral palsy, which is when it happens before birth or shortly thereafter. Otherwise, cerebral palsy can be acquired, which is classed as the disorder beginning at least 28 days before birth. Congenital cerebral palsy occurs due to damage to the white matter of the brain. Some causes include abnormal brain development. As the name implies, this is when issues in the congenital development in the womb affects the brain of the child. Another cause is bleeding in the brain, which resembles a stroke that can occur in the womb, largely for similar reasons as strokes that happen after birth. The last cause Ajibade mentioned was a lack of oxygen in the brain. This most commonly happens when the umbilical cord is wrapped around the neck, preventing oxygen from reaching the child's brain.

Ajibade then moved on to acquired cerebral palsy, explaining the common causes that involved brain damage. This brain damage occurs mostly within the first few years and includes infections such as meningitis and encephalitis. These infections cause brain damage and are contracted after birth. Another cause is issues with a lack of blood flow. This can be caused by various problems, but a common one is when infants are born with heart problems that decrease blood flow. The last cause mentioned by Ajibade was a lack of oxygen in the brain.

Ajibade began explaining additional causes of cerebral palsy, such as premature birth, infection during pregnancy, breech presentation (when the infant is born feet first from the uterus), multiple births (such as in instances of twins) and when another child dies in the uterus.

Symptoms play a crucial role in identifying and diagnosing

this disorder. They can appear as general developmental delays wherein the child is slow to reach milestones like rolling over, sitting, crawling etc., or they have abnormal muscle tone, where parts of the body are either too stiff or floppy, causing fidgety/clumsy movements, or abnormal posture, where the child uses one side more than the other when moving around.

The early signs of cerebral palsy are different across the age ranges. For children younger than six months, tell-tale signs include when the child's head lags when picked up, showing stiff or floppy muscle control or stiff legs that cross. Children older than six months tend to not roll over. They show limited arm movement, such as clapping or bringing the hand to the mouth, or they primarily use only one hand. After ten months, the children show lopsided crawling and are not able to stand.

Ajibade discussed the different types of cerebral palsy. He mentioned the spastic type, which is the most common. With this, stiff muscles cause jerky movements. Spastic includes subcategories, such as hemiplegia, affecting mostly the body while not affecting the intellect and diplegia. Quadriplegia is the most severe with the inability to walk or speak and, occasionally, intellectual disability. The dyskinetic type often shows symptoms such as slow, uncontrollable movements, where the face muscles are overactive and the person cannot walk steadily. People with the ataxic type are affected in their brain, having issues with balance, depth perception, unsteady walking and problems with fine motor skills, affecting writing or even hearing in some cases. These types can also occur simultaneously, resulting in a combination of these symptoms.

The diagnosis of cerebral palsy can take up to five years. This is because it is challenging to detect the symptoms as they may only become apparent as the individual develops. While these issues can be seen in scans such as cranial ultrasounds and MRIs, these diagnostic methods are expensive and are not put into practice unless there is already a significant concern. Trying to diagnose cerebral palsy often follows along the lines of testing the child's motor skills, monitoring their growth, muscle tone, hearing, vision, posture and co-ordination.

The effects of cerebral palsy are manifold. When contractures, which are responsible for signalling movement, do not develop correctly, it results in faulty movement signals, reducing mobility and impeding proper muscle stretching. Another effect is seizure disorder, where people with cerebral palsy have at least one seizure in their life. Other effects include delayed growth, spinal deformities (such as scoliosis or osteoarthritis), low bone density (such as in osteoporosis), psychological issues and auditory or visual impairments.

The treatments for cerebral palsy are varied, though no cure has yet been found. The first form of treatment Ajibade mentioned was therapy, improving muscle strength and preventing contractions from forming or worsening. Therapy is sometimes of two types: occupational, where the patient practises daily tasks such as brushing their teeth, and speech, where they practise mouth-related activities such as speaking and swallowing, which otherwise they would not have been able to do. The second form of treatment involves drugs, such as diazepam, which can help with liver damage, and muscle relaxants, typically administered through injections into spasming muscles or direct administration in severe cases. The next form of treatment was surgery, particularly orthopaedic surgery or selective dorsal rhizotomy, which is where the nerves at the bottom of the spinal cord are cut to relieve the patient's pain. Another form of treatment is assistive devices such as orthotic devices, braces used to reduce contraction in the limbs, wheelchairs and vision/hearing aids. Apart from these, other alternative treatments range from electrical stimulation to herbal remedies, though few studies have been done to validate their effectiveness. Ajibade should be commended for such an informative talk.

## PARISIAN CHIC

*French Society, Jonathan Ford, West Acre, 9 October*

Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, began the talk by tracing the roots of Parisian fashion. Journey back to the 17th century. France, helped by its booming empire and Renaissance trade, began to assert its fashion dominance. A number of influential figures led Parisian fashion: King Louis XIV viewed fashion as a political tool, even popularising the masculine high heel. The iconic red sole, reminiscent of luxury brands today, echoes this era's influence; Jean Baptiste Colbert's heavy investment in textiles reinforced France's superior class image; Marie Antoinette's 22-inch waist, powdered wigs and tight dresses became the symbol of Parisian fashion. By the 18th century, the city dictated fashion trends similar to today's seasonal cycles, with newspapers publishing the latest styles. Then the Revolution transformed society's norms and fashion. Restrained underpetticoats replaced voluminous dresses, and plain stripes, once the lower-class outfit, became chic. Empress Josephine's promotion of the empire waistline and pristine white, especially for weddings, still resonates in contemporary fashion. The 19th century was haute couture's golden age. Fashion evolved beyond mere sewing, and saw the emergence of designers like Charles Frederick Worth. Department stores introduced the concept of window shopping, democratising fashion. Despite challenges from the emerging 'new world,' Paris held its ground against the USA. From Paul Poiret's emphasis on natural lines to Chanel's iconic hat boutique in the 1920s, the city remained fashion's heart. WW2 presented unprecedented challenges, with the Nazi occupation and rationing almost crippling couture. Yet legends like Christian Dior and Balenciaga emerged, forever imprinting their legacy. The 20th century saw rebels like Maison Margiela challenging fashion norms, and Jean Paul Gaultier's mainstream 'sailor' and 'cone-bra'. The turn of the millennium saw Italy's philosophical challenge with brands like Gucci, and China's rapid ascent in the fashion world. Today, while conglomerates like LVMH control high fashion, Paris's street-level artisans ensure a cultural legacy that promises to endure for generations.

At the end of Ford's lecture, he presented the replica of *le smoking* by Saint-Laurent, which was limited to a number of 30 across the world.



## ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY

*'How to apply to study Architecture',  
Professor Sabine Storp, Director of Admissions and  
Director of Short Courses at The Bartlett School of  
Architecture UCL, 10 October*

On Tuesday 10 October, Professor Sabine Storp, Director of Admissions and Director of Short Courses at The Bartlett School of Architecture, gave an illuminating talk to the Architecture

Society apropos 'How to prepare an architecture application and portfolio'. She began by describing the different types of courses you can apply for to gain a qualification needed to practise as an architect in the UK. You can complete an undergraduate course in four different types of architecture, typically taught over four or five years. It is also possible to study for a postgraduate course to gain a Master's degree, as there are 17 different graduate programmes. They also offer a doctoral programme, professional studies, and short courses for students aged 18 and under as a summer camp which lasts 2–4 weeks.

Many of you reading this may believe that you need to do either A-level Art or DT or even both. This is wrong! You don't need to do either to secure a place at the university. However, there is a minimum grade boundary required to get at A-level (which varies depending on the type of architecture you go into). The grade boundaries are AAA, AAB and BBB. You will also need to get above a C or a 5 in both English Language and Maths in GCSE. To be a successful architect, it is useful to have at least basic knowledge of art to draw on any ideas you may have. During the interview, you would talk about an interest or idea you have relating to architecture, but it should be something about which you can express your thoughts. If you didn't choose A-level Art or DT, you could talk about why you decided to not pick the subjects.

The portfolio is the main talking point in the interview to get into the university and to achieve the degree. It must be an original idea that hasn't been influenced by what your parents or friends told you. The portfolio is only ten pages and can include a collective of work, any workshops or summer school you have attended, but what is important is being highly creative and experimental with your method by thinking outside the box. You should take the criticism and understand your work isn't perfect.

## IS INFINITY A NUMBER?

*Maths Society, JPBH, 11 October*

The talk began with the famous Hilbert's Hotel, which is a hypothetical hotel with infinite rooms designed to demonstrate the concept of infinity. Suppose there are infinite residents currently occupying each room of the hotel. In order to accommodate a finite number of new guests, each of the residents would simply have to move down the number line to provide the accommodation. For example, if two new guests are entering, the guest in room  $n$  would move to  $n+2$ . Since the hotel has an infinite number of rooms, this would not be a problem.

It is also possible to house a new coach with an infinite number of people. There are many ways to do this, but the easiest way would be to move the resident in room  $n$  to room  $2n$ . This frees up all the rooms with odd numbers, therefore providing space for the infinite new customers.

