



## CHURCHILL SONGS

16 November, Speech Room, Guest of Honour Colonel  
Chris Brawley (*The Grove 1993*<sup>3</sup>)

Against the backdrop of global conflict in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, this year's Churchill Songs was all the more poignant. Sir Winston Churchill, in whose name the School gathered last Thursday to remember, fought for peace, an ideal that the world could only hope to see restored in the coming weeks and months. Following last year's spectacle at the Royal Albert Hall, Churchill Songs returned to its more familiar setting, Speech Room, with its resplendent ceiling following its renovation earlier this year.



The event had a focus on Anglo-American relations and the importance of the 'special relationship' that exists between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Head Master duly began this year's proceedings by recognising the scale of Churchill's commitment to public service. In light of attempts by certain institutions to avoid open discourse about Churchill's views, the Head Master fittingly reminded those

in attendance that the Churchillian legacy can be celebrated without fully endorsing all his opinions. As is custom, the School's guests, Masters and members of the Churchill family were given a warm welcome and pleasantries were offered by Head of School, Andrew Stratton, *Newlands*, and Deputy Head of School, Sam Phillips, *Moretons*.



The School began by singing the stirring *Stet Fortuna Domus*. With addition of verse four on this occasion to recognise Churchill's status as a Giant of Old, the resounding emphasis of the word 'Churchill' undoubtedly ensured that the cheers of the School were not forgotten by our guests. It is also worth noting the other appropriate references to Giants of Old, Sheridan, Peel, Ashley and Byron, all of whom epitomised the name and fame of Harrow.

In recognition of School Bill, which now takes place annually on Speech Day, the School the sang *Here Sir!* Given the School's emphasis on values and striving to create positive impact on the world, it was apt that the School sang about 'the wider life to bet. *Here Sir*, with its lilting melody and jovial interjections from the School XII, was sung delightfully on the night.

Following this, *Five Hundred Faces* was sung magnificently by Archie Kwok, *Druries*, who demonstrated great confidence as he fully conveyed the mood of each verse. The emotional impact of playing footer on a 'miry marsh' or feeling like a 'waif before the wind' was well elucidated through Kwok's expressive singing and he ought to be commended for what was a fine performance.

The next song, *St Joles*, was probably the catalyst for the creation of Churchill Songs as an annual event. Jock Colville OH, Churchill's private secretary, is said to have heard Churchill singing this song in the bath in the more austere days of 1940. Churchill, who was so overjoyed by the event, gave Colville a copy of the Harrow Song book and signed it. The Head Master mentioned that, this year, he was alerted by a Harrow parent to the fact that Colville's signed Song Book was up for auction. WMAL's resilience in the bidding process underpinned Churchill's stringing words of "never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never".

The School XII then sang *Byron Lay*, dreamily conveying the lively nature of Byron's imagination. After this, *Song of the Forwards* was befittingly sung by the School given the Harrow School Rugby Club's recent and sustained success. The XV this year are unbeaten, winning 10/10 of their games, and the Colts A have continued to show their strength, losing just one game thus far. The physical strength on show on the games pitches was transferred to Speech Room as the power of the voices in the refrain conveyed the sentiment of powerful forwards breaking through the line.

Following a four-year absence, there was a return of the solo *You?*, which was sung masterfully by Fergus McKie, *The Grove*. *You?* which was written after the Boer War and conjures up the image of a young boy honouring his forebears, fallen in duty, was sung delicately by McKie whose rich voice created a glorious sound.



The Harrow Rifle Corps, a major part of School life, was honoured by the singing of *Left! Right!* The Ansell Bowl is yet to come this academic year, but the upbeat ring to the School's voice undoubtedly prompted excitement for a return to House army-related competition.

The Guest of Honour for this year's event was Colonel Chris Brawley (*The Grove 1993*). Brawley left The Grove as Head of House and School Monitor in 1998, and, in 2002, he became the first Old Harrovian graduate of the United States Military Academy West Point. He served first in 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Iraq and Afghanistan. Brawley commanded a battalion of 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and most recently commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, having spent more than half of his career in Special Operations with 66 months of combat experience in 13 deployments. He is currently a student at the United States Army War College. Upon graduation, he is slated to take command of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Wainwright. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star for Valor (five awards), and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Brawley's address was simply inspiring. The fundamental message of his speech was centred around the value of honour. Colonel Brawley spoke about his involvement in a mission to kill a Taliban explosives team. Having lost sight of a Taliban fighter whom he later found lying down, nearly dead, Brawley discussed how he was presented with two options. Deciding initially to take the option to leave the Taliban fighter in his perilous state rather than call for a helicopter, Colonel Brawley was asked the question "where is the honour in that?". Brawley reflected on his reaction to that question, which prompted him to save the Taliban fighter's life and thus gain additional intelligence from him. A presentation of a special army knife was then made to the Head of School, an offering that Colonel Brawley stated could not amount to the scale of impact that his Harrow education had on him.



The light tune in *Home to the Hill* was grasped well by the School following Colonel Brawley's address, and the School XII sang the soothing *Good Night*, invoking a sequence of delightful images and reveries as the evening drew to a close.

*The Silver Arrow*, symbolic of the School's former fascination with archery, was the next song in the running order and began the closing sequence of songs for the evening. *Forty Years On*, *Auld Lang Syne* and the National Anthem were all sung with tremendous zeal.

Gratitude is owed to the guest speaker Colonel Brawley, the Orchestra, the School XII, accompanists CST, PJE, Mark Liu, *Druries*, and conductor DNW for his masterful direction. Archie Kwok and Fergus McKie ought to be commended for their outstanding solo singing, as should the beaks and boys who sang with great fervour on the night.

## FIVE HUNDRED FACES

The year is 1883. Krakatoa erupted in Indonesia, claiming over 36,000 lives. In the tragic Victoria Hall disaster, 183 children were crushed to death in a rush to receive free toys. Karl Marx died in London, and Richard Wagner died of a heart attack in Venice. On the Hill, there resounded a more positive note, as the tune of *Five Hundred Faces* floated in the distances of Ducker. It was written by E W Howson, a Harrow Master, and set to music by John Farmer, whom we can thank for the music of *Forty Years On*, *October*, and *Queen Elizabeth Sat One Day* (along with half of the Harrow Song Book).

Forty and a hundred years on, the "Harrow journey" told by *Five Hundred Faces* remains relatable to us all. Who does not remember that warm September afternoon? Four wheels roll up to the House that holds five years of your destiny. In your mind, the anticipation of a new life wrestles against the dejection of leaving your old home behind. You see 13 other



boys standing on the drive, just as you are, all so strange and shy. When you arrive for your first meal in SCH, 500 faces suddenly appear in front of your eyes (there are a few hundred others still stuck in the London traffic). A thousand pairs of alien eyes, all so strange and peculiar, stare at your face. Like an autumn leaf driven by the West Wind, like a coconut floating on the boundless ocean, you feel isolated in the face of shock and change.

Soon, the last days of autumn's mellow mirth are gone. Winter's capricious hand clasps the Hill, driving thick sleet against your thin windowpane, and filling each day with bitter coldness. Just as visions of sweet home flash before your eyes, the piercing cry of the bell screams across the corridor, pitilessly shattering your precious dreams. Somehow, it seems to be a thousand times louder than the fire alarm (hopefully, you are not in *The Head Master's* and the date is not 22 October 1838). Time to wake up!



You may ask, what pain or suffering could match the harsh Harrow winter or the pitiless morning bell? Well, nothing can compare with SMK's Friday Period 5 lessons, filled to the brim with vast verses from Virgil and protracted proses from Cicero. With the prospect of "Film Friday" further away from the Hill than Sisyphus' boulder, despair and doom reign supreme on such evenings. Many a time, you would rather join Aeneas in the deepest shades of Erebus than scan Virgil's dactylic hexameter. Even Odysseus did not face such a soporific ordeal during his seven long years on the island of Ogygia. And yet, you may read this in Diogenes Laertius' *Lives of the Eminent Philosophers*: "Τῆς παιδείας ἔφη τὰς μὲν ῥίζας εἶναι πικράς, τὸν δὲ καρπὸν γλυκύν" (Bk 5, Sect. 18). According to Diogenes, Aristotle said that, of education, the roots are bitter but the fruit is sweet. Although SMK's classes of rep and con may seem drier than the SCH bread now, 40 years on, your heart will thrill at the thought of them still.

As you find yourself on the other side of Christmas, a pleasant (or shocking) surprise awaits you: Harrow football. Harrow football is rather like brussels sprouts or mushy peas: you either love it or you hate it. On a wet Wednesday afternoon, you drag yourself down to the miry marshes of Hempstall, braving thundering torrents of rain. Before the whistle is even blown, your new boots are caked with sticky mud. As 22 heads are bowed in agony and 44 legs flounder on the slippery field, you hear the voice of your House Master ringing in the distance: "Footer" is "footer", whatever the day!"

Finally, Trials are over and the glorious summer awaits (if you happen to be sitting Trials at the moment, you may have to imagine this part – sorry!). As you celebrate with your new friends, you reminisce about the glory, toil and fun of your Shell year at Harrow: those bases attempted, those shows performed, and those lessons wasted! When I recollect my memories of Shell, visions of boyhood rush to my eyes and echoes of dreamland sing in my ears. O, let me relive those ephemeral moments of complacent joy and ignorant delight! But all too soon, five fleeting years have passed, and

your "Harrow journey" has finally come to an end. As you erroneously wander down Grove Hill and arrive at Harrow-on-the-Hill Station for perhaps the last time, a familiar tune comes to mind. You seize onto the winged words, and suddenly, an evanescent melody escapes from your mouth and flies into the distance...