The most difficult situation is when there is an infinite number of coaches each containing an infinite number of people. In this case, we would have to plot a table with the bus number as the columns and the seat number as the rows. Then, we can draw a snaking diagonal line through the table so that everyone gets assigned a room number.

Apart from introducing the interesting concept infinity, Hilbert's Hotel also provides us with some equations to think about.

$$\text{Infinity} + 1 = \text{infinity}$$

$$\text{Infinity} + \text{infinity} = \text{infinity}$$

$$\text{Infinity} \times \text{infinity} = \text{infinity}$$

We can comfortably conclude that infinity does not behave like a number



Another thought experiment that portrays the strangeness of infinity is the two-barrel experiment. In the first barrel there is an infinite number of apples all numbered starting from one. The second barrel is empty. The first scenario goes as follows:

1. Take the two lowest numbered apples from the first barrel and move them to the second barrel.
2. Eat the apple with the lowest number in the second barrel

After infinite number of turns – every apple from first barrel is eaten because we can see when they have been eaten – number 32 on turn 16. Every apple from second barrel too is eaten for the same reason.

Scenario 2:

1. Take the two apples with the lowest number and move them to the second barrel.
2. Eat the lowest odd numbered apple from the second barrel

After an infinite number of turns, there will be no apples left in the first barrel for the reasons stated above, but there will be an infinite number of apples in the second barrel because all apples with even numbers are left.

Scenario 3:

1. Take any 2 apples from the first barrel then move them to the empty barrel.
2. Taken any 1 from the second barrel then eat it.

Thinking about this scenario, we realise that we will always have an infinite number of apples in both barrels. This brings us to the question of “What is infinity?”

Normally in maths, we only deal with sets which are countable/listable (i.e. they can be written in order; you can say what comes on the  $n$ th term). Countable sets include integers, even numbers, integers (when written in the order 0,1,-1,2,-2...), rational numbers, the algebraic numbers (numbers that can be a solution to an algebraic equality), the definable numbers and more. Real numbers, however, are not countable.

Despite the fact that infinity is not defined as a number, mathematicians still use a systematic approach to try and understand this concept. Aleph numbers are a sequence of numbers used to represent the cardinality (measure of the number of elements in a set) of infinite sets that can be ordered. Aleph 0 is the cardinality of the set of natural numbers. More complicated terminologies include Beth numbers, which are a set of infinite cardinal numbers, and the existence of almost huge, huge and super huge numbers

To answer the question of the entire lecture, we cannot treat infinity as a number, and normal operations should not be done on this concept.

## A MAGIC NUMBER

*Computer Science Society, ‘Algorithms for Daily Life’,  
Brian Chang, Druries, 12 October*

Under the cold, stiffened walls of Physics Schools, a particularly dour afternoon found its ambience brightened by the brilliant lecture of Brian Chang, *Druries*. This week, members of the Computer Science Society gathered eagerly to learn more about how complex algorithms apply to the daily lives of boys.

The lecture began with an anecdote describing an administrator who wanted to hire a secretary. The administrator could sequentially interview and reject applicants but not recall any rejected individuals. Facing limited time, the administrator could only interview some applicants. When should he stop to maximise his chances of finding the best applicant? The answer, as Chang explained, was 37 applicants; 37 was a magic number in optimal stopping theory, and the reason for this was a mathematical formula far too complex to fit into this issue of *The Harrovian*.

It seemed, however, that Chang’s lecture proved not only helpful for employers seeking to fill vacancies but also for avid gamblers. Within a casino, there lie hundreds of machines waiting

to prise away all your money. What would be the ideal method to avoid losses? Wiser men would advise against stepping foot in a casino altogether, but computer algorithms such as the Gittins Index suggest that the optimal strategy is to stay at a machine after winning from it and shift to a different one after losing.

Algorithms can also sort numbers and items. Most people would have encountered a maths problem where they needed to arrange numbers in ascending or descending order. Most of the time, such a question would involve fewer than ten numbers. But what if the question asked to sort a hundred numbers or a thousand? Computers, with the help of sorting algorithms, could do this with relative ease. Chang first displayed two arduously slow examples: Selection Sort and Bubble Sort. These reviewed each number one by one, and even with the high speed of circuit transmission, these still take up to a minute to sort merely a hundred numbers. Merge Sort did not share these shortcomings: by utilising the common saying ‘Divide and Conquer’, this method can arrange a hundred numbers from large to small in under ten seconds. As Chang described, it was a ‘breakthrough’ in computer science.

Technology taking over the world is no alien concept. Still, it came as a shock when Chang, using theory from his lecture, calculated the optimal age for humans to stop dating: 26.1 years, or 37% of 80. This magic number is capable of creeping into every corner of our lives.

## BEING ADDICTED

*Psychology Society, Toye Kolawole, Newlands, and  
Alp Erkazanci, Newlands, 12 October*

On Thursday 12 October, Toye Kolawole and Alp Erkazanci, both *Newlands*, gave a wide-ranging talk on the psychology of addiction. They began by outlining how they were going to focus on drugs and alcohol specifically but did emphasise that addiction could range over a variety of subjects. For example, they made references to addictive apps and social media, such as TikTok, as potential causes for addiction, which probably hits close to home for many of us. Finally, they also mentioned the negative effects that pornography has on today’s society, especially on vulnerable youth, using reliable facts and figures to demonstrate how it can lead to mental health problems in the future.

Following this, they described how addiction was no simple phenomenon, but how it stemmed endemically from many complex conditions, such as biological, psychological, and social factors. They also mentioned that the root cause of this condition, which affects 35 million people, comes from the brain’s rewards system; when addictive substances are used, it releases dopamine to encourage this behaviour. As a result of this dopamine release, the brain adapts due to its neuroplasticity and adaptability, which can lead to tolerance. This tolerance can eventually result in withdrawal, which ranges from mild discomfort to death.

However, not all is doom and gloom. By outlining methods of prevention and treatment as well as the risks involved, the *Newlands* duo suggested how addiction could be combatted in the future. Methods of prevention ranged from hobbies, which can reduce cravings and boost self-esteem, to more official methods such as increasing pricing and taxing goods to help fund treatment for those who suffer from addiction, while reducing accessibility. Finally, they explained that the risks from abuse include relationship breakdown, financial cost and overdose fatality, which is why it is necessary to restrict young people from buying substances like alcohol and nicotine, and why raising awareness and good parenting is key in combatting addiction.

Finally, they outlined different treatments available, such as therapy, detoxification and medication. However, this is

by no means a one-size-fits-all approach, as there are many variations in a particular treatment, such as family therapy, group therapy and individual therapy. Following this, they answered some challenging questions from a keen audience, in which SMK took a suspiciously deep interest in the topic, introducing facts such as how heroin is the single most addictive substance worldwide. Overall, it was a very informative and interesting talk for all those who attended, and a fascinating topic for further research for any individuals who are interested.

## MILTON'S COSMIC EPIC

*Dr Roberta Klimt, Sheridan Society, 12 October*

On a cold and wet Thursday afternoon, members of the Sheridan Society retreated to the comfort of the Vaughan Library in anticipation of the lecture yet to come. The esteemed Dr Roberta Klimt was giving a lecture on 'this pendant world, in bigness as a star' a quote from *Paradise Lost*, Milton's cosmic epic. However, her opening statement was quite to the contrary, Milton did not call *Paradise Lost* an epic, instead preferring to refer to it as a heroic. However, the book's nature is still most certainly epic. It dives into territory unseen by epics at the time, forging a path into the story of the Old Testament. Dr Klimt then dove into the cosmology of the world of *Paradise Lost* and Milton's relationship with science. Milton was a scholar first and foremost; he read almost any paper he could get his hands on, but he was not a scientist, at least not trained as one. From the language that he uses throughout his writings, it is clear that he has some understanding of the perceived cosmology at the time. He was, however, was in no place to create theory backed by contemporary science. It is clear that Milton was a fan of the works of Galileo, in fact he is the only one of Milton's contemporaries to be mentioned by name in any of his writings. But Galileo's theories were not popular at the time, especially with the church. Dr Klimt theorises that part of why Milton liked Galileo so much was that he stood up against oppression, which appealed to Milton's romantic side. She went on to explain the role of the Angel Raphael and how the education of Adam is a crucial factor in the book. Initially, Raphael is disappointed in Adam, especially in that he needs to put the great civil war of heaven into simpler terms so that Adam's mind can comprehend it. As the book goes on, however, Raphael is placed in a position that he thought impossible: Adam was starting to ask him questions that he himself did not know the answer to. She explained how this shocking revelation dramatically shifts the dynamic of authority between the two. It changes from a teacher-student relationship where Raphael knows all and Adam knows very little, to two great minds both pondering the same question. With this newfound context that only God is omniscient, Milton can place ideas in the reader's head without answering the questions; Dr Klimt claims that Milton does this to stay politically neutral. She rounded off the talk by claiming that the human mind is only able to comprehend so much, a highly ironic statement coming from Milton, and that trying to understand everything will only be met with God laughing at our feeble attempts to do so. At the end of the talk, she took questions from the audience. Some of which included: why would God bother teaching Adam? She answered this by claiming that it is all part of a larger plan. This plan starts with the fall of man and the creation of sin. After humanity is seemingly doomed because of this original sin, God will send his only son to redeem humans, with his sacrifice bringing the it full circle. She concluded the questions with a focus on the Satan and Milton's possible admiration for the devil. She suggested that Milton admired some of the devil's actions, namely his hatred of authority and his willingness to stand up against tyranny. This talk truly opened up many angles

that I and many others in the room had never even considered. It was a talk that is sure to stick with all who attended for years to come.

# METROPOLITAN

## CHEATING RAMPANT IN CROSS-COUNTRY

*Fr Stuart – What are you doing?*

Over the last few weeks, many members of the Harrow community have noticed an extraordinary rise in foul play during mandatory cross-country events. There has been talk of a spindly limbed mathematician, a badminton 'editor' for Harrow Notes, and a Hill Café regular defeating the likes of mighty marathoners: SNT, MTG and SCL. This kind of criminality cannot stand at Harrow School. The academic tortoise is beating the blonde, buzz-cut, artistic hare, and we are not happy about it.

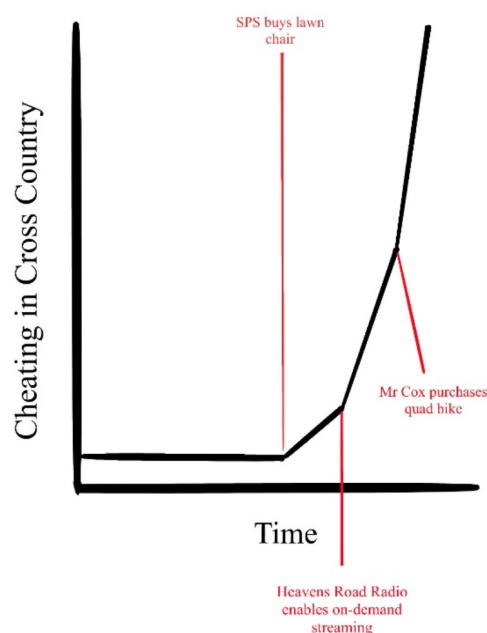
These Harrovians have thwarted EWS's dastardly plot to get everyone running: if there is anything Harrow hates, it is boys avoiding the punishment of regular School life. Our message to these individuals, whomever they may be, is simple: you cannot hide forever, our champion will find you, and when he does, he will inflict dire consequences.

So, who is this champion? This god amongst men?

Many of us know that mitigating infraction in cross-country is fundamentally the work of his holiness Fr Stuart, just as the singing in St Mary's is entirely performed by Fr James, or the delivery of food at the SCH is now ultimately controlled by EWH. However, unlike the booming baritone of JEP, or the hungry efficiency of EWH, SPS has (to put it mildly) missed the mark on his cheating-prevention duties.

Look at this graph, which shows that the damage that SPS's lengthy slumber has done to the credibility of the beaks' Dad's-Army-style security squadron.

We can only hope that, someday soon, our Catholic dragon will open his eyes, and awake from his fiery foldable lawn chair, and do something about this terrible injustice.



## HARROW NOTES

24 February 1883

This week we veer away from *The Harrovian* to take a look at some of the other publications from our School's rich and vibrant past. *Harrow Notes* as it is known today is a twice-termly magazine filled with intellectual debate and feature-length articles, but it has existed once before as a School paper. It was edited by an Old Harrovian and included events both within and outside the School. We take a look at the 'Notes to our Readers', in the first edition of an intriguing paper, as the editors explain the reason as to why the School needs a paper.

'Little apology will, we think, be needed to justify our present attempt to provide the School with a permanent Newspaper, conducted in a manner differing in many essential particulars from that which has obtained in the case of previous School publications. During the past twenty years the Triumvirate, the Tyro, and two Harrovians have come and gone; as, indeed, all magazines, managed from within the school, inevitably must and should come and go, with those who alone are capable of making them worthy of Harrow and of Harrow life. Nor are we unmindful of the serious responsibility which we undertake in now standing forward to speak in the name and on behalf of the School. Our desire is, in the first place, to provide more continuously than has hitherto been possible, for the exercise of literary gifts among the members of the School; and by literary gifts we mean not such qualities as may be termed editorial, or merely those of a reporter, but something implying real intellectual culture in Politics, in Science and in Art. "If the paper comes in a few months or years to give the impression that what Harrow lives for is chiefly Athletics, the paper will be a source of mental and moral degradation, to say nothing of its effect on our character among the outer world." At the same time we hope to make *Harrow Notes* complete and interesting record of all the current incidents of School life, that Harrow men, in all parts of the world, may know something of what is taking place in the Old School, and that those, too, who now, as "boys together," are making the history which we write, may, "twenty and thirty and forty years on," turn to our pages, and from these "glimpses of notes" conjure up, once more, those visions of boyhood which "echoes of dreamland shall then bear along." We therefore appeal for support and aid to all Harrovians, Past, Present, and Future, without their co-operation our task will be a thankless, if not an impossible one; but relying on their assistance we trust to do our part in helping forward the fulfilment of our own School Mott, Stet Fortuna Domus.'

## READING WEEK AN IMPORTANT BULLETIN

*Reading Tip Number 147 – Make time to Read*

As Reading Week comes to a close, I wanted to share with you all perhaps the most important reading tip: you should make time to read. If you do not make time to read, how will you be able to read? Time is the most important thing, particularly for reading, because reading takes time.

If you are not able to make time to read, you should not be able to read. Nobody can read without taking the time to do so. That would be impossible.

And this would defeat the purpose of Reading Week as you should always be reading. You are reading right now – ha, I

made you consciously read. You are consciously reading now. Feel free to move on to something that you feel you might enjoy more, like a book. Please read a book. Please.

Of course, as a rule of thumb, aim to spend at least 10% of your time reading, and a further 10% finding the time to read. In total, devote 20% of your time to reading and finding time to pursue reading. Because, as you know, finding the time to read is the most important element of reading. No time = no pages read. No pages read = aggressive non-optional chat with SAH. Capisce? (I am on to you, Robert Young).

As this week closes, I would like to challenge every boy to make time to read – because reading is important. Please enjoy this compulsory fun!

## NOTES ON CAMP

by Johathan Ford, West Acre

In 1964, Susan Sontag published a 54-paragraph essay in the *Partisan Review*, entitled *Notes on Camp*. By December of that year, Camp had transcended to a mainstream phenomenon, as explained in Time's 'Modern Living' column:

*The Essence of Camp, writes Miss Sontag in the Partisan Review, is "its love of the unnatural: of artifice and exaggeration." Tiffany lamps are Camp, she says, by way of illustration, and so is a fondness for Scopitone films and the lurid pseudo journalism of the weekly New York National Enquirer. Turn-of-the-century postcards are Camp; so is the enthusiasm for the ballet Swan Lake and the 1933 movie King Kong. Dirty movies are Camp – provided one gets no sexual kick out of them – and so are the ideas of French playwright Jean Genet, an ex-thief and pederast who boasts about it. "Genet's statement that 'the only criterion of an act is its elegance' is virtually interchangeable, as a statement, with Wilde's 'In matters of great importance, the vital element is not sincerity, but style.'"*

Sontag's work is profound because it encapsulates a sensibility, as distinct from an idea; Sontag's opening lines acknowledge the contradiction of analysing a taste for which there is no proof or system. This precise self-awareness affords Sontag the ability to step beyond the bounds of traditional analyses which have either betrayed the camp ideal or have abstracted it beyond its own desires of abstraction. Situated between the realms of 'high' and 'low' culture, Camp has remained elusive and illusionary; yet, Sontag refuses to condense this into the typical 'so bad that it's good' rhetoric. Instead, Sontag reveals Camp through elucidating its history and its fragmented alignments art, experiencing its effects upon its own basis.

Sontag's sprawling, lofty statements on the matter may be pretentious, but they succeed at encapsulating Camp for that reason: exaggerated beyond the means of standard referentiality, they evoke both a passionate adoration for the sensibility, and a dejected rejection of its extremes, culminating in an essay that is Camp itself due to its inherent contradictions in attitude. Sontag is, however, crucially unified in the seriousness of her attitude, relating Camp beyond its surfaces of aestheticism, attempting to carve out a profound element to the 'performance of extremes'.

The grand conclusion is that Camp exists as a matter of 'taste' which 'governs every free (as opposed to rote) human response', presenting Camp as an existential condition as much as a sensibility: an enormously serious and profound frivolity.



This insight succeeds where few others have: it deliberates how Camp embodies duality; able to rejoice simultaneously in both traditionally 'serious' and contemporarily 'silly' art, it merges the two into an ahistorical or timeless amalgamation of extremes.