*Yet the time may come, though you scarce know why,  
When your eyes will fill  
At the thought of the Hill,  
And the wild regret of the last good-bye!  
And the wild regret of the last good-bye...*

Given the poignant words and indelible tune of *Five Hundred Faces*, it is a shame that we only hear it twice a year (during Churchill Songs and Speech Day Songs). However, we must remember and respect the gruelling work of the Shell soloist, whose immense courage and talent carry the song ever closer to our hearts. The first mention of a soloist for *Five Hundred Faces* was in the Harrow Notes edition of 13 October 1892, describing the School Concert on 30 July. On that occasion, Robertson (the soloist) sang with 'a clear but not very strong voice... [being] at a disadvantage owing to the loudness of some of the wind instruments'. Fortunately, the soloist no longer needs to share his moment with the bassoonists, and DNW's countless rehearsals have clearly increased the quality of singing. So let us thank Archie Kwok, *Druries*, Inigo Cleeve, *Lyon's*, Arun Mattu, *The Head Master's*, Jack Meredith, *The Park 2022*<sup>3</sup>, Jimi Aiyeola, *The Grove*, Thomas Kelsey, *Elmfield*, Raulph Lubbe, *The Grove*, and Fergus McKie, *The Grove*, for bringing *Five Hundred Faces* to life.

The motto of *Five Hundred Faces* as written in Virgil, Aeneid, Bk 1, L. 203, and printed in Vol. 1 Issue 1 of Harrow Notes, on 24 February 1883:

*"Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit."  
The memory of our griefs and fears  
May stir the soul in after years.*

## VERNEY PRIZE

Adjudicator Professor Alister McGrath Oxford,

The Verney Prize is the academic prize at Harrow School; it is a significant Sixth Form Speech Day prize awarded to the boy who produces the best arguments in both a written round and a final *viva voce* round, with the latter judged by an external adjudicator. The adjudicator this year was the Emeritus Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, Professor Alister McGrath. The prize itself was donated by His Honour Judge Lawrence John Verney in 1974 to mark the link of 200 years between Harrow and the Verney family.

Over the summer holidays, boys in the Sixth Form read John Haldane's *Philosophy, the restless heart and the meaning of theism* published in 2006, and on their return to the Hill sat a timed essay on the statement: Give a critical assessment of the idea that God can be seen as the goal of human longing. What are its strengths and weaknesses? These first-round essays were marked internally first, and a short list of essays were sent to the external adjudicator, who in turn selected three finalists.

The final took place on Tuesday 7 November in the OSRG. Professor McGrath asked them to prepare an oral argument of ten minutes on the question: Has science made philosophy redundant?

After their ten-minute oral arguments, Professor McGrath selected Ray Moon, *West Acre*, to be this year's Verney Prize winner. The Head Master will present the Verney Prize to Ray on Speech Day.

Here are the summaries of the arguments presented by the finalists.

*Ray Moon, West Acre*

Famously, Stephen Hawking in his book *The Grand Design* proclaimed that philosophy is 'dead'. He arrived at this conclusion after realising that the Universe could be explained by Newtonian and Einsteinian laws and scientific theorems such as quantum mechanics. But is Hawking right? Has science made philosophy redundant? This question becomes more interesting when we think about the nature of science and philosophy. The two operate with logics that seem diametrically opposed: science seeks clear answers whereas philosophy seeks to expand the boundaries of the seemingly clear-cut answers by continuously inviting reflection and nuance.



In the contemporary world, one sees science's ascendancy through the vast technological advancements in AI, epigenetics, and space exploration. We put much faith in the empirical evidence created through meticulous laboratory and real-world experiments and live an enriched life made possible by these advancements. But is it enough to say whether science has made philosophy redundant?

No. Instead, I view science and philosophy as two discrete, complementary approaches. More significantly, I interpret the question as inviting an investigation into how we might find meaning and live a fulfilling life.

This is the methodological approach that John Haldane takes in *Philosophy, the restless heart, and the meaning of theism*, in which he directs our attention to the cognitive and affective needs of human beings. Haldane believes that these needs cannot be fully addressed by science on its own.

What science can offer is an explanation of metaphysical phenomena in the world. It is the essential tool we use to understand the world and naturally science has deeply infiltrated our lives. In fact, science is opening gateways for a longer and more enriched life. Think of all the advancements in AI and CRISPR gene editing technology.

However, science is fundamentally unequipped to give answers to our innate desires for meaning. The scientific method can teach us nothing beyond how effects are related to and conditioned by each other. Even if one has a complete knowledge of *what is*, one may not be able to deduce from that *what should be* the goal of our human aspirations.

On the other hand, philosophy fulfils our meaning-seeking nature. Philosophy, as the love of wisdom, is the heartfelt inquiry into life, an inquiry that enables us to draw out lessons from our experiences. Wisdom, knowledge that comes from experience, cannot be gained through experiments in the lab, but by exposing ourselves to life in its fullest sense. This inquiring mind is becoming only more essential as science develops. In this chaotic generation of rapid changes, we must be questioning continuously. What are the dangers of social media? What are the ethical risks of CRISPR technology? We need philosophy to continue with this kind of critical inquiry.

Additionally, philosophy helps us reflect on the trajectory of science. We tend to think of science as unbiased and 'objective', but this is a myth. In reality, people who conduct scientific research are human beings, who are shaped by the

environment they live in. As Kuhn pointed out, scientific research is grounded in paradigms that influence the way we analyse data and make conclusions – and these paradigms shift over time. We need philosophy to continuously remind ourselves of this fact. And so, in our endless strive to live a fulfilling life, we must embrace both science and philosophy.

*Darren Chiu, Newlands*

I began my presentation with a personal anecdote, hoping to give the audience a better understanding of my religious background, addressing the more theological aspect of the topic. When I was young, my Christian mother used to read me cartoon Bible books, which were my first encounters with religion. I quickly took a liking to religion, given that I agreed with many of the moral lessons that were taught, such as Jesus' compassion in feeding the 5,000 and the Good Samaritan being willing to put aside differences and conflict to help a wounded man.

However, as I grew older, I became increasingly educated, which led to me starting to question some of my previous religious beliefs. Surely between the Big Bang theory and the story of God's creation, only one could be true, right? What I did not realise at the time was that I was making a common mistake that many atheists and agnostics make – taking religion literally rather than metaphorically.

Only when seen from a purely literal point of view is there a conflict between science and theology. Learning to understand the metaphorical truths of religion can lead us to view science and religion as complementary. Religious believers may even argue that science helps us understand the truths of the world that God created.

Some might argue that theology is no longer relevant or useful due to its nature as a study. They could argue that there is a lack of evidence for theological claims. Furthermore, many theological claims are not empirically verifiable or falsifiable – there is no scientific evidence for supernatural beings like deities, angels, demons, an afterlife, or miracles. Theological claims rely solely on faith, revelation, authority, or subjective experience.

However, it is not fair to say that science has made theology entirely redundant. One benefit of religion is that we can better understand ourselves as a species. For example, our human tendency to worship higher beings may reflect out intrinsically curious nature as we desire answers to seemingly unanswerable questions. Religion has also shaped billions of humans lives and shaped communities – studying the history of religion can give us valuable insights for a generation accelerating into the future.

Finally, I concluded my speech by referring back to my childhood experiences. I said that I used to play every day at night, just before bed. I would tell Him what went well and what was bad about my day. Even if I had had an argument with my brother or with my parents, I always had God to turn to. Ultimately, what I think I was really looking for was comfort.

At the end of the day, humans are merely insignificant beings in this vast universe, trying desperately to convince ourselves that we understand the world around us. I believe that can come from both science and religion – one doesn't have to make the other redundant. There will always be value in studying something such as religion, which has affected humanity for so long, and no matter how advanced science gets, it should never make theology redundant.

*Hans Patel, Newlands*

Relations between philosophy and the sciences are not especially good these days. Scientists have stuck the boot in and decried philosophy as redundant. Hawking claimed, "Philosophy is dead... Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge."

Dawkin, the biologist, is equally harsh: “Science’s truths were true before there were societies; will still be true after all philosophers are dead”.

Other scientists get even more personal. DeGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist, argues that philosophy does “too much question-asking ... distract[ing] and derail[ing] scientists”.

Krauss (another physicist) believes science progresses but philosophy does not. It is “sterile, backward, useless, and annoying!”

Philosophers don’t even like themselves much. To quote Montaigne, a 16th-century philosopher, they are “one-eyed ranters that do nothing but split hairs, digress, obfuscate, contradict and quarrel”.

The implication is that scientific truths are objective, enduring and valuable: reflecting the nature of reality itself. Philosophical truths, in comparison have fleeting value, reflecting subjective opinion alone and, in the 21st century, they add nothing to the world. Philosophy has had its day. A new (scientific) dawn has broken.

#### The superior power of science?

Way back when the Earth was flat and the sun revolved around it, philosophy and theology provided answers about the natural world and our place in it. Scholars of these disciplines were your go-to gurus for knowledge and understanding. During the enlightenment, philosophy and the emerging discipline of science were heavily intertwined. Remember, Newton was first a natural philosopher then a physicist, astronomer and polymath. This makes it incredibly disappointing that philosophy should now find itself overtaken by scientific knowledge and technological developments.

In the last century alone, scientific advances have led to the doubling of life expectancy, an exponential increase in our capacity to distribute information, and the connection of people all over the planet. There has been a revolution in our understanding of the universe and the means to physically explore it. Scientific activity on every front of human endeavour has been the engine of our advances. Science solves real-world problems. It gives us things we can touch, see and use. Meanwhile, what can philosophy do for the modern age?

#### Philosophy as the foundation

Is philosophy the foundation? Quite so. Without foundations, we cannot build. Philosophical ideas provide the foundation for science – Democritus and atoms, Pythagoras and mathematics, Aristotle’s logic and computer science, Kant’s universal moral law, Bentham’s utilitarianism, rational thought – these are concepts shaping the world we live in today.

The dons of science are wrong if they think philosophy is a fuzzy discipline. Philosophy is serious. It has rules. The Holy Grail of philosophy is that arguments ought to be valid and sound. A valid argument is an argument in which the premises, if true, lead to the truth of the conclusion. For example:

*All cats are mammals.*

*All mammals are vertebrates.*

*Therefore, all cats are vertebrates.*

Like scientists, philosophers use logic, observation, and evidence to answer questions about reality. Today, what we call ‘scientific thinking’ is exactly philosophical thinking. Perhaps scientists have become so egotistical that they just don’t wish to credit philosophy as the mother of their inventions!

Philosophy challenges science to keep itself more grounded. For instance, science likes to believe that it is purely objective. But is it? Eugenics was once a valid science used to support a worldview of racial superiority. Objective measurements and observations of facial features and body characteristics buttressed prejudice.

Science also claims to deal with things that exist – the ‘facts’. Perhaps. Yet how are these facts selected and interpreted? Furthermore, is it true that once we have ‘the facts’ there is no room for interpretation or disagreement? As the philosopher Voltaire reminds us: our truths today may be upstaged, or even

replaced, by newer ones, those based on newer science and more solid evidence.

Science needs philosophy. I hope you see what is happening: science has gone all shouty, gobbling up the oxygen while philosophy works unobtrusively in the background. Fundamentally, philosophy’s role is to encourage autonomous critical thinkers. We need it to address what I feel is a malaise in our current thinking: where knowledge is being dumbed down and complex ideas are reduced to three-word soundbites. Exponential growth is just ‘multiplying by two’, right? Or perhaps, ‘Hands, Face, Space.’

In the modern era, we appear unable to deal with the complexity and ethics of science. We don’t want to tackle how big tech is stealing our data, creating deep fakes, cloning human embryos, gene selection, developing of sentient technologies. Are we all living in the Matrix where nobody takes the red pill?

Without the mapping of an agreed set of behaviours, our scientific explorations of the physical world would lack wisdom and potentially be dangerously reckless. This is the role of philosophy. As long as questions are asked and explored, philosophy can never truly be redundant.

## THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

*Architecture Society, Charlie McDowell, Elmfield*

The Architecture Society gathered to hear Charlie McDowell, *Elmfield*, talk on the topic of the Great Pyramids of Giza. These pyramids are the most famous site in Egypt and attract millions of tourists every year. This site of monumental importance became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.

There are three pyramids on the Giza plateau, all three belonging to a line of pharaohs from the 4th dynasty of Egypt. They were built around 2500 BC. The first and largest pyramid belongs to Khufu, standing at 481 feet tall. It is believed that it was larger when it was built but was worn down through erosion and when blocks of stone were stolen. The second pyramid belong to Khufu’s son, Khafre. His pyramid is smaller than his father’s, measuring 471 feet, but is actually taller as it was built on a raised platform. The third and smallest pyramid belongs to Khafre’s son, called Menkaure. His pyramid only comes in at 213 feet tall.

The building of the pyramids is still a mystery, with some believing that aliens are responsible for their construction. Instead they were built by slaves and conscripted workers, as we have found remains of their campsites, as well as remains of food, which were carbon-dated to that period. Another important finding was that of cemeteries near the pyramids. The way in which they were built was probably with long, sloping embankments, and by rolling the blocks on logs. It is also estimated that the Great Pyramid took 20 years to build. An interesting point about the pyramids is that the four corners point in the cardinal directions.

When the pyramids were built, they were very ornate and had white limestone on the exterior, making them shine in the sun. The limestone was taken in many raids and we are now left with the yellow limestone. There was further decoration in the king and queen’s chambers in the pyramids, each chamber having contained jewellery, statues, and large amounts of gold. All of these were stolen, leaving behind empty rooms, lacking even the sarcophagi. Another interesting fact was that Cleopatra lived closer to the invention of the iPhone than to the construction of the pyramids.



## THE FUTURE OF FREE TRADE

*Pigou Society, Dome Srithong, Lyon's, 8 November*

The Pigou Society welcomed Dome Srithong, *Lyon's*, to give a talk on 'The Benefits, Drawbacks, and Future of Free Trade'. To begin, he laid out the context and groundwork of the history and definitions of globalisation and free trade, where there has been a steep, upwards trajectory for trade liberalisation for the past 150 years, attributed to the common belief that free trade is objectively beneficial in driving a country's economic growth and welfare. Despite this, post-2008 financial crisis, global trade has declined and has been stagnant or declining up to 2020. To explore and explain these puzzling data and implications, he began exploring the tensions of free trade, and the rise of protectionism.

Exploring the alluring attributes of free trade, Srithong addressed three main benefits: economic growth, co-operative relationships among countries, and lower prices benefiting consumers. As firms have access to international markets, firms can access the export industry and invest in global trade. The result? Lower unemployment and increased disposable income, leading to greater consumption. Moreover, cross-border collaboration increases the ease of flow of technology and knowledge, which can improve innovation. To demonstrate these ideas, Srithong pointed towards the Covid-19 vaccination, where the conjoined efforts of countries led to the quick development of vaccinations and the effective provision of aid to countries in need. In the long run, as countries continue to innovate and improve productivity, the maximum capacity the economy can operate at increases, leading to long-run growth.

Moving on to the second point, Srithong identified the important free-trade agreements or pacts, such as but not limited to NAFTA, the EU and the WTO. These established symbiotic relationships can reduce conflict due to interdependency, and reduce frictions to free trade, promoting the free movement of goods, capital labour and services across borders.

Finally, Srithong looked towards the benefit of globalisation and free trade on consumers. With the removal of tariffs, imports are cheaper and transnational companies can reduce costs through outsourcing supply and benefiting from economies of scale. Analysing the case study of the production of cotton shirts in Vietnam, Srithong showed the significantly lower costs UK shirt firms can benefit from due to lower costs of production. These are then passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices. This phenomenon also explains why Amazon receipt is established in Luxembourg where the tax environment is more favourable.

Despite these benefits, Srithong acknowledged that free trade is not the economic paradise some claim it to be. He explained that outsourcing can lead to domestic job displacement and vulnerability, which can harm affected industries in developed countries. There is also increased wealth inequality as the supply of low-skilled labour is substantially larger, depressing wages or displacing them entirely. The opposite is true for high-skilled labour. This same logic can also be applied to firms, particularly the polarising impacts for transnational firms compared to small, local firms. Lastly, and perhaps the most obvious drawback is increased economic vulnerability to exogenous shocks. Pointing out recent commodity shocks from the Russia-Ukraine war, where restricted exports from Russia resulted in a sudden supply shock internationally, therefore putting upward pressure on oil and energy prices, catalysing the cost-of-living crisis.

Although these are generic drawbacks and benefits of free trade, who truly are the 'winners' and 'losers' of globalisation? Srithong acknowledged that this is a multi-faceted issue, and it heavily depends on different groups of economic agents. He explained the main 'winners' to be export jobs, those who can move to higher income countries, and the ease of tax

evasion for large firms, and the exploitation of competitive advantage, all of which are explained above. In the context of 'losers', Srithong picked out the developing countries' human capital drain, sub-national development disparity, land locked countries, and structural unemployment.

Moving on to the main question of the talk, Srithong discussed the rise of protectionist ideologies. The first phase began around 2015 as anxiety about globalisation and competition from low-wage countries gave way to Brexit and the US-China trade war. The second phase arose from the pandemic with massive supply shocks and pandemic restrictions, therefore increasing deglobalisation. The third phase was the Russia-Ukraine war commodity shocks, exposing certain nations to their overdependency on imported goods, which exposed nations the idea of self-sufficiency.

To conclude, Srithong argued against deglobalisation, pointing out that, historically, free trade promotes positive economic outcomes. On a more passive note, he suggested a fine line between protectionism and globalisation, ultimately prioritising and maximising economic and social welfare for society on the aggregate.

The Pigou Society thanks Srithong for his intellectually stimulating talk, and addressing a long-debated issue that is currently extremely relevant given the large movements and shifts in government ideologies currently, and a problem that will continue to be fiercely debated for many years to come.

## THE GREATEST FEMALE RACING DRIVER OF ALL TIME

*French Society, 'Michèle Mouton', Endesha Dokolo, Druries, 13 November*

On Monday 13 November, the French Society welcomed Endesha Dokolo, *Druries*, who spoke on Michele Mouton - the greatest female racing driver of all time. Dokolo began by setting a tense scene: the year is 1982 and it is the final leg of the crucial round of the WRC; one of the two battling it out with identical times, one is a woman. She is the first and only woman in the mainstream motorsports field, and she has just received devastating news. On this cliff-hanger, we were transported back in time to examine Mouton's life in full.

Dokolo began with the basics. Born in Grasse in 1951, Mouton began driving at the age of 14 in a Citroen 2CV (fans of the iconic vehicle unite!); however, her love for racing would only begin in 1972, when she met the dashing Jean Taibi. Taibi offered for her to be co-driver and navigator for him in local races. Interestingly, her father was incredibly supportive of her efforts, especially given he had once sought to be racer himself. However, he could quickly see how his daughter was beginning to be typecast as just a co-driver and navigator. Suspicious of Taibi's arrogance, he offered his daughter one year to prove herself with a top car and financial funding provided by him. Mouton took on the challenge.

Within two years, she would win two Female WRCs and two French Ladies Championships. These successive and decisive victories led to the uncomfortable conclusion that there simply was not enough competition for her among the female drivers. Mouton began to look to the men's field; she began to dream the unthinkable. Dokolo then took this breath-taking moment to brief us on the basics of rally racing. This information only increased admiration for Mouton: contrary to F1 races, rally racing is conducted in versions of production vehicles and takes place on standard roads, with tight corners and all sorts of weather conditions.

It was at this point that Dokolo began to share some of the misogynistic reactions to Mouton's early success. As a powerful woman, she was instantly doubted and scrutinised, with some suggesting that her car's engine was secretly overpowered. However, after scrupulous checks, such rumours were proven to be false. Any hopes that Mouton would let blatant sexism get to her were soon dispelled, when she circuit raced at Le Mans and proceeded to declare that the conditions were too forgiving and comfortable for her.

In her third season, Mouton was equipped with a shining Porsche 911 Carrera and gained her first win in the Raylle de Espara. She came fourth in the FIA for drivers in 1978, followed by a second in the French Championship in 1979. Her rise appeared unstoppable, especially when Audi signed her, choosing her over established male counterparts. However, Dokolo would soon quash our hopes of immediate gratification by explaining how her first year with Audi was not very good. Marred by inexperience, her team was inefficient with the Audi Quattro, and it frequently broke down. Yet her performance remained stable and confident, and her presence was certainly felt. Finnish racing legend Ari Vatanen stated, "The day I will be beaten by a woman, I will stop racing!" Despite such misogyny (and disasters such as her teammate crashing into a rock), Mouton continued defiantly.