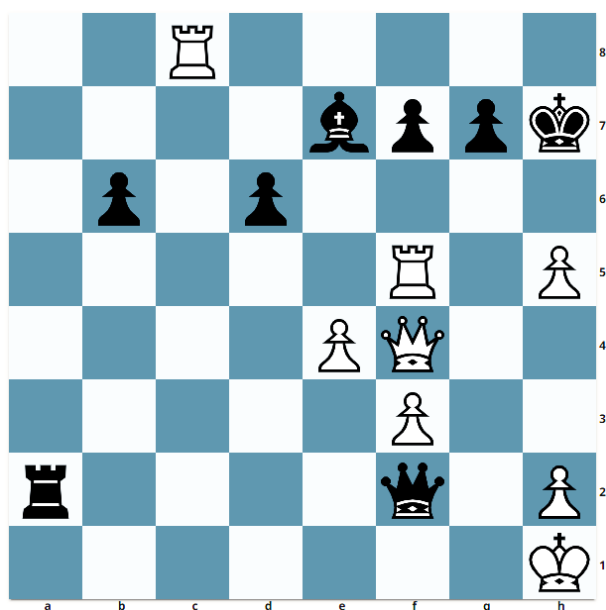
It is, however, important to realise that Sontag's world of Camp is intrinsically different from the one we experience today: its journey through the acceleration of popular culture has forced it to evolve, essentially become a generalised form of irony, of exaggeration without the art. This reduction has enforced Camp to lose its airs sophistication, its codes as a private clique, and its identity with which Sontag associated it. Overexposed, it remains tied to the queer community, but is certainly queer or unusual to any voyeur of culture; instead, the term now feels overused, even reductive at times. Accordingly, a modern reading of Sontag's work affords more a capsule of Camp at a tipping point of social history, straddling between 'old' culture and 'new' culture, itself a Camp abstraction of an uncertain time. As such, it stands as a pioneering piece of literature, pushing boundaries of contemporary 'taste' (by explicitly engaging with a 'queer' and 'dandy' subject), and redeveloping modern visions of aesthetic by appealing to its historicity and structural philosophies, crafting a detailed and biting essay from the worlds of Camp.

## CHESS

The weekly puzzle set by JPBH this week comes from the final decisive game of the 2016 World Championship. defending champion Magnus Carlsen has his opponent, Sergey Karjakin, threatening immediate mate, but he found a very pretty combination to get there first. Can you find it too?

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

White to play and mate in two moves.



Last week's answer: 1. **Be5+** Kc5 2. **Rc1+** Bc4 (or Qc4) 3. **b4#**.

Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS5. All abilities welcome!

# OPINION

## CORRESPONDENCE

### *Letters to the Editors*

DEAR SIRs,

It has been almost a month since the end of Songs, yet, in the blisteringly bitter breezes that now berate the Hill, glimpses of notes like the catch of a song drift down the hill, as boys both new and old, whistle, hum and mumble the tunes and lyrics to classic Harrow songs, such as 'Silver Arrow', or 'October'.

However, as we go about our days, how often do we express our gratitude, hatred, or even acknowledgment of what most boys would tell you are essential parts of Harrow life? All is good and well when we sing of the olden days of compulsory archery practice, St Joles, and drinking to Harrow's honour, (never mind the fact that 4/5ths of the School are not allowed to drink), but I for one, wish for something new – something that we as a School can relate to. Whether it be a rallying cry for brunch Sundays, simply praising the unfortunate by-product of rampant capitalism that is the Hill Shop, or even showing our gratitude to Seamus and the Security team for ensuring that no rogue driver mows us down on the zebra crossing, it might bring a warmth to the otherwise frosty School. The simple fact is that no harm can come from writing new songs! The newest song (if you consider 2004 recent), 'The Vaughan' has never been sung in my three years at Harrow. Did you know that our dear DNW, who has led every one of our Harrow Association and Churchill Songs for the past 18 years with zeal, has never written a song for Harrow? Indeed, if you look in the Harrow song book, his name is not adorned with the asterisk that nine of his 12 predecessors have received! Can this be truth? We must rise in our strength and show our desire for new songs! The only recent addition has been a verse for 'Silver Arrow' in celebration of Harrow 450, which was two years ago. This one-time verse is not enough to sate my vocal cords, and I would like to think that the same goes for countless other boys around the School, whether you are a naïve Head Master's Shell, or a hulking Park Upper Sixth. Heed my message, and with enough emails to SMT or DNW, I imagine we will eventually get a response and maybe even a new song or two.

Yours harmonically,  
ETHAN SOONG, THE GROVE

DEAR SIRs,

Courage, honour, humility and fellowship each have a common factor – something that I have noted to be dramatically declining. Without integrity, courage is worthless. Without integrity, honour is false. Without integrity, humility is fiction. Without integrity, fellowship is manipulation. It would seem that, without integrity, all of our valued values become impossible; thus, it concerns me that Harrow has become less honest than Sodom. Ought I leave and never look back? I am tempted.

One cannot exactly prove the rise in dishonesty without immense experimentation; however, the frequency with which one has noted it is increasing. A classic example of evil pupils at Harrow is their willingness to grapple for any extra time they can. I recall sitting a timed essay competition, whose name shall remain unknown, when it was announced that all must stop, other than those with extra time. It would seem as if the left had won, by the number of people claiming to have cognitive failures. The most horrifying part of it all was that even some of my own close friends decided to deceitfully continue. A stark example of division-wide debauchery was my most recent macro-economics block test, in which the majority (all but three) boys walked in with the answers already written

down. Once again, even seemingly sincere boys sucked from the slippery teat of deceit. Thus, perhaps the blame lies with the beaks who saw Microsoft forms quizzes, with visible answers afterwards, as suitable block tests. Indeed, one must wonder how such stupid short-sightedness seeped into what one thought to be a reputable department. However, they ought not need to ensure etiquette, despite doing so anyway.

So what doth cause the increase in iniquity? Well, one may be tempted to blame the negligence of beaks who seem not only to allow but to award diligent degeneracy, with naive trust. It is certainly true that beaks should check who gets extra time. It is also true that beaks shouldn't make boys sit the same tests across different periods, with the answers actually being shown before boys inevitably discuss them. However, this would only decrease the opportunities for corruption but not the crooks' desire for depravity. In fact, I think that a mutual trust further develops trustworthiness. Some may suggest, probably the lascivious liars themselves, that the School must be blamed, as its whopping workload leads to a need for a perversion of piety merely so that the work can be completed. However, the same boys seem to find time for their various laddish activities. Indeed, it is hardly as if these flippant fraudsters are up all night working and struggling to get through it all without cheating. For the first time in my literary career, I shall admit to having no answer as to the cause of the loss of integrity; perhaps it was never here.

If the privation of good continues, one must consider the calamitous consequences of crooked criminality. I do not mean to whine about the immense inaccuracy of testing, or how predicted grades are being skewed. Nor do I want to elaborate on the detrimental effect to our education. The truly disturbing outcome of this trend will prevail even forty years on. The Old Harrovian of the future is dishonest and weak. He lies and cheats, cutting corners and getting caught. He has no virtuous self, only a collection of corpses lazily lied to. The Old Harrovian of tomorrow is essentially what the Daily Mail thinks of the Old Harrovian of today. We cannot prove them right. The great name of Harrow School will disintegrate and decline like a crumbling column taken down by the modern man. Harrow is an institution that principally makes gentlemen, before academics, artists, and athletes.

Without knowledge of a cause, I struggle to come up with a solution. Should we have Chapel thrice a week to enforce morality? Perhaps we just expel those who are dishonest? Clearly, the promise of a silver medal only encourages insincere values visible before meaningful. I think this issue ought to be brought to our highest authorities, before Old Harrovians end up being brought to their nations' authorities.

Sincerely yours,  
R.T.M. YOUNG, THE GROVE

DEAR SIRs,

I wish to respond to your *rubrique* about the Societies Fair. It's disheartening to see the extensive criticism directed at the variety of societies available at Harrow. I find it fascinating that these boys invest their free time in preparing talks, conducting research, and sharing their insights with their peers. If a particular topic doesn't pique your interest, it's perfectly acceptable to skip it and scroll aimlessly at TikTok on your fake phone after prep. However, let's not undermine the efforts of these boys, or else we might invoke more French wrath.

Another issue that needs attention is the discussion of the food at the fair, where you said you only had some poor chocolates. What you may have overlooked is that MMA, on her only "day off" at Harrow, took the time to visit Waitrose and provide a cheese board, saucisson, and even foie gras for all to enjoy for the French Society. The delicious saucisson you savoured was funded entirely from her own pocket. As you accurately noted, we receive no formal budget. At times, our secretaries dip into their own funds to offer a simple chocolate biscuit for you to

nibble on during a talk. Feel free to express your opinions, but do consider these aspects.

Furthermore, the countless hours contributed by staff, irrespective of the scale of their talks, went unmentioned. What's more, we do this extra work without compensation, and it doesn't even factor into our official workloads unless we advocate for it. Yet, you might have seen me in the SCH on that Sunday evening, supporting your events and eagerly signing up for mailing lists, to support the boys. The only other staff member who joined was CEGB, though the issue of insufficient advertising to staff is a separate concern. It's brilliant to witness not only our secretaries promoting their talks but sometimes boys promoting societies that aren't even their own, simply to help a friend in need.