Her year would come in 1982, when the Audi Quattro came into its own under her skilled driving. Up against legend Walter Rohl in his Opel, Mouton would face tough yet rewarding competition. Despite being in a cast at times and having a poor start in Corsica, she would begin to shoot up the rankings. The Acropolis round in Greece was crucial: Mouton was Audi's #1 driver, and Walter Rohl was 20 points ahead. However, the Audi was powerful and Rohl's aggressive style proved too much for his Opel, leading to a win in this round for Mouton. She was now billed "the woman that upsets".

Dokolo then stated that it was now all down to the Ivory Coast round, recalling the very beginning of the lecture... Upon a very difficult track, Mouton and Rohl were head-to-head. However, Mouton received a devastating piece of news: her father had just passed away. Contemplating whether to leave immediately for France, she was stopped by her mother, who told her to continue racing. It would not be easy. Her incredible 90-minute lead was squashed down to nothing by a failed gearbox change conducted by her team and engine failures in the Audi. In the final leg of the race, her time was identical to Rohl's. This could go either way. However, Mouton's pace notes were lost in a crash, and as a result, she failed to secure a victory. Heart-warmingly, however, Rohl stated that he wished she had won, for it would have meant a lot for the motorsports industry.

Consequently, Mouton would never win an overall WRC trophy; but her tale has inspired millions across the globe, from men to women, from rally-lovers to car-geeks. Dokolo ensured that her legacy was portrayed in its fullest form to us. We understood that she was a pioneer, a talent and a legend in her field. Questions then followed, with in-depth answers about Mouton's impact and the future of female racers in motorsports (especially since there are no mainstream female F1 drivers). The French Society was left breathless and in awe of the bravery and honour of such a trail-blazing figure in the motoring world and would once again like to thank Dokolo for giving the lecture.

## LIES AND SPIES

*Peel Society, 'Disinformation and espionage in the Cold War', Marc Gaw, & Ben Stevens, Newlands, 14 November*

On a brutally brumal Tuesday evening, the Peel Society welcomed Marc Gaw and Ben Stevens, both *Newlands*, who

gave an intriguing talk on espionage in the Cold War (which was rather appropriate to the weather conditions). Unfortunately, the timings coincided with Senior House debating and, worst of all, Newlands' Astro Night. Nonetheless, the loyal Peel Society brigade arrived undeterred (perhaps guided by JPM's BOUNTY-ous supply of chocolates). Even JRP came to investigate whether Gaw and Stevens were secretly attempting to infiltrate his grand vault of golf balls hidden beneath Newlands. As he (as well as the audience) discovered, Gaw and Stevens were true masters of espionage and its clandestine history during the Cold War.

Stevens began with a healthy dose of the IGCSE History course, covering half the Remove syllabus in about ten minutes (though he spent half the time explaining the differences between the London Poles and the Lublin Poles, which ended in tongue-twisting vain). Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, the two superpowers of the USA and USSR were divided over many issues, including the fate of Eastern Europe. The conferences at Yalta and Potsdam yielded little progress, as Roosevelt's successor, Truman, was bitterly anti-communist and anti-Stalin. At Potsdam, Truman informed Stalin of the USA's successful atomic bomb test in New Mexico on 16 July 1945. Truman thought that Stalin would be utterly stupefied. However, Stalin responded with a cold smirk – he had known about the Manhattan Project before Truman did!

You may ask, how is this possible? As Gaw explained, it was all due to espionage, the hallmark of the Cold War. Both the USA and USSR had conflicting ideologies: one was communist, the other capitalist; one was a dictatorship, the other a democracy; one pursued social equality, the other individual rights. Therefore, US-Soviet relations were full of competition, suspicion and distrust during the Cold War. Gaw pointed out that the code to the Cold War safe was information. And to obtain superior information and intel, both sides used espionage.

Though espionage was dangerous and exposed spies often faced execution, Gaw explained that agencies such as the CIA, FBI and KGB offered lucrative economic incentives to their agents. Others, such as Klaus Fuchs, turned to espionage due to their political beliefs. A member of the German Communist Party, Fuchs emigrated to Britain in 1933 to flee from the Nazi regime. However, his mind was set on Communism, and Fuchs secretly became an agent for GRU (the Soviet Chief Intelligence Office). When he was sent to America with other British scientists to work on the Manhattan Project, the Soviets hit the jackpot. Over the course of several years, Fuchs informed the Soviets about the development of the atomic bomb, and US uranium and plutonium production, and even provided a theoretical outline for making the hydrogen bomb. In December 1949, Klaus Fuchs' spy status was uncovered by the Venona Project, the US counterintelligence programme. Fuchs received 14 years behind bars and there was no Santa "Klaus" to give the Soviets nuclear intel that Christmas. Fuchs was released early in 1959, and he moved to East Germany to pursue his communist dreams.

However, Stevens revealed that many spies did not meet a fortunate end. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were an American couple (as well as Soviet agents). Conveniently, Julius worked at Fort Monmouth, an American research centre for electronics, communications, radar, and guided missile controls (and now a Netflix production studio). Therefore, Julius gave the Soviets a complete set of design and production drawings for the Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star (the first US operational jet fighter). Stevens explained that Ethel's brother, David Greenglass, was also conveniently working on the Manhattan Project. Ethel successfully convinced her brother to leak US nuclear secrets with an incomprehensible economic incentive... of \$100. When the Rosenbergs were eventually exposed, they faced the electric chair and became the first and only American citizens to be executed for espionage.

Perhaps the moral of the tale is not to scam your brother, or indeed anyone.

Gaw then talked about an American spy, Dmitry Polyakov, who faced the same fate. Originally, Polyakov was a Major General of the GRU and a Soviet agent. However, on an overseas assignment in New York City between 1959 and 1961, he approached the FBI and offered to become a double agent for America, due to corruption within the Communist Party. While stationed in Southeast Asia, Polyakov gave the Americans intel about Viet Minh and Chinese forces in the Vietnam War, as well as the worsening Sino-Soviet relations. As Gaw explains, Polyakov's intel was instrumental in Nixon's historical visit to China in 1972. Polyakov was arrested in 1986 by the KGB, six years after retiring. Two years later, he was tried and executed.

Now you may ask, how did spies get caught? Gaw revealed that greed is often the hamartia of great spies. Although he made the grave mistake of attending Senior House Debating instead of this talk, Fr Stuart will agree that 'Those who trust in their riches will fall' (Proverbs 11:28). However, the CIA-agent-turned-Soviet-spy Aldrich Ames clearly did not appreciate the dangers of gluttony and greed. The promise of \$50,000 every time he had lunch with a Soviet agent moved Ames' heart, and he began leaking intel to the Soviets in 1985. All in all, he was paid \$4.6 million by the Soviets. However, Ames' greed undermined all his efforts: though his annual salary from the CIA was \$60,000, Ames bought a \$50,000 Jaguar car and a new \$540,000 house (all paid with his newly earned cash). Though it took the CIA almost nine years to notice (the SCH roof would be fixed sooner!), Ames was eventually arrested in 1994 and currently serves a life sentence in Indiana.

Gaw and Stevens concluded their fascinating talk by exploring the evolution of espionage with technology. From images taken by American U-2 Spy planes during the 1960s to satellite imagery today, technology clearly plays a crucial role in modern-day espionage. Cyberattacks on major companies and even governments are becoming more and more prevalent. Earlier this year, classified US military documents on the Ukrainian War were leaked on Discord, prompting worldwide shock. With rapid advancements in AI and other technologies, the future of espionage will be exciting, and the future of our world uncertain. However, we can all be certain that Gaw and Stevens presented a terrific talk to conclude a spectacular term for the Peel Society!

## REMARKABLE RICE

*Oriental Society, Tony Shi, The Grove, 9 November*

Tony Shi, *The Grove*, delivered a lecture entitled 'Remarkable Rice: The Global Grain' to The Oriental Society, summarising the 12,000-year history of rice cultivation and explaining the importance of rice in our daily lives.

To begin, Shi introduced some incredible statistics. Approximately half the world's population (3.5 billion) eats rice daily. We can think of many types of rice, from egg-fried rice and SCH's artificially yellow basmati rice to even Rice Krispies. However, Shi revealed that there are over 40,000 different varieties of rice, with many of them preserved in large seed banks around the world. They all had the same ancestor: wild grasses. However, very few varieties grow in the wild nowadays.

Shi then talked about the history of rice, starting from 10,000 BC. In the past, nomadic hunter-gatherers living in the mountains spent most of their day foraging for food. However, food was scarce, tools were ineffective, and every meal could

be their last. Thus, population growth was slow. Three thousand years passed without much progress until the hunter-gatherers found a patch of tall grass with red grains. The red grains were edible, not particularly tasty, and ensured the tribes did not die from hunger. Soon after, the hunter-gatherers discovered many different characteristics of the red grains and only took the ones with the desired characteristics back home. The hunter-gatherers also started to plant the largest grains for harvest. After 2,000 years, the grains produced were twice as large!

Domestication of rice began when farmers started to selectively breed rice with desired characteristics. The japonica subspecies (round, short-grained) of domesticated rice, which originated in southern China, came into existence around 7,000 years ago and migrated to China, Korea and Japan around 5,000 BC. More recently, other waves of rice domestication happened in northern India and Bangladesh, where the genes of different types of rice mixed, creating hybrid rice varieties. For example, the jasmine and basmati rice resulted from the hybridisation of japonica and aus rice (smaller, thinner grains). Other geographical locations, such as northeast Nigeria, are also home to domesticated rice species.

The domestication of rice was a huge milestone for global civilisation. Along with wheat and maize, rice transformed nomadic tribes into agricultural settlers in the first agricultural revolution. It also played a huge role in population growth and became the bedrock of society. Italy is the top European rice producer, harvesting 1.5 million tonnes annually. However, China and India produce 400 million tonnes per annum.

Shi ended the lecture by teaching the audience how to cook a bowl of perfect egg-fried rice. While brown rice is good for health, it does not stick together when cooked and can become rancid due to its high oil content. Surprisingly, brown rice is the precursor to the common white rice. We can produce white rice by milling brown rice and removing the bran. Therefore, one should use medium or long-grain rice that is not too sticky and cool the rice before cooking to avoid clumping.

However, studies have shown that rice left cold for more than 2–3 days can accommodate a type of bacteria, *Bacillus cereus*, which can produce toxins that cause stomach pains and vomiting. Hence, it is best to avoid using rice left for too long. There are also some challenges related to rice cultivation. There is a lack of genetic variation in the rice gene pool (60% of Chinese farmers only grow one type of rice), meaning that a disease can potentially wipe out the majority of modern rice agriculture. Consequences of climate change, such as more frequent droughts and floods, also impact rice cultivation.

Overall, rice has played a significant role in human history and will continue to feed billions of people many years into the future. Regardless of what rice dishes you like, whether it be egg-fried rice, Italian risotto, or Nigerian jollof, rice will be an irreplaceable component of our diet. We can also agree that as well as being an excellent source of carbohydrates, a healthy bowl of egg-fried rice is what every boy in the School would rather eat after a long day (no disrespect to the SCH). The Oriental Society thanks Shi for delivering such an entertaining and informative talk.

## MAKING GROWN MEN CRY

*'The Art of Tragedy', Sheridan Society, Nick Arnison, Moretons, 14 November*

On a quiet and cosy evening in the bowels of the Vaughan, Nick Arnison, *Moretons*, addressed the Sheridan Society on 'Making Grown Men Cry: The Art of Tragedy', touching on various qualities playwrights must use to build tragedy.



Arnison first introduced mimesis – the process of imitating genuine feelings and emotions inspired by real-life events and portraying them on stage to create the effect of tragedy, as if experienced for the first time. These stories can range from believable to borderline fantastic. Some stories are too outrageous to be sympathetic; but this quality is undoubtedly a sign of the passing times. Take *Oedipus Rex*, a classic tragedy about a King of Thebes who kills his father and marries his mother in a bizarre train of events. This plot may have resonated with Ancient Greek audiences more than it ever would with audiences today.

Arnison then discussed the presence and importance of ‘hamartia’, a device that all tragedies must contain. Hamartia is a character’s ‘fatal flaw’ that eventually serves as their undoing. Arnison offered up a modern example such as the 2019 Korean film *Parasite*, in which the main characters (a poor family) hoodwink a wealthy family into hiring each member of the family, quadrupling their collective income. Despite maintaining the audience’s sympathy throughout, these characters push the limits of what they can get away with, leading to their downfall. This example was not free from scrutiny, however, and attendees of the lecture wondered whether it was truly because of greed that this family ended up in misfortune or whether it was simply due to ‘bad luck’. Arnison argued that for the pure attainment of ‘tragedy’, a character must have had some influence on his eventual misfortune.

The writer himself has often wondered why ancient tragedies, such as *Oedipus Rex* or even *Hippolytus*, hold such little gravity today when, for so many years, these plays captivated audiences from every walk of life. Arnison explained that in the past, nobility and kings’ stories were considered the pinnacle of entertainment. In a strange twist, modern audiences admire the same subtle honour and grace from the poor as did people of the past from kings. A more potent example of hamartia is one of *Breaking Bad*’s infamous Walter White, whose greed leads to his death and the misfortune of everyone he knows.

The ‘loser quality’ is a third and often overlooked tenet of tragedy. It is the final realisation of the true nature of things and, despite whispers of hope, things will not change (e.g. “I’m just no good at maths”). The final and most crushing defeat, the fear that there is just no escape, is perhaps what we all fear most. To experience that on stage rather than in your own life is always cathartic; a wave of relief washes over you as you realise your life isn’t hopeless. This feeling brings a sense of understanding deep inside oneself, feeling alive through a voyeuristic view. This emotion is the idea of ‘katharsis’, which served as the fourth and final point in Arnison’s lecture. In classic Sheridan style, ERPB began the Q&A with a question that sparked others into action, leading to over 20 minutes of thoughtful discussion. I very much enjoyed Arnison’s lecture, which maintained the society’s high standards.

# METROPOLITAN

## THE DAODEJING

The *Daodejing* is a great philosophical work written by the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu. Famously, it preaches the doctrine of governing a great country like cooking small fish. However its expanse of wisdom also offers insights into the running of a British boarding school.

There are several quotes from the book which I have put into sections of different themes. The first one, and the most important, are notes from Mr Lao (some people suggest that

he was actually Mr Li, but, for the sake of convenience, let us continue with blinkers on) on food. In chapter three, he says ‘the sage rules by emptying their hearts, filling their bellies, weakening their wills, and strengthening their bones.’ In chapter 12, Lao Tzu says ‘the rule of the sage is for the belly and not for the eye’, which obviously means that maybe we should be building less-pretty buildings and instead fix the leaks in the SCH, which puts us students in constant danger of being osmosised into a most deplorable hypotonic state every meal. We should probably also reduce the budget of certain departments so as to not create so much distraction to the mind, eye and (as Fr Stew would say) “moral soul”. I would advocate for IT to be prioritised in particular, considering their terrific efficiency when dealing with all matters. Furthermore, if we want to solve the problem of behaviour (a problem that has existed since the founding of the School) from its root, then double is obviously a bad choice. Instead of punishment, a fulfilment of our consummatory desired is the answer that SMT has been looking for for the past 451 years.

The second theme is education. In chapter 12, Lao Tzu writes that ‘the colours make you blind, the notes make you deaf’, which interpreted in our context almost certainly means the demolition of the Art and Music Departments for health and safety reasons (perhaps we can use the space for a building-sized wifi-router, and then maybe the wifi will finally work). In chapter 18, he says ‘wisdom is needed only because falsehood exists’. Therefore, beaks should maybe start reflecting on their honesty if boys are doing very well in lessons. Chapter 19 gives us an even bolder statement: ‘Relinquish wisdom, and the people shall benefit hundredfold’, and also in chapter 65: ‘the ancient sages did not enlighten the people; they made them stupid; people are hard to govern if they know much’. It is maybe, then, with tears, that we will have to conduct some reductions to the swollen Maths and English Departments (and perhaps Modern Languages as well) to reduce the wisdom practised on the Hill for *our* benefits (and then maybe we can charge a bit less as well).

The final theme is behaviour. There is a segment from chapter 72: ‘if the people fear no authority then the greatest authority is achieved’. This has to make us reflect on the authority of Senso, double and Custos, and whether they are truly helpful. In chapter 58, Lao Tzu makes the perfect case against Senso: ‘if the government inspects everything, then the people lack integrity’. What more needs to be said?

However, I do wish to remind everyone that no one is always correct and Lao Tzu is no exception. In chapter 23 he says, ‘floating winds do not blow all morning and heavy rain does not continue all day’. How we all wished that were true!

## CURTIS FILM SOCIETY

*Curtis Society, ‘Sergio Leone and The Man With No Name’, Rupert Macdonald, The Park, 10 November*

On 10 November, Rupert Macdonald, *The Park*, gave a fascinating talk to the Curtis Film Society about Sergio Leone, the influential director behind the movie *The Man With No Name*, and his vast influence on the film-making world. Sergio Leone was known for his spaghetti westerns, which were, contrary to popular belief, all filmed in Northern Italy. At the start of the lecture, MacDonald gave us an insight into the tension between two cowboys in *Once Upon a Time in the West*. We felt the authentic tension that those movie goers felt all those years ago.

Throughout the lecture, we were given a taste of his filmmaking styles, which hooked his movies to the audience. One of the most interesting moments during the talk was when we were shown different camera angles. Camera angles such as the close-up, which adds tension and suspense to the Western films Leone would typically produce, focus on the character's facial expressions and their feelings, sprinkling on more tension and suspense. Another interesting camera angle that we got to analyse was the wide shot. This camera angle would typically portray information about the landscape or the scene's mood and give information about where the character is at and how the character or group relate to the setting.

Finally, we looked at the choice of music Sergio Leone used to set the theme and atmosphere. One of the most famous themes is from the movie called *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, which we unfortunately didn't analyse but from my knowledge used instruments such as banjos, chiming bells and ocarinas. Overall, the lecture showed us how great Sergio Leone was and I thank Macdonald for giving us a great lecture.

## THE STRANGER

*Film Review by Mac McDowell, Elmfield*

*Dir: Orson Welles*

*Length: 1hr 35mins*

Following last week's review of *Chimes at Midnight*, I offer another Orson Welles classic, *The Stranger*. Made in 1946, *The Stranger* follows an investigation by a War Crimes Commission detective by the name of Mr Wilson (Edward G. Robinson). It takes place in post-war Connecticut, New England, in search of head Nazi Franz Kindler (played by Orson Welles), designer and mastermind of the concentration camps and the Jewish pogroms. An evil character to his core, Kindler, hiding under the alias of professor Charles Rankin, married to town belle Ms Mary Longstreet (played by Loretta Young), is hunted down by intrepid Mr Wilson on a swift and sinister journey that will shake the little town of Harper, Connecticut, to its core. I watched this movie only recently with my Aunt and Uncle, and, after wading my way through *Chimes at Midnight* the week before, I was deeply impressed at how tight and effective the storytelling was in this film. The movie begins with a brief and illuminating scene of the War Crimes Commission. The scene is barely over three minutes and yet manages to explain all that is to come with perfect clarity. Within the first few minutes of the film, one can see that it's no doubt a work of Orson Welles. The lighting, the awkward angles and the long shadows in place of people all work to create a tangible feeling of deceit and espionage, best equated to another Welles' famous spy-film, *The Third Man*. There's disagreement about whether Welles can be considered one of the founders of film noir, a style of film prominent in the 1950s notable for its great contrasts of light, crime-centric plots and unending use of shadow. Although it can be argued that Welles didn't actually make very many movies fit to be described as film noir, I think the impact *Citizen Kane* has had on lighting techniques set the foundation for the famous 1950s' style of cinema. Despite earning nine Oscar nominations for *Citizen Kane* back in 1942, Orson Welles was a 'director in exile' after Welles' second film, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, ran into major budgeting and production problems that undermined his relations with RKO Studios. Word spread quickly about the difficulties of working with Welles, and his career never fully recovered. An interesting bit of history: Welles was heavily involved with 32nd US President Franklin D. Roosevelt on

the 1944 campaign trail. In an attempt to stamp out concerns about FDR's age and wellbeing, Welles was put in charge of delivering campaign speeches and holding rallies, a trusted, famous voice the public could get behind. After 1945 saw the death of FDR, and the beginning of Harry Truman's tenure, Hollywood asked for Welles to return and offered him *The Stranger* as a quasi-comeback.