In light of these considerations, I implore you, dear boys, to keep in mind that some of us beaks – not all I agree, make substantial sacrifices for your benefit, even if it might not be immediately apparent.

Bien à vous,  
MMA

DEAR SIRs,

As I laid eyes on the latest edition of *The Harrovian* (October 14th, No.6), my heart was swelled with the arterial blood of excitement (and soon after the rest of my body was as well). *The Harrovian*, once the decay where the printed letters, like black maggots, feasted on the rotting corpse of boredom and mediocrity (although I myself contributed to a large amount of this decay by writing very many verbose and boring lecture reports which no one read), has now transformed. The once crawling maggots have matured into flies, breeding now in the rubbish dump of artistic creation and appreciation, beauty, and eccentricity.

I will allude to some of these: the witty and snappy report about the science buildings, three amazing reviews which were too long so I didn't bother reading them, but judging by the reviewers, who have always been excellent writers, and the object of the reviews, which were all great pieces of art, I can conclude that they were of a high quality. The 'From the Archive' I have always enjoyed, and this week is not any exception. What really intrigued me was the series of entries for the *National Poetry Day* and *Auntie Mable*, an amusing and very clever invention. Mr Young went on a streak of sarcasm with his poem about apparent hypocrisy and his letter about "——— and ——— being ———!" The Editor's discussion on *Senso*, and the article about *Death Stairs* were both very interesting as well.

To put everything I have said into very simply words: the last edition of the *Harrovian* was good. It was good because there was not too much boring stuff about society lectures and sports results. It was good because there was a lot of interesting stuff that actually reflect on problems we have on the Hill in witty, humorous, but accurate ways. Please can we have more of this.

Your most sincerely,  
ARTHUR YANG, WEST ACRE

DEAR SIRs,

After multiple articles on *Senso*; the equivalent to George Orwell's 1984 predictions of future life, today I am going to address you with something that is academically beneficial and has worked for centuries and will continue to work for centuries.

Yes, it is good old-fashioned pen and paper. Could you imagine how good lessons would be for academic progress? There would be no temptation to check the latest sports scores or write a quick email to your beak for missing their lesson. It would revolutionise Harrow's learning. Boys would be more focused, interested and have better handwriting!

You may be wondering how beaks would communicate with the boys about various arrangements? However, this is easy; the solution is to have laptops out of lessons this would mean

you can still use them for communication; for example, writing up an article for *The Harrovian* or writing emails.

Exams, are written on paper so why aren't lessons written on paper? There is no answer. We should switch back to paper. People may say writing on a Surface is like writing on paper. However, this is not true: the thickness of a laptop is unnatural compare to the thinness of paper.

In conclusion, academics is only productive when boys listen, and I can assure you that getting rid of laptops in lessons would be beneficial to all boys, as they would listen more and therefore learn more. So please think carefully about the resources we use for academic purposes.

Yours Hopefully,  
LOUIS NICHOLSON THE PARK

## GAFFE AND GOWN

*Quips from Around the Hill*

"I swear, McCullagh, if you keep talking, I will punch you in the face and everyone will cheer. When Mr Shaw asks, I will say you tripped down the stairs. Basran, you'll back me up, right?" "Yes, sir."

# SPORT

## FIVES

*The School v Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, Lost 3-0, 5 October*

A difficult day for the boys against a very strong team including last year's Novice Champions; however, there were some very encouraging performances from the team who learnt about the importance of the set pieces and of executing set plays well.

*The School v St Olave's Grammar School, 12 October*

On a cold and wet Thursday afternoon, six of Harrow's finest fives pairs marched to St Olave's Grammar School, continuing this season's campaign. During the marathon coach ride, IJH warned about the tough opposition ahead, as well as their notoriously fast courts. Sixty miles later, the team finally arrived, feeling a little tired but full of excitement and spirit nonetheless.

After descending a short flight of stairs, the fives courts came into view. There were six of them, all hidden and half-buried underground, like dragons' dungeons. Worst of all, some of the courts even looked modern and newly refurbished! It was all a great shock to the tradition-loving Harrow team, who so passionately love the courts here on the Hill, cracked and crumbling as they may be. When the grumbling finally subsided, the Harrow pairs settled in for an exhilarating afternoon of fives.

1st away v St Olave's, Lost

Overall, the Seniors lost 3-0, but there was some spirited play from the first pair of Gus Stanhope and Alfie Anderson, both *Moretons*, who initially took time to adapt to the courts. They won the second set well but narrowly lost the fourth set, which may have gone their way on another day.



Colts A away v St Olave's, Won

It was a great 2-1 victory for the Colts, with wins for Olly Filo and William Martin-Jenkins, both *The Park*, as well as Tony Shi, *The Grove*, and Harrison Grey, *The Park*. The boys returned cuts well and executed their volleys with precision, changing their tactics to suit the fast courts. In the past, victories at St Olave's have been few and far between, so the Colts team all showed great character and courage to achieve this win.

*The School v QEB, Tuesday 17 October*

It was a typical Tuesday on the Hill, yet for Harrow's fives team, it was a grand match day. At 2.27pm, the boys welcomed Queen Elizabeth Barnet to our fine courts. The whisperings heard throughout the 100 steps were all of one story: QEB are current holders of the Under-15 National Cup. Despite this, the boys went into the game with an open mind, prepared to do all in their power to match this strong opposition. With temperatures in the jumper range, an intense warm up was needed for both sides – and an uncountable number of cups of tea for IJH!

Colts A home v QEB, Drew

At 1st pair, William Martin-Jenkins, and Olly Filo, both *The Park*, played some excellent fives, with Martin-Jenkins' well-rehearsed cuts and Filo's composure from the back court. The pair's quick reaction speed in returning volleys meant they did not allow their opponent to get into the match and they were able to win 3-0 with relative ease.

The 2nd pair, consisting of Tony Shi, *The Grove*, and Harrison Gray, *The Park*, enjoyed some moments of brilliance. However, Shi's powerful cuts, combined with Gray's rapid returns were unfortunately offset by a few lapses in concentration. The duo played with great spirit in a tightly contested match but eventually lost out 1-3.

Overall, the boys drew 1-1 with QEB – a great result! Well done to the 1st pair who completed back-to-back wins. In typical style, the boys were rewarded for their success by IJH's famous brown bag (consisting of a plethora of chocolatey treats to choose from). While digesting their KitKats and Mars Bars, the boys discussed how they can build on this success in the upcoming fixtures.

## FENCING

*Harrow v RGS, 12 October*

On Thursday, the Harrow fencing team made the long trip up to RGS after a delayed departure due to the absence of packed lunches. Unfortunately, there were many absences for various reasons, but this did not affect the team spirit. Once we arrived, we quickly changed and got straight to it. First up was the Epee A which consisted of Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, and Cyrus Chang, *Druries*. It was a dominant performance by Epee A, winning 8-1 with an excellent performance by Jonny Cullinane and Arthur Cullinane



who won all of their matches. At the same time, Foil A was battling away. The team consisted of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Alex Yong, *The Grove*, and Sinan Basak, *Elmfield*, who destroyed the RGS team and like the Epee A, team also won 8-1 with a stand-out performance by Goff, who won all his matches and was only hit once. Next was Foil B, which consisted of Jonny Cullinane, Cato Pang and Sudeep Miller, both *Lyon's*, who unfortunately lost 7-2 but a valiant effort was shown from all the fencers. Special mention to Pang, and Miller who made their debut for the School. Then Epee B took the stage to battle RGS. The team consisted of Yong, Basak and Edward Shek, *Druries*. Due to absentees, these fencers had to step up to fence with an unfamiliar weapon. Therefore, the team's 7-2 loss was not surprising, but there was definitely not a lack of effort from the team, and they should all be proud of their performances. Finally, the Sabre team started their battles. Their team consisted of Goff, Luke Pain and William Lee, both *The Head Master's*. In a hard-fought battle, the Sabre team was just edged out by the RGS by 5-4, but there were brilliant performances from the team, especially Pain, who performed very well against a very strong RGS side. Special mention to Lee who made his debut for the fencing team, following in his brother's footsteps, who beat an English national fencer in the Upper Sixth. Overall, the Harrow team won by 24-21, with many fencers making their debuts, and they learnt a lot to take into the next matches in the next half of term.

## SWIMMING

*ESSA Secondary Schools' Team Championship,  
Regional Finals, 3 October*

On Tuesday, Harrow began their journey to the national ESSA relay finals this year, which are to be held at the Commonwealth Games pool in Birmingham, by competing in the regional championships at Latymer Upper School.

Harrow can compete in both the Intermediate and the Senior age groups and were thus able to take two teams to the regional championships in each category. This year, the club is as strong as ever and both teams in both age groups would qualify for the national final were it not for the rule limiting each school to only one team per age group for the finals. While still waiting for official results, it was clear that Harrow were the winners on the night, coming first and second in both the 4x50m freestyle and medley teams in both age groups.