The movie's star-studded cast and uncompromising plot were all alluring ideas to Welles and he readily took on the project. It's with the simpler plots I believe Welles really excels. Although I hate to keep mentioning it, *Citizen Kane* is widely considered the holy grail of cinema, though in recent years, some critics have deemed it 'too much' for casual appreciation, and should be reserved for the real aficionados. The plot of *The Stranger* is simpler, more straightforward, and easier to get behind; for Welles, a movie like this was like a virgin canvas on which to experiment. Because of the plot's simplicity, I found myself very aware of film techniques, almost so much so that I got the feeling that Welles was 'showing off', or 'swinging for the fences' where reviews were concerned. Of course, one could argue he was taking advantage of new-found liberty with production agencies. Regarding his later work *Chimes at Midnight*, I'd make the opposite comment where the plot to creativity ratio is involved. Orson Welles gives a chilling performance as the Nazi-turned-school-teacher in hiding, able to shift from the idle chit-chat as he floats around the little hamlet, confident in his disguise of the professor and husband of the Supreme Court Justice's daughter, into the intensely evil and ruthless mastermind of the Holocaust. With Project Paperclip (the plan to bring Nazi German scientists over to work in the US) only being declassified in the 1980s, it was suspiciously prescient of Orson Welles to help write and create a film so 'on-the-money' considering his close proximity to the government, and although it was Truman not FDR who authorised the plan, no-doubt the idea had been floated around several times. Welles claimed the reason for the film was a way to combat feelings of Nazi sympathy that were starkly present in the US at the time, reminding us how evil, insidious and anti-American they really are, portrayed wickedly by Welles himself with a stand-out performance in the film that penetrates through the screen. The film was unprecedented in the fact that it contained the first actual on-screen depiction of Nazi concentration camps, nothing too gruesome for the 1940s' viewer but enough to remind them of recent war-time horrors. I mentioned how Welles portrays Nazi Franz Kindler as anti-American, a theme followed through in the movie and one that makes the whole thing feel a little like an anti-Nazi propaganda reel, linking back to Welles' disgust at feelings of sympathy towards the Nazis and a way to dissuade any warm American welcomes for the German war criminals.

Despite numerous attempts by the studio to undermine Welles on set, adjusting camera angles, imploring him to include close-up shots of the stars Loretta Young, and Edward G. Robinson, the film was Welles' greatest success in the box office, proving he could work in the studio setting, and was more than just an outlaw. I've spoken to more than a few Welles fans and surprisingly few of them had heard of or could remember *The Stranger*, although the ones that did praised it as one of his best works. It's relatively hidden presence is ironic, considering it's Orson Welles' No 1 most popular box-office hit, and beat the epic *Citizen Kane*, though perhaps that's more due to the media suppression by famous tycoon, and apparent inspiration, William Randolph Hurst. This widely loved film is a perfect example of uncompromising creativity mixed with a solid and fast-paced plot. Orson Welles is really one of the most fascinating directors, on and off the set, and someone who's left a lasting impact on history. All in all, I highly recommend *The Stranger*, and please let me know if there are any films you'd like to see reviewed. 21mcdowellm@harrowschool.org.uk .

## SWIMMING-POOL LIBRARY

Review by Jonathan Ford, West Acre

In the canon of Western literature, the marriage between sex and death appears indissoluble: as cries of ecstasy fade to cries of despair, the elegy longs for romance; perhaps love is the final blow.

In *The Swimming-Pool Library*, Alan Hollinghurst focuses on the bohemian, culture-gorging Will Beckwith with a seemingly base principle: to write Lord Nantwich's biography before he dies. Hollinghurst follows a rich lineage of queer literature: a pervading numbness reverberates about the work, shimmering, dazzling before its own hollow life; like Edmund White, he is a poet of the male gaze, of contact and cruising, of bicep and buttock, of an ingrained desire that seems to drive man beyond life and death. As a result, his prose morphs into a beating pulse that carries the narrative, navigating the worlds of queer longing, earthly and transcendental.

The novel's surface is pervaded as such with voyeuristic ecstasy, erotica calculated, filtered to stimulate beyond its glossy divide, culminating in climatic snap-shots before that paralysis of death returns. It makes for impassioned reading, an eager anticipation for sleazy encounters, a bliss before the body is begotten of life. Beckwith and Lord Nantwich are born to different ages: Lord Nantwich into the peak of the British Empire; Beckwith as it dwindles and disassociates. It may be tempting to draw parallels solely from their homosexual desires; yet there is something deep yet vacuous that is shared between the two: chronic idleness driven by tireless pursuit of earthly pleasures, there appears to be nothing behind the sheens of aristocracy.

Certainly, both characters embody a colonial spirit of entitlement, leading them to abuse (though sometimes unknowingly) lower classes and ethnic minorities, over whom the two behold a certain power. Despite this sexual authority, both characters appear intrinsically lonely, with the insertion of wild, sexual escapades widening this chasm within their lives. Lord Nantwich, especially, appears to live placidly, a submission to life's whims that lead only to death; this foreboding notion lies in a fuzzy haze across the novel, as the naïve promiscuity present is haunted by AIDS-crisis-ridden hindsight.

A hedonistic, pleasure-seeking lifestyle is expertly crafted across temporal clefts: Beckwith's 1970s' indulgences are interspersed with Lord Nantwich's involvements from his youth, merging sex across society and time, stretching physicality beyond its elastic bounds, tearing it from within. Reconstructed beyond their primal environments, the fleeting moments of lust-driven epicureanism are abstracted, reframed in passages explicit, animalistic, yet distinctly distant; lascivious and obscene, yet so strategic, so studied. This painless monotony resides over the true physicality of the novel, bleeding into oblivion as routine gives way to momentary bliss, and release.

Yet, there is a love present, however distant; this love is shared and is shattered; it is aroused beyond penetration, revealed beyond the layers of solitude that permeate this sybaritic life. It is profound only when there are no distractions, nothing left to separate; all is love or death – when Beckwith is brutally beaten by a gang of racist skinheads, or when James is entrapped by a policeman with whom he has had a liaison, the beating heart of the novel surfaces. As Andy Warhol notes, "As soon as you stop wanting something you get it. I've found that to be absolutely axiomatic."

The bliss of summer must end, as must life; love is conquered but it may transcend. This proverbial death is one for man and for sex: the bite of wisdom must supplement the kiss. Beckwith's final pickup parodies Gay Liberation; flaunting poppers and leather masks an inhibition, he appears too immediate, too real. This is a reaction to the objectification of homosexual desire, with its existence between the lines appearing too academic and too abstract; yet, it also serves as a warning. Its annunciation is not John the Baptist, but AIDS.

In *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Algernon declares, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple ... If it were ... modern literature [would be] a complete impossibility!" Like the works of Oscar Wilde, *The Swimming-Pool Library* stunningly welds the standard conventions of fiction to a tale of modern transgressions. Recontextualising sex and desire, it bleeds death into the climax of life, as its pulsing nerves of warmth and love lay waste to this cavalier ignorance. It will all be over; perhaps that is the point.

## PAST SONGS

From the Archive

In this glorious Songs edition, which I do hope you have been enjoying, I felt it most appropriate to use this week's *From The Archive* to look at the beginning of the Songs Book. If one does take a look at the front cover of the Songs Book, one will find a lengthy introduction regarding the creation of many Harrow Songs, their impacts on society, and the creation of the Songs Book. It is this last point that especially relates to *The Harrovian* (and indeed the other various School publications throughout the years), as the creation of the book is rather splendidly documented in *The Harrovian* of 1869 onwards. We begin with the first edition of 1869 – and thus the first edition of the second attempt at *The Harrovian*.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Farmer is compiling a volume of the School songs, which by this time form no inconsiderable number. Some even of those who are here now can recall a time when the School songs were almost unknown, and we cannot help taking this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Farmer on the uniform kindness, industry, and enthusiasm which he has lavished on the School in the endeavour to excite a musical spirit among its members, and the success which has so markedly crowned his efforts.

1869 No 1 *The Harrovian*

Following on from the matter, a mere three weeks later, the Book was ready and the editors of *The Harrovian* at the time were certainly pleased about it:

We are glad to be able to inform our readers that a new edition of the Harrow School Glee Book will be ready in a few days. It will contain in one volume the whole of the Harrow glees at present published, together with the Latin songs and the Christmas carol, and will be sold at the very small price of 3s. or 3s1. 6d. This announcement will, we feel sure, give universal satisfaction, and be received with thorough appreciation by all interested in Harrow.

1869 No 3 *The Harrovian*

A year later it is announced that Mr. John Farmer, who is the principal man in introducing Harrow to the world of music, has begun to write and collate further songs:

Readers will be glad to learn that Mr. Farmer is now actively employed in collecting and arranging other numbers of the "Harrow School Songs," in addition to those already published, many of which are original. We have also reason to believe that Mr. Farmer has given his consent to publish the "Harrow March," written expressly in honour of the victory gained at "Lord's," in 1868.

1870 No 1 *The Harrovian*

And thus the journey to the modern-day Songs Book began, a journey that spans just under 450 years, which began humbly in the ancestor to this very paper. I have kept it brief due to the rather large nature of this week's edition, which I certainly hope you enjoy.



# OPINION

## HERE AND THERE

Congratulations to the following boys who are awarded their Long Ducker Ties – for the half-marathon: Jonah Esposito, Rei Ishikawa, Eddie Cooke, Puna Anantaprakorn, Vincent Song, Will Overall, William Riddick, Algy Royle, Edward Latham, Henry Dargan, Edward Barnett, Guy Manley, Edmund O’Callaghan, Jenkyn Kegwin, Tommy Mackay, Rafferty McGougan, Harry Murton, Tom Pearce, Freddie Thompson, Oliver Rezek, John Yap, and Mungo Lawson.

In the pool – 10km swim: Kiefer Yeo, Eshaan Firake, Raulph Lubbe, Hugo Bourne, Henry Emerson, and James Lani.

Congratulations to Cameron Elliott on being awarded the Double Ducker Tie for completing the 10km swim in under three hours followed by the half-marathon in under one hour and fifty minutes. Cameron completed the swim in 02:50:20 and the half-marathon in 01:25:45.

## TRIALS AND ERROR

The decision to start Trials on the Wednesday seems rather nonsensical. To describe the decision as “rather confusing” as one House Master did off the record would be an understatement. Trials are a significant event in the calendar for Harrovians in the Autumn term. With Trials results forming a key part of a boy’s academic profile on systems such as HATS, “effective and thorough revision” is sensibly advised, and we are reminded of that in Speech Room before each exam session. Harrovians are just left wondering when they are supposed to start this crucial revision process despite the onslaught by of prep and extra-curricular work that they receive less than a week before these Trials begin. Yet, the decision to push the start of Trials to mid-week appears to go against the very principle that Harrovians should avoid cramming at all costs. Reducing revision and teaching time before Trials begin is regrettable to say the least.

In the 2021/22 academic year, Trials began on Saturday 27 November, which allowed boys to have four days of lessons during which final revision could take place following the exeat; and it is undeniable that solid contact time with beaks before Trials begin is essential. The revision day that year was a full day (a Friday), as was the Wednesday revision day last year. With Trials now starting on a Wednesday, Harrovians are now left with a meagre and insulting half-day to effectively revise for their first Trials on the following day. Though an afternoon of sport and other co-curricular activities may do wonders my wellbeing, I’m yet to see how this will help me cram for a week of testing Trials ahead.

Having heard through the grapevine that Trials have been pushed forward by a few days to allow for more teaching time towards the end of the term, I was left even more dumbfounded. Boys and beaks alike know that after a week of challenging exams and with a four-week Christmas break on the horizon, the lessons after Trials are used to go through Trials (in a rushed fashion in some cases) or engage in ‘audio-visual learning’. The latter is by no means a bad thing but perhaps a week and a half of that is a touch too long.

Preparing for Trials that examine ten school-weeks’ worth of content inevitably leads to cramming, which ought to be

avoided. Harrovians descend into Trial rooms at the moment to show off their short-term memory. Cramming and information overload, caused by such an extremely tight revision schedule, does no favours for Harrovians in the long-term. Perhaps a full week following the exeat, as opposed to a single day, could ensure that the revision process is more gradual and balanced for Harrovians?

The phrase ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’ immediately comes to mind. No Harrovians complained about the four days of ‘revision’ lessons after the exeat or the full day of revision that they have been granted for the last four years. This article may ruffle a few feathers; hence, I fully welcome a detailed response that rebuffs each of my aforementioned arguments. Trials are supposed to be taken seriously, so it is about time boys were granted the time and revision space to ensure that Trials can truly be conducted in an earnest fashion.

## CHESS

This week’s puzzle set by JPBH comes from a game between World Champion Emanuel Lasker and US Champion Frank Marshall which was played at St Petersburg in 1914.

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

White to play and mate in 3 moves.



Last week’s answer: 1. **Ra6+** bxa6 (anything else leads to Rxa7#) 2. b7#

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

## HARROVIAN ENHANCEMENT

Earlier this November, the darling Arthur Yang, *West Acre*, wrote a letter observing *The Harrovian’s* heavenly enhancement one week; one would presume his sentiment remains with each edition. In return, Mr Yang should expect a letter inviting him to our editorial board; however, I felt it worth breaking the inky fourth wall for a couple hundred words to address our recent refinement. When one reads soulless student magazines,

like *The Seal* or *The Daily Bruin*, one only observes tiredly typed content, reflecting the washed-up writers who contribute. Indeed, until recently, one might be forgiven for saying that the odd copy of *The Harrovian* abided by this trend. Yet, even this edition, focusing on Songs, I expect to rival whatever media you choose. So just how did we improve so much, that even the ever-bitter Arthur Yang was impressed?

One may be tempted to credit new arrivals of Editors for a paper's pre-eminence, particularly as our humble publication improved near the start of the term. Of course, being an editor, I think that the Editors are crucial to the running of our paper; however, SMK's immense workload would likely prove otherwise. Furthermore, I would hate to credit any positive changes to the likes of Nick Arnison, *Moretons*, an idea that makes me laugh more than any of his articles ever have. I'm afraid that the new Editors are not to be credited any more than my fellow historic wordsmiths.

Is it a new onslaught of writers who so greatly improved our paper? Absolutely not. You remain incompetent and seemingly uninterested in valuable involvement. This is proved by Mr Yang's letter as, of the articles he mentioned, four were by me, and the rest by the other Editors. Speaking of which, Auntie Mabel has promised to write further from Somerset; however, too few boys have sent her any enquiries. Excellent articles are being generated. They are the reason for our intellectual acceleration, but where do they come from?

Much like with a grumpy girlfriend, so they tell me, food was the answer. The most distinguished Editor – R.T.M.Y – discovered, while researching Mike Stone's thousands of articles, that, in the past, Editors were rewarded with nourishment. Indeed, when asking Dr Kennedy, the truth was that, in the not so distant past, Elder Editors would gather in his home to appreciate their literature with appetitifs. Thus, Mr Young campaigned. The Editors now gather together over tea, coffee and cake every week. Not only has attendance at our weekly meetings increased, but the first edition after one of our meetings was the very one complimented by Mr Yang. This is not, however, an historic record of Harrovian history. I feel strongly that editions of this fine paper would improve further if, rather than tea and cake, the editors shared wine and cheese as they did more recently than one would think. There would be a direct improvement in the creativity, humour and quantity of submissions to the mighty magazine – a better use of the School's budget than rugby coaching or silver medals. Unfortunately, SMK feels he ought not push his luck, and the bureaucracy has made the prospect nearly impossible. Thus, whoever has got this far through my article, I ask that you, the common boy, pursue it. If a beak is reading this, perhaps they could reduce the complexity of organisation, and approve the previously pivotal budgetary spending. Out of my selfless want to bring the School a better publication: I want to get this done

Whilst we should give credit to the Orchestra, with their performance last Thursday truly making something out of nothing, it was not helped by the very little substance that this song possesses. This whole song feels like a vague attempt to inspire inclusivity and a boost for diversity quotas, with the School having to actively point out all the places that their students are from. Look! We have students from the 'dreaming spires' of Oxford, how multicultural! (If we ignore the short one-hour drive between Oxford and London).

Now why do we put up with singing this nursery rhyme disguised as a Harrow song? In the very same year in which this song was written, Harrow School was told to apologise for its anti-inclusive and prejudice past by a local group of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). Perhaps, if you connect the dots, you can see that this was put into place to inspire inclusion, even if it was a feeble attempt. But now, with the School boasting a wide range of cultural societies, and EDI committees for every House, surely its time to retire this song, for progressing into the future means to no longer dwell on the past. We must lay this song to rest in the archives of Harrow School, grateful for the work it has done.

Yours sceptically,  
ETHAN SOONG, THE GROVE

DEAR SIRs

I wanted to express my dismay at the utterly abhorrent comment made by an Editor regarding CCF in the most recent edition of *The Harrovian*. To claim CCF is a 'waste of time' is simply a reflection of many Harrovians' laziness and flawed understanding of its many benefits. While I am sure many of you would rather hide from the bitter winds of winter in the warmth and comfort of your rooms, endlessly scrolling through TikTok and snacking away, surely, good sirs, you recognise that this is not a productive way to spend a Monday afternoon. Undoubtedly, there are those who, with a smug grin, will read this and argue that they use the time to 'revise' or 'expand their cultural horizons'. In response, one could only applaud their comedic aptitude.

Moreover, such comments only serve to worsen the stigma associated with CCF. It is in no way a 'waste of time' as the Editor claims it to be and instead develops essential skills practical to Harrovians in all parts of life. CCF teaches Harrovians to be more disciplined, resourceful and attentive and nurtures leadership in a way that no other aspect of School life could replicate. One would have hoped that an Editor of *The Harrovian*, a position that supposedly requires a certain degree of intelligence and character, would recognise that making such foolish comments would only perpetuate the laziness of the boys and impressionable young Shells. Alas, it doesn't surprise me, though, given *The Harrovian* and most of its writers now represent some form of academic-only, no-sports-commitments co-curricularist cult with a hatred for all things outdoors.

Yours sincerely,  
ETHAN McCULLAGH, THE PARK

## CORRESPONDENCE

*Letters to the Editors*

DEAR SIRs,

Last week, I had the joy of attending Churhill Songs, singing to my heart's content our classics songs, such as the *Silver Arrow* and *40 Years On*. However, one song just doesn't fit in well, that being *Home to The Hill*. Most Harrow songs tell of the glory of the School, whether it be through our distinguished alumni, or perhaps practices engrained in our School's history such as Bill, but *Home to The Hill* has none of this. This song has attracted, somehow, an almost cult-like following, with some people I have asked referring to the song as 'strangely captivating' or even 'a decent song' – although a hint of reluctance and pain was on the face of the boy whom I asked.

## WHERE IS OUR NEW SONG

For many glorious years, DNW has been Director of Music at Harrow School. He has done an excellent job leading our 450 Churchill Songs event in the Royal Albert Hall, commanding us in harmony for St Paul's and Westminster Cathedral, and planning our wonderful Glee and XIs event every year. He has worked tirelessly throughout the year, every year, for nearly 20 years to keep Harrow School's Music Department afloat. We thank him for his efforts in this regard.

Yet, when reading Mr Soong's Letter to the Editors about the lack of new Harrow songs, I realised that the School has not received a new song to sing for many years. Now is the right time to produce a new song for Harrow; perhaps it has been waiting patiently for the right day for the last 18 years. Maybe DNW might, one day, release a masterpiece, a magnum opus, a great and glorious new Harrow song.

However, I must ask during this "Songs Edition" – why do we sing only a few songs? Throughout the year, at all the events, we sing but a select few songs on slight rotation. For example, *St Joles* features only at Churchill Songs, but the Songs Book is large (and hopefully only getting larger), so I must sit and ponder with a Songs Book in hand as to why we never sing all the songs in the book. Have they been deemed too inappropriate for schoolboys to sing (I have heard rumours of a forgotten *October* verse)? Have we collectively decided that they are not up to the high standards that our Songs events meet year after year?