Standout performances were Kiefer Yeo, *The Head Master's*, in the 50m freestyle, swimming 25.16 seconds an impressive personal best, and, in the Intermediate group, Mir Hamid, *Bradlys*, breaking 26 seconds for the first time. The whole team was able to swim a personal best or equal their personal best. Swimming in their first ESSA for Harrow were the Shells, who all performed well and some with best times.

## FOOTBALL

*Junior Colts A v Downsland School, Away Lost 1-3,  
ISFA Rd 2, 10 October*

Harrow were unable to recover from a difficult first half, losing 3-1. Paul Olusegun, *Druries*, scored our only goal and Auberon Dragten, *Rendalls*, was the stand-out player on the day, who exemplified everything that was good about the performance.

*1st XI v Worth School, Home, ISFA Cup 2nd Round,  
Won 6-1, 12 October*

The 1st XI produced plenty of attacking purpose and intent, gelling cohesively in the final third to score six. There was a

hat-trick for Captain Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, and further goals for Jonah Esposito, *Newlands*, Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, and man of the match Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*.

### *The School v Eton*

Development B XI v Eton College 2nd, Home, Lost 0-3

Harrow lost 3-0 in a game where they rued missed opportunities. MOTM was Seb Pesel, *Moretons*, for several brave interventions.

Development C XI Eton College 3rd, Home, Lost 1-2

On a wet and windy day down on the Philathletic Ground, the Dev Cs faced up against the old foe wearing a lighter shade of blue. The game started and, although the opposition had much more of the ball, they were struggling to make it count as they were repeatedly caught offside by Harrow's disciplined high line. Unfortunately, Eton had a sly trick to get around the defence: a deceptively long throw-in that caught Harrow sleeping and led to two quick goals. Indeed, they could have scored more if it were not for the goal-keeping heroics of Will Wright, *West Acre*. After a poor first half, the gaffer reorganised the group and encouraged his players to focus on their own football – to which they duly responded. Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, was a lynchpin in the middle of the park and the team revolved around his selfless determination. Elsewhere, a defence comprising of 'El Capitan' Louis Deshpande, *Moretons*, and Babade 'Rolls-Royce' Fasinro, *Lyon's*, with help from Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, dispelled any further Eton attacks. Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, and Dario Holland, *The Park*, strung together some neat passes before Jed Hurley, *Bradlys*, knocked the ball past the on-rushing goalkeeper to pull one back. Although it proved to be in vain, the Dev Cs can be proud of their much-improved second-half performance ahead of their upcoming outing against Winchester.

## GOLF

*1st v John Lyon School, Area Cup, Won 3-0,  
10 October*

There have been a lot of foursomes this term, a fact that is perhaps not to the team's liking, and the boys were in need of another 3-0 victory to keep the hope of making the regional finals next term. Therefore, the strongest team was selected ahead of this must-win fixture against local rivals, John Lyon School.

First out were Fred Hewer, *The Park*, and Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, starting off with a solid par to go 1up. Harrow started to heat up, with Hewer stiffing a wedge to 8 feet on 6 for birdie and Cheuk knocking a 9-iron to 10 feet from a side-hill lie on 7, resulting in another birdie. Harrow was 3up through 11, and two more good pars on 12 and 13 got Harrow to 5up. A late John Lyon comeback was stopped by Cheuk's good pitch to 10 feet on 17, finished off by Hewer to win the match 2&1.

Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Sam Phillips, *Moretons*, played well to overcome their opponents. Stanhope managed to sink some impressive putts, whilst Phillips was hitting his driver with some tremendous distance, leading to a 2&1 win.

Kieran Wee, *Newlands*, and Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, came out of the gates with a shaky start. Despite the two John Lyon boys consistently finding the fairway, Wee and Campbell-Johnston were clinical and clutch when it mattered. After nine holes, the two boys found themselves 6up with a dominant performance. The pair carried on with their rampage, ending the match two holes later with two steady pars in a row, and an impressive 8&7 score.

Incredibly, the team managed another 3-0 win on the day, with St Albans sadly having to withdraw from Thursday's fixture. If JRP's maths is to be trusted, the boys have done enough to

win their group and make it to the regional finals next term. Well done boys!

#### *1st, Away v Eton College, Won 3-0, 28 September*

The golf team managed their second 3-0 win of the season with a gutsy effort against Eton at Mill Ride. Fine performances from debutants Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, and Mungo Lawson *Elmfield*, sealed an impressive win at a tough course.

#### *Swifts Strokeplay, National Open, 3 October*

The golf team headed back to the Blue course at the Berkshire for the National Swifts Foursomes Championships on Tuesday.

First out was Fred Hewer, *The Park*, who started by holing a long putt on the first for a 4. After a mixture of bogeys and birdies, Hewer was level par at the turn. Bad tee-shots on 10 and 11 meant that Hewer was 3 over through 15. Three bogeys to finish put Hewer at 6 over, carding a 77 to finish in a tie for 29th.

Second out was William Everall, *The Grove*, who scraped a bogey on the first after finding Heather. Heather was the story for the rest on the round, although Mr Pinsent excelled at finding wayward golf balls. Having not been able to find his rhythm Everall struggled with the difficult heathland course. It was a mixed day for Everall's first scratch competition but was a good learning experience.

Last out was Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, at a very windy Berkshire Golf Club. It was a slow start, especially with the putter, which led to a few pars and bogeys. The front nine was highlighted with a towering wedge shot over the trees from the heather to 20 feet on the 9th. Everything soon came together, with Cheuk flushing two hybrids in a row on the par 5 11th, resulting in a fantastic birdie. Cheuk's soft hands were clearly visible, chipping to 3 feet from a downhill lie in the rough on 14. Solid pars on 14-16 and 18 countered a careless 3 putt on the 17th. All in all it was a mediocre round from Cheuk, hoping to bounce back next week in the foursomes.

Fred Hewer-T29th; Oliver Cheuk-T52th; William Everall-T63th

#### *The School v Charterhouse, Lost 3-0, 5 October*

The golf team suffered a 3-0 defeat to Charterhouse at the exquisite Worplesdon Golf Club. The team, comprising debutants Nicko de Labilliere, *The Grove*, and Michael Samuelson, *The Head Master's*, enjoyed the challenge but were unable to overcome the superior course management of their opposition.

The first pairing of Kieran Wee and Thomas Tian, both *Newlands*, fought hard against two low handicappers from Charterhouse. Despite starting off shakily and the Charterhouse boys playing exceptionally well, Wee and Tian fought hard and only found themselves two back at the turn. After a drained 25-foot putt from Wee, followed by a birdie from Tian, the boys started to pull the score line back. Ultimately, however, as the sun started to go down, the Charterhouse pairing were able to put up a strong defence and regain the lead they had on the front nine, with the match ending 4&3.

Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, and Michael Samuelson, *The Head Master's*, had an exciting battle with two of Charterhouse's most impressive mid-handicappers. A first hole, which saw a neighbour get lightly peppered by wayward tee shots, caused the boys to question whether they were on for a low-scoring round. An impressive driver off the deck saw Samuelson make a remarkable birdie on a challenging par 5 but, despite that, the boys' efforts were not rewarded overall. The opposition's sinking an outstanding 80-foot putt across a deep undulating green was quite a remarkable sight to see, even if slightly annoying, and the final result was a 5&4 loss.

Third pair de Labilliere and Sam Gordon, *The Grove*, went into the match with high hopes. Some high-quality chipping and putting practice before the round gave further encouragement. The match was tight at first, with the first four holes halved, but on the next hole de Labilliere's drive was not able to find the

skinny fairway, and with a ball lost in the heather, he conceded. This was after seeing Gordon's beautiful fade onto the fairway. Unfortunately, de Labilliere's faith was misplaced, as Gordon ended up losing the hole. As morale ran low, the Charterhouse team capitalised on some good shots of their own, eventually winning 5&4.

## RUGBY UNION

### *The 1st XV v RGS, Guildford, Home, Won 47-22, National Cup-Area Knockout Semi Final, 10 October*

The 1st XV played with confidence in the second round of the National Cup to defeat a combative and energetic RGS Guildford side. Taking a lead of 27-10 into half-time, Harrow continued to move the ball well with well-taken tries particularly from George Simpson, *Newlands*, Guy Paton-Smith, *Elmfield*, and Cameron Knight, *Newlands*, to extend Harrow to a final score of 47-22 and a place in the regional final for the Under-18 Schools Cup.

### *The School v Bloxham School*

Junior Colts C, Neutral, Bloxham School, Won 53-0

Brilliant running rugby and ferocious defending saw the Junio Colt Bs defeat a spirited Bloxham side 53-10. Sebastian Aucott, *Lyon's*, was player of the match.

Junior Colts D, Neutral, Bloxham School Junior Colts B, Won 50-10

JCCs produced a dominant performance and secured a gracious 50-point victory over Bloxham.

Yearlings D, Neutral, Bloxham School Boys Under-14B, Won 33-17

Harrow began the game slowly and conceded a try within five minutes. Bloxham showed that they could run the ball and put phases of possession together and five phases were enough to breach Harrow's narrow defence to score. At seven points down, Harrow began to play, showing that they too can play the phase possession game, and their first sortie into the Bloxham half resulted in the first try scored by Nedum Njoku, *The Head Master's*. The second try followed soon after, this time scored by Kiran Patel, *Druries*, following much of the same phase possession play. Bloxham continued to press into Harrow's half, however, they were met with a strong defence, led by Walter Lawrie, *The Park*, who continued his weekend form into this midweek fixture. This defensive display allowed Harrow to be patient, and when they were provided with the opportunity to turn the ball over, they did so. Half time came with Harrow 7-17 ahead.

Harrow continued their form into the second half. Excellent breakdown work provided the boys with the opportunity to keep possession, and this provided the platform for Njoku to show his strong running ability earning himself two further tries.

As the wind blew with greater venom in Harrow's favour, Loic Du Roy De Blicquy, *Elmfield*, kicked intelligently, pushing the ball back to Bloxham's half and exerted more pressure on their back three. Pressure turns into points, and after another turnover, Harrow's handling and offloading was a step too far for Bloxham, with Chuyong Peng, *Druries*, being the happy recipient of the ball to place over the line for a try.

In the final few minutes, Harrow 'stepped off the gas' and

allowed Bloxham to take advantage to score two late but well-deserved tries. Harrow were the eventual winners by 17-33.

Yearlings E, Neutral, Bloxham School Boys Under-14B, Won 55-5

A powerful display from a hybrid Yearlings D/E team that mastered the blitz defence to great effect. William Lee, *The Head Master's*, was incisive, scoring woven tries and offloading with grace.

Junior Colts A v RGS, High Wycombe, Home, Lost 17-20, National Cup Round 2

Yearlings A, v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, Away, Won 10-0, National Cup Round 2

### *The School v Berkhamsted, 14 October*

The 1st XV v Berkhamsted School, Home, Won 58-19

Despite playing their third game in seven days, the 1st XV showed few signs of fatigue with an emphatic 58-19 win over a formidable Berkhamsted side. This was the performance of the season so far, with physical defence matched by ambitious and clinical attack. Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, was the man of the match with some outstanding ball carrying, but all 21 boys involved deserve praise for an outstanding effort to leave the 1st XV unbeaten, seven from seven, to finish the first half of term: a fantastic start.

2nd XV, Home, Berkhamsted School, Won 27-12

After an excellent week of training, the 2nd XV returned to the home of rugby, Julian 1, for another test against Berkhamsted on a crisp autumnal day. The boys were fired up by their traditional pre-match lasagne and by having spent the morning watching the Rugby Club Review, sponsored by Senso, during lessons. The boys were also presented with a new refereeing challenge; the eagle-eyed CEGB was replaced by a slightly out of breath MJG.

The early exchanges were positive for the 2nd XV, who settled in the game much faster than they had against Warwick. Berkhamsted, however, were wise to the strengths of our game and neutralised the maul in the early exchanges to deny the 2nds a key attacking weapon. Nonetheless, good early tries from Fikunmi Olotunbi, *Lyon's*, from the tap and go and Elliott O'Sullivan, *Newlands*, from the maul saw the 2nd XV head into half time 10-0 up, a somewhat slender two-score lead.

Harrow showed better composure after the break and seemed more willing to go through the phases, also repelling some strong waves of Berkhamsted attack. Olotunbi crashed over again from a penalty on the 5m line, with JC adding the conversion to give the 2nds some breathing space. Berkhamsted hit back with an excellent score of their own, kicking in behind the Harrow back line and winning the foot race to dab down. The 2nds managed this momentum swing well, however, and cleared their lines after more pressure from Berkhamsted. A cute snipe at the breakdown saw Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, get over the whitewash, and another soon followed when Boshoff made the most of quick ball to the wide channels to crash over.

Berkhamsted rallied once more, crashing over from close range to fab down after a series of pick and goes. However the 2nds weathered the storm to secure a very respectable 27-12 victory.

3rd XV v Berkhamsted School, Home, Won 59-14

4th XV v Berkhamsted School, Home, Won 77-7

Colts A v Berkhamsted School, Away, Won 22-19

The Colts showed tremendous fellowship and resilience to bounce back from their previous week's defeat to emerge victorious in the final seconds of the match. Rory Griffin's, *The Head Master's*, put in a man-of-the-match performance and tries were scored by Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, Oliver

Cheesebrough, *The Knoll*, and Toluwalase Akindele, *Newlands*, with the match-winning penalty with the score level kicked by William Codrington, *Rendalls*.

Colts B v Berkhamsted School, Away, Lost 7-24

Colts C v Berkhamsted School, Away, Lost 21-24

Junior Colts A v Berkhamsted School, Home, Lost 12-28

Some outstanding structure and defensive work from a team playing off the back of a narrow cup defeat. They made attacking challenging with a very aggressive press but the team did well to find space to play.

Junior Colts B v Berkhamsted School, Home, Lost 26-31

Junior Colts v Berkhamsted School, Home, Won 50-12

Junior Colts D v Berkhamsted School, Home, Lost 17-22

Yearlings A v Berkhamsted School, Away, Lost 7-24

Despite an improved second half, Harrow struggled against an organised and physical Berkhamsted side. Player of the match, Barnaby Winters, *Elmfield*.

Yearlings B v Berkhamsted School, Away, Won 19-12

Yearlings C v Berkhamsted School, Away, Won 62-14

Yearlings D v Berkhamsted School, Away Won 67-5

Yearlings E v Bedford School, Home, Drew 24-24

Blue skies. Sunshine. Iced lattes and lemon drizzle cake on the sidelines. The setting of today's match was a far cry from the expected icy chill that October usually brings to this annual block fixture against Bedford School, but still the prospect of whether Zeus's golden scales would tip in Harrow's favour whirled in the minds of the boys. As play commenced, it was evident that the Yearlings Es were not in the right frame of mind. Resting on their laurels from last week's comfortable victory, the boys were taken aback by the might of this Bedford side; the relentless phases of attack left Harrow's side broken and despondent. At 0-24 to Bedford, with only two minutes of the first half left, it seemed that the fate of this match had been sealed. Nevertheless, the next substitution proved integral to the game, with Moroti Akinsanya, *Newlands*, storming onto the pitch, and with ease and grace scored the first try for this crumbling Harrow side, with Ned Bloomfield, *Elmfield*, converting. After a rousing half-time speech, the boys approached the game with renewed focus. Within five minutes Gabriel Olobanjoku, *Rendalls*, scored another try, with Bloomfield once again converting. Following this, two further tries from Quinn Cleary, *Lyon's*, and Moroti Akinsanya, *Newlands*, brought Harrow neck and neck with the opposition. Now, the tables had turned, and it was Bedford that began to crumble under the repeated phases of Harrow's side. The boys were showing unity, fellowship and grit and they thudded to the ground again and again in their attempts to stop a late Bedford win. As the whistle blew, the boys were exhausted, but pleased that the second half reflected their true abilities.

Yearlings F v Bedford School, Home, Won 25-5

The match against Bedford showed how much the Yearlings Fs had progressed since their last fixture against Dulwich, in particular Anton Fischer, *Rendalls*, putting on a rucking masterclass. Match of the match went to Jesse O'Keeffe-Richer, *West Acre*, for his fearless tackling.

The Yearlings Academy v Bedford School, Home, Won 37-10

The Academy won 34-10 with tries from Tommy Chang, *Elmfield*, Angus Li, *Moretons*, and Jaewon Son, *West Acre*. Kevin Li, *Lyon's*, demonstrated great fellowship and honour by playing for the opposition to make up numbers, scoring a try in the process for Bedford.



## 1ST XV MID-SEASON REVIEW

Given my inability to find the time to write the lengthy 1st XV match reports I'd like to (primarily due to my seemingly never-ending video editing duties these days), it seems proper to round off the first half of term with a review of the 1st XV's efforts. Indeed, it may be the end of the first half of term but it feels this season has already gone on for a long time. The tears of Trinity and jubilant memories of the Rosslyn Park mudbath have faded and replaced by a busy summer. The tour to South Africa presented both an early bonding opportunity and a chance to trial a new playing style, designed to complement this year's agile forwards and prolific backs. Gone was the 1-3-3-1 and in was the X-X-X-X (redacted, just in case any oppo read this). In South Africa, it worked a treat – the heavy farming forwards unable to cope with our ability to play wide. In England, it would be a different test. Whilst we'd been running the boys ragged in Cape Town, 1st XV skipper Kepueli Tuipulotu, *Druries*, and centre Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, represented England in three tests in South Africa too, playing outstandingly well and making their country, their school and, what was dubbed by the commentator as 'JLM's crew', very proud indeed – even if Tuipulotu's media training is not quite up to scratch yet.

Both boys returned to the squad for pre-season training at fortress Knoll. Thirty-five Senior boys made camp, showing the level of competition we expected in the 1s and 2s this year. With an Academy fixture on the Friday, it was tough to get the full group into action consistently and, instead, the squad was subjected to a variety of Dr Barke's weird and wonderful medical experiments – VR concussion testing, instrumented gumshields and maturation studies – all in the pursuit of advancing safety in the game. Given we were missing half the squad, the boys did superbly well in a friendly training and game against Henley College. All signs boded well for future success.

Last season, we began with Wellington College, traditionally one of, if not the, toughest fixture of the season. This year, a challenge was raised again with Clifton College, one of the most formidable names on the school circuit coming to Harrow with their 14s, 15s, 16s and Seniors. A scorching day of up to 35 degrees meant ice buckets, water breaks and an ice cream van were needed. Fortunately, the play on the field was just as hot as the weather off it. A superb back and forth game saw Harrow win 38-31. Reggie Hammick's, *The Knoll*, carrying was brutal all day, the backs clinical when required and Timmy Edstrom's, *Bradlys*, boot was as hot as the sun. The team was up and running and the season was away.

Week Two was an awayday to Dulwich. Once again, the weather was beautiful and gave a cracking platform for the Harrow backs to showcase their ability. Given an excellent platform by Tuipulotu and James Talamai's, *Druries*, lineup, six different backs scored tries to give Harrow an excellent 45-12 win against a Dulwich side that has gone on to produce some excellent results. Forty points scored in two games created excitement but our errors in defence were causing newly installed forwards guru AGJ and I some headaches.

Soon enough, it was time for old foe Wellington to come back to the Hill. With plenty of academy rivalries, and a strong desire to assert our dominance over our friends from Berkshire, the game was billed as another classic. Harrow were at full-strength, Rob McCorquodale, *Elmfield*, and Henry Dargan, *Druries*, anchoring the second row, with Tuipulotu moving to 8 to accommodate the tireless St John Smith, *Newlands*, at hooker. A packed Sunley witnessed an excellent game (many thanks to the many OHs, old parents, current parents and others in attendance to support the boys). Wellington got off to a fast start going up 7-0 before Harrow struck back and built a 28-12 lead. A botched kick off allowed Wellington back into it just before the half at 28-19. A Harrow error then allowed Wellington to pull closer to 28-26. However, Harrow stayed strong, buoyed by the simply immense defence of George Simpson, *Newlands*,

at 13 (a contender for player of the half-term so far) before a Freddie Dinan, *Rendalls*, try (another strong contender for the player of the half-term so far) gave Harrow breathing room before Edstrom's late penalty took the game out of reach. A 38-31 win and a (at the time missed) Hammick hat-trick had been enough.

With exeat approaching, a rest would've been useful. Instead, we had the matter of our first National Cup game v Newman Academy, a sixth-form rugby college from Sussex. This was to prove one of our sternest and most physical tests of the year. The Newman boys were massive, bolstered by several 19 year olds repeating a year and allowed to play down. They were direct and they suited the narrow confines of Julian 1 (The Sunley out of action due to the visiting Atlanta Falcons). A strong second half from Harrow allowed us to prevail 25-10 but it was the grunt of our forward pack led by our excellent rotating front row of Archie Young, *Rendalls*, Ollie Chambers, *Rendalls*, Talamai, Smith et al. Into round 2 of the cup and we were on the road to Twickenham.

Following exeat was to be one of our busiest stretches of the season: three games in seven days – Warwick, a cup game v RGS Guildford and Berkhamsted. This would test the squad depth and our ability be flexible, adapt and roll with the punches on the field. Warwick were up first, one of the top rugby schools in the nation but unfortunately ravaged with injuries for their trip to Harrow. A heavily rotated Harrow side were ruthless regardless, running in 54 points on a fine Sunley afternoon. Patrick Keaveney, *Druries*, Sammy Clayton-Bennett, Hal Hersee, both *Newlands*, and Paton-Smith all getting well deserved gametime and coming through with aplomb. This rotation allowed us to go full whack against RGS Guildford on the following Tuesday. Skipper Tuipulotu was back after a two-week period off where he'd featured in more Telegraph articles than he had Harrow matches. Rob McCorquodale, *Elmfield*, one of the big finds of the summer tour, was ruled out with a knee injury, but Clayton-Bennett was happy to slot in with his no-nonsense directness. In the warm up, too much katsu curry at lunch put rest to James Talamai's, *Druries*, efforts to play as he was ruled with sickness. Regardless, Harrow were slick when needed, particularly in the interplay between backs and forwards, scoring nine tries in a 47-22 win. If Edstrom, Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, or Keaveney had managed to kick more than one of nine conversions, we may have won by even more. Similarly in the pack, it was a troubling day for the usually imperious John Edwards, *Moretons*, unable to catch a cold come kick off time. Regardless, we were through to the regional final of the cup and now just three cup wins away from HQ.

It had been a busy week and training on the Thursday was dedicated to 30 minutes of kick offs and that was all. The squad was now ready for Berkhamsted. Chambers was out with a sore ankle so Young stepped up to start in an otherwise unchanged XV. Over the years, Berkhamsted always provide fine opposition. The 10-10 draw in 2021 was like a test match, ferocious D and neither side willing to budge. Last year, Harrow got the better of a massive Berko pack with a 33-22 win. This year, Berkhamsted came in off a hot start, losing just once and beating Warwick and Denstone along the way. Harrow, however, were ready to produce their finest performance of the season and one of the most ruthless attacking displays The Sunley has seen in the last ten years. Dominant defence from the start put Berkhamsted under pressure. A superb string of offloads saw Harrow score first and from then on, the boys in obsidian blue pushed on and on, ruthlessly scoring try after try despite the best intentions of the formidable Berkhamsted defence. Hammick and Smith cruised through their defensive line, Griffin and Tuipulotu unstoppable with the ball in hand, Clayton-Bennett, Ashton Ilincic, *Rendalls*, Dargan, Talamai, Young and Hersee tenacious in their carries and work in the loose, Edstrom pulled the strings as always with calm and precision. Edwards was all over the place in defence with hit after hit, knocking their

best runner out of the game. Winters on the out the back ball was unstoppable, connecting beautifully with Knight, Keaveney and White. Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, provided an outstanding cameo from the 2nd XV with his trademark energy, commentary and wiles. Harrow finished the game with Tuipulotu soaring through the air, showing off his 'hops', to claim a cross kick and pop to Ilincic for a final score – the icing on the cake of an emphatic 58-19 victory.

Seven from seven and through to the regional final of the National Cup. This is all excellent, but as the boys themselves know, they've done nothing yet. Each performance shows signs of progress, each moment memorable and with fixture congestion upcoming and lots of big games against big names coming up, the second half of term will be an immense challenge. If the side can show the same attacking intent, defensive intensity and togetherness, they will only keep getting better and crucially entertaining all those fantastic supporters that week in, week out pack out the bank of The Sunley.

## RACKETS

### *The School v Eton, 28 September*

#### 1st Pair, Lost

A very spirited effort from Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, on their debut. Harrow just missed the opportunity to go 2-0 up and eventually lost 1-3.

#### 2nd Pair, Lost

Some excellent fiery exchanges from Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, who competed well throughout despite a 1-3 scoreline.

#### 3rd Pair, Won

A strong performance from Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, who controlled the match well to win 3-0.

#### Colts 1st Pair, Won

Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, were determined and consistent in a 3-1 win.

#### Junior Colts 1st Pair, Won

Both Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, showed real progress in their high level of performance in a 2-0 win.

#### Junior Colts 2nd Pair, Won

Ned Steel and Arthur Brown, both *Druries*, showed consistency and good application to win 2-0.

### *The School v Tonbridge, 5 October*

#### 1st Pair, Home, Tonbridge School, Lost

Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, created opportunities to win two of the three games but eventually lost 0-3 to a very strong Tonbridge pair.

#### 2nd Pair, Home, Tonbridge School, Lost

A determined effort from Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, who fought valiantly to win the 3rd game before losing 1-3.

#### Colts 1st Pair, Home, Tonbridge School, Won

A commanding performance from Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, who controlled the match with strong play to win 3-0.

#### Junior Colts 1st Pair, Home, Tonbridge School, Lost

A tremendous match where Harrow had a match point but just failed to get over the line. A 2-3 defeat for Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, who showed excellent improvements in their levels.

### *The School v St Paul's, 5 October*

#### 1st Pair, Home, St Paul's School, Lost

Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, played their best rackets in the third game but just failed to win it and ended with a 0-3 defeat.

#### 2nd Pair, Home, St Paul's School, Won

A fine effort full of attacking rackets from Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, in a 3-1 win.

#### Colts 1st Pair, Home, St Paul's School, Lost

Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, fought hard throughout despite losing 0-3 to a very strong pair.

#### Colts 2nd Pair, Home, St Paul's School, Lost

A spirited performance from Diego Castellano, *Rendalls*, and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, who were edged out 1-3 despite some high level periods of play.

#### Junior Colts 1st Pair, Home, St Paul's School, Won

A commanding 3-0 win for Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*.

#### Junior Colts 2nd Pair, St Paul's School, Lost

A competitive effort from Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, despite a 0-3 loss.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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