I, of course, understand the difficulty in teaching hundreds of boys, all at once on a Monday morning after Speech Room, how to sing a brand-new song – but I feel that an attempt ought to be made. After all, what better way is there to celebrate our past and re-found our future than singing a song from the forgotten depths of the Songs Book in a new age?

## SPORT

### CROSS-COUNTRY

*Harrow School XC v Abingdon School, 16 November*

Harrow hosted the historic Ten Schools fixture, which saw over 350 runners from across the South East tackle a true cross-country course that included mud, mud and more mud.

Intermediate Boys: Harrow performed well with Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, and Henry Barker, *The Park*, finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Senior Boys: Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, led the boys home finishing 6th. John Mueller, on exchange from Loyola High School in Los Angeles, made a guest appearance finishing a respectable 31st, not bad for an LA resident who is not used to British conditions.

### FIVES

*1st VI v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, Won*

The first pair of Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Algie Anderson, *Moretons*, were very good today against a decent pair, winning 3-0. Anderson's cutting and Stanhope's reading of the game dominated their opponents to win 12-3, 12-3, 12-3. Both boys should be pleased with their progress.

Junior Colts 1st VI v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, Draw

A great performance today from Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, and Rupert MacDonald, *The Park*, at second pair saw Harrow clinch the draw in an epic match, resulting in Harrow getting over the line by one point in the final set. Great credit to both boys for holding their nerves so well when a match point down.

Yearlings 1st VI v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, Draw

All the Shells battled hard today against more experienced players and produced some stirring performances, in particular from Caspar Bourne Arton, *Elmfield*, Nabhan Chowdury, *Lyon's*, and Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*. Their consistency and improving match awareness was evident to all who supported.

## SWIMMING

*ESSA, Birmingham, 18 November*

On Saturday 18th of November, during exeat, our twelve fastest Harrovians travelled to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games pool for the nationals medley and freestyle relays.

The Seniors: Nick Finch, *Newlands*, Captain Kiefer Yeo, The Headmaster's, Adam Wong, *The Park*, Kevin Cao, *The Grove*, Tom Pearce, *Newlands* and Alex Moore, *Lyon's*.

The intermediate boys: Kevin Zhu, Bradby's, Mir Hamid, Bradby's, Eric Li, *The Park*, Henry Gilbertson, *Newlands*, Stirling Smith, *Lyon's*, and Darell Yeoh, *Lyon's*.

The competition was tough but Harrow did not shy away. In the 4 x 50m medley, our senior boys came 4th behind swimming academies in the National final but unfortunately were disqualified for a minor mistake from Finch. Moore, Yeo, and Wong all swam best times.

In the Senior 4 x 50m freestyle Harrow placed 7th overall where Yeo, Pearce, Moore and Cao all swam personal best times. Two boys had been unwell that week but showed Courage and Fellowship and never asked to rest.



The intermediate team performed incredibly well in the 4 x 50m medley team narrowly missing the grand finale, finishing 11th Nationally. They swam again in the freestyle relay and after a nervous heat, made the final in 8th place. Gilbertson, Hamid, Zhu and Smith also swam their personal best to finish 5th in the final. MMA and Coach Will were impressed with the Shells as they had not been able to train as much as some other schools due to their Rugby commitments.

## RACKETS

*1st Pair v Cheltenham College, Lost*

A tremendous match full of long rallies unfortunately ended in a 1-3 defeat. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, produced their best performance of the term.

2nd Pair v Cheltenham College, Lost

Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, showed spirit but were outthit by a strong pair in a 0-3 defeat.

Colts 1st Pair v Cheltenham College, Won

A continuation of a string of strong performances from Jack Nelson, *Bradby's*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, resulted in a 3-0 win.



Colts 2nd Pair v Cheltenham College, Lost  
Diego Castellano and Charlie Chambers, both *Rendalls*, were edged out 1-3 in a close contest.

Junior Colts 1st Pair v Cheltenham College, Won  
Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, showed character, grit and determination to come back from 1-2 down and win 3-2. An excellent effort from both boys.

## FOOTBALL

*1st XI away v Brentwood School, Lost 3-4 ISFA Rd 3, 15 November*

The 1st XI fought hard and showed incredible team spirit to come back from 3-0 down at half-time to get the tie back at 3-3, with goals from Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*. An unfortunate injury-time goal leaves the boys wondering what might have been, but they should be very proud of the team performance that they produced.

## WATER POLO

*London Schools League, 14 November*

Harrow kicked off their water polo London Schools League on Tuesday 14 November. Harrow hosted Eton and Bishop's Stortford. The team was feeling the heat to keep up their winning streak. The first match was Harrow v Eton, their first encounter since a 2-2 draw in the five-schools tournament. Both schools came in at equal strength. Harrow took an early lead with goals from Joshua Kok and Henry Emerson, both *Newlands*. But things turned around swiftly with Eton scoring two quick goals, somewhat unexpectedly. Zak Banton, *Newlands*, stood out with his captaincy skills by motivating the team, shutting down Eton's main goal threat and marking their key attack player out of the game with a nose bleed. Harrow regrouped, scoring two more goals, and securing control. Eton, however, fought back with two more goals, making it a 4-4 tie with only one minute left. The game seemed destined for a draw, much like last time, until an impressive pass from Eshaan Firake in goal to Sias Bruinette, both *Newlands*, who sprinted down the wing. Emerson drew the defender out of position, allowing Kok to receive the ball and shoot with lightning speed, securing a 5-4 victory for Harrow with just a few seconds left. It was a fantastic team effort.

Without any time to rest, Harrow faced Bishop's Stortford immediately after. Harrow took an early lead with two goals from Kok, establishing dominance. However, Bishop's Stortford launched a relentless assault, testing the defensive skills of Harrow's younger players, honed through rigorous practice. Yet, with impressive teamwork, Harrow fended off attack after attack despite a hot-blooded goalkeeper taking it on Bruinette. Near half-time, Bishop Stortford finally broke through, scoring a goal. The second half started with a rapid pace, and Harrow's senior players were determined to secure the win. Goals flew in from Ben Cutts, *Elmfield*, Kok, and Bruinette, making it 5-1. Bishop's Stortford managed to pull one back in the final moments, but it wasn't enough as Harrow sealed a 5-2 win. This double victory put Harrow at the top of their group. The second round will take place at Bishop's Stortford College next term.

Harrow's water polo team is in a strong position and eagerly anticipates the ESSA championships before Christmas.

1st v Eton College, Won 5-4

1st v Bishop's Stortford College, Won 5-2

## RUGBY UNION

*The 1st XV v Hurstpierpoint College, Won 46-5  
National Cup – Area Knockout Final*

An outstanding 70-minute performance saw the 1st XV advance to the National Cup Quarter-Finals in style with a 46-5 win over Hurstpierpoint. Harrow snatched three points early before extending a lead to 22-0 at half-time with an outstanding Hammick try starting the seven-try romp. In the second half, Harrow's outstanding defence was turned into swift attack and further tries allowed the boys to push to a 46-5 final score.

*The School v Eton College, 16 November*

2nd XV v Eton College, Won 27-5

The 2nd XV bounced back from their tough loss away at Tonbridge last week with a 27-5 victory at home to Eton College.

3rd XV v Eton College, Won 27-26

Another epic match. Freddie Harrison, *Moretons*, controlled the game very well. One Eton parent commented on the touch line, "Golly gosh their kicking game is good". He certainly put us in the right areas. As did the mercurial Harrison Dunne, *Elmfield*. One of Harrison's highlights was a beautiful cross-field kick, which Adam Sameen, *The Knoll*, hunted down expertly. He was on his game throughout and a nightmare to defend against.



Despite a strong early exchange from Harrow they went a try down but quickly got back on even terms with a heads up play from Rei Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, realising the ball was over the try line at the back-off the ruck and therefore there was no offside line, rushed over and touched the brand new ball down for the score. He later scored a second peeling off the back of an excellent catch and drive. Michel Quist, *The Grove*, and Guy Clark, *West Acre*, were excellent in the lineout as was Hugo Evans, *The Park*. Harrow were really in the ascendancy and looking like a proper rugby outfit as HKJ and Mr Brocklebank both commented on the sideline. The captain, Oscar Sutherland, *Lyon's*, had another dominant game carrying hard, dummieing, geeing up the team and eventually exploring a gap to score an excellent try. Harrow somehow let Eton back in in the second half with some weak fringe defence and far too many times sold a dummy by the very good Eton stand off. Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, in his redemption game, was rightly yellow carded which put Harrow under pressure. Edward Swanson's, *Druries*, well-taken penalty was crucial in extending the Harrow lead in the first half. The diminutive but powerful Clark scored a pick and go after an effective line out and an organised tap and go (carried by Sutherland... obviously). Henry Emerson, *Newlands*, was superb once again and George Maia, *Druries*, and Xander Jones, *West Acre*, put in critically important performances coming up from the 4s.

Somehow, despite the performance, Eton were still in it at the death. A penalty given away on the last play gave them a shot to win. The ball was well struck and on the way over

the sticks but the rugby gods shone down on Harrow and the ball somehow drifted left. Harrow deserved their victory but made it far too close adding to the coaches already very grey head of hair.

Tight games are very hard to referee and RRM was superb throughout.

4th XV v Eton College, Lost 5-34

Colts A v Eton College, Won 40-10

Having lost this fixture a season ago, the Colts As showed how hard they have worked and improved as a team and as individuals in their six tries to one victory. It is testament to their courage and resilience that they have achieved such deserving results.

Colts B v Eton College, Lost 12-20

The Colts Bs produced another excellent display of rugby for a second week in a row. However, a couple of handling errors cost some crucial turnovers, giving the opposition extra possession and, in the end, the win. A good derby-day fixture with some entertaining rugby on display.

Junior Colts A v Eton College, Won 33-12

An excellent game with tries coming from across the team. Some outstanding attacking play exploiting space with brilliant decision making. The team really came together, particularly in the second half, bravely defending a late Eton push.

**Ways to contact *The Harrovian***

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge [smk@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:smk@harrowschool.org.uk)

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian online* at [harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan](http://harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan)