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LA SANTA DOJO

Judo Training Camp, Lanzarote, Christmas break

Over the Christmas break, members of the school's judo team attended the annual training camp trip to Club La Santa in Lanzarote. It was a great opportunity for the members to experience some great food and weather as well as honing their technique in judo. The boys trained for around two hours on the mat almost daily, alongside some tough physical baseline tests.

The spacious apartments which housed great evening games of uno and 'mafia' ensured optimal performance. Given we lived alongside a conveniently close supermarket, ice creams proved valuable nourishment in the heat. The atmosphere was invigorating because large number of guests there were keen athletes. From javelinists to iron man competitors, the boys were truly in one of the most conducive environments to train well.

The judoka were also sure to make use of the other opportunities the coveted sports resort had to offer in the free time they had, consisting mainly but not limited to: paddle tennis, beach volleyball, the resort pool and the perilous yet scenic mountain bike trail leading us around the coast to the surfing town of Famara.

Much fun was also experienced outside the camp, with the annual go-kart outing popular as ever. In diesel carts with coach Ajala and Dr Glossop to contend with, the team was certainly moving faster than in the morning at breakfast yoga. A day off in the city saw boys pick up souvenirs and relax by the beach in 25-degree sunny weather, mid-December.



To the team's pleasant surprise, Club Le Santa experienced a surge of judo talent that week, as the boys were lucky enough to be in company with the Austrian national team and the German women's team (including a European champion and Olympic medallist). Although the size and skill of these competitors was something rather humbling, some team members expressed an overzealous confidence in their fighting prowess. As expected, no contests were initiated.

The flight back returned the team home in much lower temperatures, however more tactful fighters, and having seen the extent of the sportsmen at La Santa, with greater enthusiasm for training back on the Hill. Many also had rather pronounced tans. The trip was both a great holiday and training camp so the team thanks coach Ajala and Dr Glossop for organising such a fantastic and enjoyable trip.

MARRAKECH MATRONS

The Matrons Gail Johnson, *The Park*, Maxine Sears, *The Grove*, Emma Morris, *Lyon's*, Debbie Gianini, *Newlands*, Carol Fitzgerald (former Bradbys matron), and Lisa Collicott (nurse at the MC) went to Marrakech over the Christmas break. The idea, drawn up last year, was to travel for Ms Johnson's birthday in October; however, they opted for a slightly cooler December and stayed in a traditional riad in the Medina.



Each day, they went on excursions such as (lots of!) shopping in the souks, the Marrakesh museum, the House of Photography and the Berber Museum. One of the highlights was the Jardin Majorelle (an exotic plants museum) by the artist Jacques Majorelle. Also situated in the garden was the Yves Saint Laurent Museum which pays homage to the designer. The Jardin Secret was a beautiful 19th-century palace complex with traditional Islamic gardens.

All roads led to the main square of Jemaa el-Fnaa, where they were greeted with souvenirs galore, snake charmers, henna tattoo artists, music, dancing and a specialist stall that sold pre-loved dentures! The group tasted lots of traditional food such as tagines, harira (Moroccan soup), oranges dusted with cinnamon (Lisa's favourite!) and lots of mint tea.

They became trapped in a traffic jam where the fumes of motorbikes and trucks became so thick that we felt dizzy. They dubbed this street as 'Petrol Alley'.

Their favourite mid-afternoon pastime was to find a shady café where they could watch the world go by with a coffee and some sweet treats. Donkeys and carts, horses and carriages could be seen everywhere. Baskets and cloths filled with goods were carried on locals heads'. They are now planning their next destination!

MONOLOGUES

The Shell Monologue final was held in The Ryan Theatre at 8pm on Sunday January 14th. Shell Drama divisions hosted internal preliminary rounds for all boys last term and the seventeen finalists came together to perform their pieces on the stage of The Ryan theatre before a small audience and our adjudicator. We are most grateful to adjudicator Ms Jane Trainer (acting coach and LAMDA teacher) for her constructive feedback and



comments on the range of engaging and enjoyable performances given by the finalists.

Our winner Aaryan Basu, *Druries*, performed a scene from *Forrest Gump* and received a Speech day prize.

Runners up: (2nd) Frank Thompson, *Elmfield*, and (joint 3rd) Huw Griffith, *Druries*, and Fahris Nagree, *Bradlys*.

Thank you to all involved.

RYANAIR'S MARKETING MYSTERY

Junior Pigou Society, Agastya Asnani, West Acre

The Junior Pigou Society inaugurated the term with a captivating lecture delivered by Agastya Asnani, *West Acre*, who spoke about Ryanair, a prominent player in the European aviation industry. Asnani began by discussing the strategic locations of Ryanair's hubs and headquarters. With its headquarters in Ireland, the company benefits from favourable tax regimes and incentives for aviation companies. These measures aim to attract and support the aviation industry, including aircraft leasing and maintenance operations. Ireland's accountancy rules allow certain expenses to be billed to the company, helping Ryanair to successfully manage its operational costs. Moreover, Ryanair boasts a staggering network of 82 hubs in Europe, reducing its costs and increasing its efficiency; their distinctive business model prioritises the operation of non-stop flights between hubs, eliminating layovers.

Asnani then explained the strategic rationale behind Ryanair's focus on smaller European countries and the selection of unconventional routes. For instance, a direct route between London to Aarhus, deemed challenging for legacy airlines, not only becomes feasible for Ryanair but also offers cost savings, as connecting flights through traditional airlines would likely incur significantly higher prices. Despite flying such obscure routes, Ryanair's aggressive pricing makes flights more cost-effective than a train ticket. Ryanair sets their prices to such a low level that it would seem unthinkable not to book such flights, contributing to the success of the airline, which was demonstrated when Ryanair had the highest operating margins in Europe of 15-25%. A ticket from London to Aarhus costs an average of £46, and Ryanair would make a total profit of £4. Though this may seem very little, the operating margin of 9% is higher than that of most similarly-priced tickets. To achieve such profit margins, Ryanair revolutionised the pricing strategy of low-cost airlines by introducing charges for various services traditionally provided for free by other European airlines. Unlike its predecessors, Ryanair charges passengers for checked bags, seat selection, food, drinks, and even airport check-in. The airline relies on passengers purchasing these additional services to generate extra revenue, contributing significantly

to its income. Approximately 20% of Ryanair's total income comes from these ancillary fees.

Unlike full-service airlines, which manage capacity by operating various aircraft models, Ryanair adopts a distinctive strategy by flexibly adjusting prices in response to demand. Ryanair has always been the cheaper airline compared to its competitor EasyJet. This comparative advantage allows it to attract more passengers. In addition, Ryanair drops its prices closer towards the journey, allowing them to maximise their capacity onboard thus increasing their marginal profit.

Additionally, Ryanair exclusively operates Boeing 737 aircraft since it accommodates 4% more passengers than comparable models, and has a 16% lower fuel cost per passenger. This results in Ryanair having the lowest cost per passenger among European low-cost airlines. The airline also benefits from the substantial discounts on purchasing only one aircraft model, streamlining crew training, thus reducing costs. The interchangeability of interior parts also minimizes disruptions during maintenance or repairs, and the need for spare parts inventory is notably lower than for airlines operating multiple aircraft models.

Ryanair distinguishes itself from traditional airlines through an unconventional employment approach, especially for pilots and onboard staff. Pilots are required to establish their own company and sign as contracted workers, exempting Ryanair from expenses such as medical insurance and sickness leave, while also lowering tax payments. This strategy significantly reduces overhead costs, making Ryanair more cost-effective compared to competitors. Despite the unique employment structure, pilots choose Ryanair to efficiently accumulate flying hours, which are essential for securing positions in larger airlines like British Airways. This contracted employment model extends to a significant portion of the onboard staff, contributing to reduced operational costs and solidifying Ryanair's position as a major player in the low-cost airline sector.

Finally, Asnani explored Ryanair's future plans to reduce costs, such as charging passengers to go to the toilet. Whether basic human rights should be sacrificed for profit, is a question for another day.

CHAOS

Peel Society, 'Jiang Qing and the Cultural Revolution', Arthur Yang, West Acre, 15 January

On 15th January, the Peel Society was graced with the presence of Arthur Yang, *West Acre*, who introduced the Spring and Summer Terms' theme of 'Chaos' with a fantastic lecture on 'Jiang Qing and the Cultural Revolution'.



Arthur began with a sweeping overview of the infamous decade of chaos in modern Chinese history, explaining its unprecedented scale and how it remains so obscure to historians, due to details being generally erased from official narratives.

The clock was then wound back to Jiang's childhood: born in Shandong in 1914, she and her mother worked as domestic servants after fleeing an abusive father. During this period, it is speculated that she met her future ally and head CCP secret service Kang Sheng. Soon after, she became an actress and fled to Yan An after the Japanese of Shanghai. It was here that she would meet Chairman Mao, beginning a union which would bring about seismic shifts to China's cultural and political history.

Arthur eloquently explained interlocking details and political struggles of the Great Leap Forward and ensuing Lu Shan Conference, during which Mao was criticised by Liu De Huai and Liu Shao Qi for extreme policies. It was at this stage that "Liuism" came into direct opposition to "Maoism", setting the scene for Jiang's political manoeuvring. In 1966, Mao took action to purge Liu and his allies, triggered by a wildly exaggerated political feud over an opera; Jiang swiftly assumed control of culture within the army, portraying capitalists as evil. Almost instantaneously, she had become the Chairman's mouthpiece, drafting the May 16th notice, which would denounce Mao's enemies, beginning the Cultural Revolution.

This process was formalised by the creation of the Cultural Revolution Group, which had more power than the Politburo. Eagle-eyed, Jiang realised that she and Lin Biao were Mao's weapons against his rivals. As a result, she strengthened ties with Lin; there was just one problem: Lin was not in full control of the army, due to allegiance to local generals amongst soldiers. Jiang used this opportunity to deploy the power of the politicised masses in the form of students. The Red Guards were born.

Public struggle sessions and kangaroo courts from the Red Guards sent the nation spiralling into chaos: Beijing was not under central control, while Mao only made ambiguous statements. The Red Guards themselves were split into factions and began in-fighting, before fighting the army in Wuhan in 1967. The British Mission was burnt down (an effigy of Prime Minister Wilson was hung up and covered in blood with a placard reading "Smash his head!" hung on the body). At this point Mao realised that the Revolution had gone too far; tearfully, he disbanded the Red Guards at Tiananmen Square and returned Jiang to non-political roles.

This would have been the end of the Cultural Revolution if it was not for Lin Biao becoming Mao's next opponent. After Lin's suspicious death, Mao launched cultural movements against both him and Confucius. These were to be spearheaded by Jiang, owing to her success at causing chaos. She began not-so-subtly preparing the population for a female leader (i.e. herself) through feminist posters; Jiang now had power in the 'Gang of Four', but her main opponent Zhou Enlai was loved by the people. After Premier Zhou passed away, Jiang refused to take her hat off at his funeral and ordered for wreaths laid by the population to be removed. As such, after Mao's death, she had no one to protect her, for the general population was not on her side. The 'Gang of Four' would eventually fail to get power, and her bitter enemy Deng Xiaoping would become the leader of China, ending the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

LEGACY OF NEW ATHEISM

Gore Society: Eugene Sorokoumov, Elmfield, 'The legacy of New Atheism', New Schools, 10 January

New Atheism was a term first coined by journalist Gary Wolf in his 2006 article on New Atheism, describing a movement that was founded on rationalism, secularism and the absolute rejection of superstition and religion. The main proponents of New Atheism were the 'Four Horsemen': Richard Dawkins, Dan Dennett, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens. It is important to note, however, that this term was not created by the "New

Atheists", as they did not see any difference between their thinking and that of "Old Atheism". The talk then went into greater detail about each of the individuals mentioned, their beliefs, reputations, and pasts:

First, like most atheists, they did not believe in a God of any kind and believed that God did not exist (these are different), presenting arguments against his existence and belief in it. They also believed in secularism and the complete separation of church, believing that religion had too much influence over society and politics, as well as in education; that religions indoctrinated children and influenced their beliefs to suit the aims of that religion to further their agenda. They also believed that religion invariably leads to hate: against other religions, non-believers and other groups, often in "holy wars", seen throughout history through jihads, crusades, and the Spanish inquisition. More specifically, they support the abolition of the British monarchy and the automatic right of Bishops to be in the house of Lords. Certain members (such as the late Christopher Hitchens) supported the War on Terror and the invasion of Iraq post 9/11.

Compared to the atheists of old, the New Atheists are much more focused on the societal impacts and the morality of religions, mainly arguing that religion is not a benefit to society. They also take a much less philosophical approach to the existence of God, as opposed to the likes of Bertrand Russell. This was a major criticism of New Atheism, some arguing that they are philosophically illiterate, despite most of them either claiming to be philosophers or having studied it formally. They were also accused of insincerity in their beliefs, fear mongering, pretentiousness, being dogmatic, misrepresenting religious arguments, poor research and historical inaccuracies. There is also a political aspect to the criticism of New Atheism, with it earlier being seen as more liberal, with their perception shifting more towards conservatism and (debatably) association with the alt-right. The talk then went on to explain the criticisms and responses to those more in depth as well as the influence of New Atheism.

The talk was concluded by explaining the influence of New Atheism on the modern internet and the conditions in which it was formed. Specifically, it was concluded that the movement was a product of its time when many questioned and abandoned their faiths in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

METROPOLITAN

CITY OF GOD

Dir: Fernando Meirelles and co-directed by Kátia Lund
Runtime: 2hr 10min

This week, I offer you one of the most action-packed, cutthroat, punchy, and altogether well-done films I have ever seen. Some (movie buff aficionado, part-time Housemaster AJC included) have called this film 'wildly pretentious Oscar bait', or 'just plain ridiculous', on the chopping block, *City of God*. Made in 2002 by director Fernando Meirelles and co-directed by Kátia Lund, *City of God* (or *Cidade de Deus*) is set in the poverty-stricken 1970s favelas of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. We follow the life of Rocket, an ambitious, good-hearted young boy who is desperate to make it out of the slums. Rocket is the perfect 'blank canvas' on which we

explore the nuances of gang violence and the sickness of crime that plagues almost everyone in the City of God. Through the purposeful camera work of Academy Award-nominated cinematographer César Charlone, themes of valour, innocence, and savagery are portrayed with visible effect, contributing to the movie's unyielding structure and clarity when depicting the passage of time. Much of the film's power comes from its ability to build the world behind the screen. We are only shown vignettes of a much larger and more complex city. It's like shooting a documentary about Manhattan but choosing to focus on the foot-long subway rats as they settle their mindless territory disputes. The film itself was shot on super 16mm film rather than the more widely used 35mm. Not only does this film type provide a slightly zoomed-in quality, but it also creates a grittier, less polished image, perfect for the style of docu-movie this film tries to be. The movie documents the cyclical pattern of violence in the city, with nobody able to get out of the deadly trap of poverty and the impossible task of cleaning up the city floating, buoy-like, only further and further away. Animalistic parallels are frequently made in this movie, and the 'dog eat dog' feeling is tangible. The children in the City of God are raised on violence, and they subsequently adopt this as a way of life. Babies are born just fast enough to fuel the never-ending gang wars on the city streets. The young children are cowed by the glint of metal and coerced into a short, wild life of murdering each other over individual quarrels. I must add that at times there are questions the movie forces the viewer to think about, such as whether the city is safer under the absolute control of one brutal drug lord rather than many little warring factions, a Carthaginian peace of sorts, but such questions came off as didactic and dull. One comment often made about this film is how alive it feels and how the setting of Rio de Janeiro is somehow transformed from a physical landscape to an active character in the plot through cinematography techniques. Martin Scorsese's 1990 gangster smash-hit *Goodfellas* is sometimes credited as containing the most effective world-building atmosphere, though in my opinion it's second to *City of God* in this respect. Most movies ever made have revolved around a stable environment, steady (uninventive) camera movement, and a reasonably clear, linear plot. The dirty metropolis in *City of God* breathes, morphs, and grows with the characters in the movie as the film follows fifteen years of their development over the course of just two hours. One way this movie achieves this effect is by never focusing completely on any one character. The film itself has over 40 'main' characters, overwhelming the viewer with 40 players each with their own story to tell, none of whom are introduced with any fanfare. Effectively keeping the viewer engaged as they stay vigilant to each nascent plotline, unsure of which one will blossom into the main story, introducing characters early on with fleeting descriptions, and the line we see repeated over and over, "But their time in the story has not come yet." The *City of God* feels so natural, so real, and so primal, within effect adds weight to scenes of violence and slaughter. One criticism I have is that (although I appreciate the wider goal of creating scenes of unchained violence to build an atmosphere of absolute savagery), there seem to be too many instances of brutality in quick succession, effectively numbing any emotional response one might have to the senseless killing. There was even a point half-way through the film where it became so overwhelming and the tension so exhausting that I paused the movie and took a short break. Once the precedent of aimless violence was established, one couldn't help but feel as if they were 'walking on eggshells' in every scene, an effect that (to me) only lasted for about two-thirds of the 130-minute runtime. I won't try to argue that the purposeful 'oversaturation' of violence in the film is meant to put us in the shoes of a

character in the plot, desensitised to violence as they grew up around it. I don't believe it was intentional. Something this movie does very well, however, is present all the stories as interconnected. We are dropped into a web of complex relationships, narrated reliably by the only well-meaning boy in Rio. To survive in the city, some of the characters we follow from the beginning must adapt to the ever-changing world of crime they inhabit. One character dyes his hair blonde, one takes over a cocaine-running empire, and our hero, Rocket, must pick up the camera and follow his passion for journalism to document, navigate, and eventually escape the City of God. Much like the American mafias, you can't simply leave when you've had enough, but rather you must stay and either accept the life of crime you've been born into, living in a constant state of crime-fueled paranoia, or embrace the violence and dive head first into a life destined for early burial in the City of God. There are three characters in the entire movie who attempt to escape the city of God, and each of them is punished by death. The film itself is segmented into three sections, each section represented by a particular colour grading on the lens. The first section, shot in a warm, golden yellow tint, is evocative of Halcyon youth; it's not a time devoid of violence, yet the crimes committed in this first tryptic are less serious, more playful crimes, and acts that are easier to digest. The narrator, Rocket, is only around eight years old in this first section, eager to learn and follow in the footsteps of the older boys. Going into the movie, the first time Rocket sees a murder, we see it too, and often in these scenes, the severity of the crime is played up, despite being humbling in comparison to the latter depictions of violence. Much of Rocket's earlier life took place just outside the city, in equally crime-infested development housing. With the addition of the golden filter, the primal/rugged aesthetic of the setting is made greater. One could parallel the crude, simplistic look of the development housing to Rocket's own early stage of maturity. Such shots (still in the first section) are subjective and match Rocket's sophomoric perception of his home, believing it to be better than it really is. The second section adopts an entirely new tint of deep greys and blues, melancholic and real as the slums actually are, as felt through Rocket as he fails yet again to make something of himself, his failure made worse by witnessing the success of his criminal friends as they grow more and more successful off the backs of dead children and ugly addiction. In the third and final act, a sterile and grey tint is used, and the on-screen events are presented through a documentary-like feel, including the use of shaky, hand-held cameras, wide shots, an impersonal, matter-of-fact filming style, and even, at one point, filming a scene through the lens of Rocket's own camera. The filter on this final act is meant to show Rocket's new-found clarity of mind, sure of what to do and finally old enough to do it. Interestingly, despite the movie being called '*City of God*', and taking place in Rio de Janeiro, never once is the city's famous 'Christ the Redeemer' statue ever shown, nor are religious motifs repeated as frequently as one might imagine. I've read multiple theories as to why this is; however, the most convincing theory was one that suggested that the director is trying to show us that religion is ineffective with something as savage as gang violence. In the absence of religion, one's own moral compass is all there is to rely on, and ultimately, it's this very thing that granted Rockets free passage through the same streets where so many had been gunned down. It's with films like these that there is always so much more to be analysed and dissected. Of course, there is only so much space on these pages, so if you'd like to learn more about this film, I'd be happy to talk about it.

Best wishes for this week, and if you have any movie recommendations, please email me at: 21mcdowellm@harrowschool.org.uk.

MILLENNIUM

From the Archive

Welcome back to the Hill, dear readers. I hope you had a resful week and a happy new years eve. On the topic of the changing of the year, here is an interesting piece from the Millennium year by a clearly disgruntled boy. I hope it provides some entertaining reading.

I was very disappointed on New Year's Eve. As I sat, waiting patiently for the aeroplanes to miraculously fall out of the sky, I thought, "when's it all going to happen". I was assured that the fireworks would pale in comparison to the vast explosions guaranteed to me as a result of the Millennium's much-vaunted bug. However, as I sipped innocently on my 'mysterious Millennium magic' cocktail (which incidentally tasted suspiciously similar to the punch I had had the previous evening), the events of the evening seemed ominously akin to last years' celebrations. Determined though I was to be immensely excited about the opportunity to be able to preface the year on my dated geography preps with a two rather than the annoyingly familiar one, the thrill was not a particularly great one.

The Y2K bug, as it is commonly known to its gullible would be victims, has been the second biggest disappointment of the Millennium so far, finishing just behind the Dome in my list of Millennium disappointments. Other than a few minor mishaps, such as London's credit card network being wiped out on one of the most important days of Christmas shopping, the Millennium bug was completely overrated. After only a few weeks, we seemed to be rid of the most talked-about thing since Kate Moss visiting on Long Ducker Sunday and Druries' shock triumph in the House rugby. The newspapers seemed to be losing interest in the bug that never came – maybe as its terrorised victims were so embarrassed at the measures they took, at great expense, to ensure that it would not wreak havoc in the computer world. On a more personal level, the school seemed to be coping well with the problems of the dawn of a new Millennium, with our mighty computer network functioning perfectly under the threat of the dreaded bug.

If the sight of Cheric Blair singing aside her husband and the Queen, looking less than enthusiastic was not enough to make your Millennium night (you would be surprised at the number of people who are included in this category), then you were forced to go out and make your own fun. That was of course after having been searched by the police, for the River of Fire attraction on the Thames that had apparently gone missing. The common problem with most people who decided to go and spend their Millennium on the streets was the fact that they were simply too crowded either to see what was going on or to move around to a better spot. The result was a tedious night that was evidently a rather large anti-climax. The millions who crowded the streets of the major cities hoping to see an extraordinary fireworks display shattered any hopes of getting anywhere quickly. If hope of hailing a taxi made you think that the process could be accelerated, then you were definitely to be disappointed, given the fact that the popular London cabbies were only allowed to charge double time. The other option was the prospect of the journey in one of those lovely little uninsured, unsafe and unbearable minicabs which eclipsed the streets of London: a twenty-minute journey in one of these. A steal at fifty pounds.

With every city claiming to have the best celebrations, the Millennium was a political nightmare with vast super powers stuck in childish play with other similarly huge world dominators. Britain was perhaps the worst of all, having predetermined that their celebrations were the best and this was a (act that could not in any way be argued with. Maybe the billions spent on the prevention of such dramatic disasters was money well spent, maybe nothing would have happened anyway (which is more likely), maybe the best is yet to come with the arrival of the true Millennium: only time will tell.

LAKE LEMOINE FREEZES OVER

On Tuesday morning, GJBC was greeted with a terrifying sight. Lake Lemoine, often said to be the crown jewel in Harrow School's glorious crown, had frozen over.

Concerns were immediately raised about the small-scale ecosystem that existed in Lake Lemoine, as well as the possible affects on the surrounding area, and London at large. PSL attempted to quell the disturbed masses, all of whom were flocking to the sacred sight, but he had little affect on them.

A vigil was held when the sun was at the highest point in the sky in hopes that Lake Lemoine would thaw, but 'twas in vain and the ice remained steadfast. The most dedicated disciples to Lake Lemoine broke into two factions, those who wanted to break the ice: a quick and sure solution, and those who wanted to use a hairdryer: a much slower but less dramatic solution.

Tensions soon rose in the surrounding area, with fights breaking out in the DT lab and The Copse. Eventually Harrow School security had to be called in to break up the groups and everybody was sent to their houses. Housemasters were warned that boys could be deeply depressed or rather angry. I ought to take this time to remind boys that there is an excellent counselling service at this School, if you so need it.

One boy, who will remain unnamed, said it was the most important, dramatic, heart-wrenching, and exciting thing that had ever happen to Harrow School in the past 451 years.

Below is the first edition of a boy-written periodical story named "Sketches by Boz", which the Harrovian editorial board hope will remain periodical and not, as other "periodical" boy-written novellas have tended to do, cease publishing after week two. It follows the story of Mr Boz, an archetypally miserable fictional Harrow School mathematics beak as he endeavours, in later editions, to discover the meaning of life...

SKETCHES BY BOZ

In a storage crate within the basement of the Vaughan library's "for charity" bin, there is a small and dull paper-bound book. Its contents (something to do with someone or another) are brain-numbingl. Thus, in the 16 years that it sat collecting dust on a shelf, it was rarely even glanced at or pondered upon, let alone removed to be read. It is, therefore, in pristine condition, with even edges and none of that typical finger-mould commonly found on books in the "for charity" bin. However, if one ever were to endeavour, as very few ever have, to open the edition, one would find on the inside cover a small note stuck down. It reads as follows:

*In Loving Memory of Pieter Boz
1976-2007.*

Harrow Mathematics beak. Croatian national, emigrated in 1998, taught at harrow for 6 years, member of chaplaincy council. Died of unnatural causes.

- The Harrow Mathematics Department

These are the words that make the biography of Mr Boz: a small note in a small book. I could, as many would prefer, leave his story at that. But, dear reader, every epitaph, whether flanked with weeping cherubim and harassed with crucifixes or scribbled and scrawled on the back of a chair, deserves some elaboration.

It was a January morning in the year 2006...

Just minutes before the ringing of the wake-up bell, in the blissful pre-breakfast hours in which words beyond an invariably over-zealous "Good Morning" were very rarely spoken, automobiles, vans and their shackled working professionals trundled along the high street. Every boy who has ever attended Harrow School will know that road intimately, like a man

knows the shape of his body. or a river knows the shape of its meanders. Indeed, our familiarity is to such an extent that, due to constant exposure, we often forget about the mechanical vibrations entirely. This phenomenon, I am told, has also been observed amongst soldiers fighting in the First World War: after two years on the front, soldiers ceased to be able to hear the kraut bullets whizzing past, leading to many a casualty. One cannot dodge a bullet if he doesn't hear it coming.

From the corner of his basement room, squatting on the edge of his spring-mattress, Mr. Boz sucked lightly on his first cigarette of the day and he could only just about see the dull sky above, for his two windows which peeked up onto the High Street were barely knee-high. Vanishing, embryotic, pensioner-grey shapes were cast on his curtains; he ignored them.

He lived in a basement room underneath one of the school offices, which once housed the boiler of the building above. He was never told what function they performed above his head, but he was well acquainted with the movements of their commerce. He constantly listened to the slap of text-books on desks, and the tight-dress-excited shuffle of feet when a work-party was underway, and the raspy, chain-smoking cough of the lady who worked directly above. That woman would cough for hours in a sort of chant, over and over. She was like a gangrenated bird perched on a tree of paperwork, cuckooing for a syphilitic mate. Mr. Boz cursed her for making such a racket. In the early morning, whilst dizzily stretched out upon his bed, throwing his bored eyes about his room in paralysis, he endured her warbles. In these moments, he wondered about the smoking secretary above: whether she was young, or wrinkled and old. He wondered whether she heard when he coughed himself, as he so often did, and whether she cursed the floor to be quiet as well.

His accommodation was only one room: a television, a toilet, and a little cactus. His dingy flat was the dingiest on the Hill, and it often made Mr Boz feel sad when he looked around him. In fact, he felt sad this very morning. That's why his face was downturned in such an utterly glum expression as he sat there in his single room. A shrill waking bell rang from the nearby boarding house, and his morning routine was prompted. With wild triumph, he sat up and stamped his cigarette end on the side tray. Sweeping the ash off his bare thighs and pushing up off his hard mattress, he thought whether today would be any different.

Mr Boz cantered swiftly past the stone pineapples which grace the entrance to the shepherd Churchill, and careened down the stairs, ignoring a friendly "good morning, Sir" from a passing boy on the way down.

He sat down on the table of his house and plunged his spoon into a bowl of Cheerios. He consumed energetically, whilst slowly rolling his baleful eyes around the hall, not resting on one object or person but bathing them all in a grey tone, covering the red-brick and blue-bluer in a kind of grey film. He appeared that morning, as with most mornings, grey and forlorn.

You may at this point, dear reader, take the liberty to enquire why Mr Pieter Boz was in such a foul mood. Well, Mr Boz was a man who wandered about without a purpose...

And that purpose was in the form a Harrow pupil holding an inquisitive look, stepping self-assuredly towards the beak's table.

CANCEL CULTURE EXISTS

Just Not in the Way You Believe
Ben Shailer, Rendalls

In reality, there are two kinds of 'cancel culture'. One, more accurately described as a celebrity phenomenon, is mostly harmless in our modern-day society, yet occupies most of the conversational space dedicated to this topic. The other, a true cancel culture, is a much more insidious and hidden

beast – one that fewer people actively talk about, and yet one that has consistently silenced minority voices throughout our society's history.

Now, I must admit, I lied to you. This first kind of cancel culture doesn't really exist – not only are most people affected by it not 'cancelled' in any meaningful way, but it would be factually wrong to even describe it as a 'culture'. An example of this is the cancellation of J. K. Rowling, probably the most famous example of someone considered to be 'cancelled' in the public sphere. After expressing trans-phobic views online, she received backlash from both her fans and the professional acting space in which she worked, ultimately, leading to her continuation in writing for the Times and an increase in her book sales. Cancelled indeed. And there are many examples of this trend, whereby a celebrity gets 'cancelled' and the resulting attention and shift of fan-base ends up having a positive effect on their career, with Dave Chappell even saying that he "actively strived... to get cancelled" in order to reap its positive effects. On top of this, compared to the other type of cancel culture that I will discuss later on, even the most severe 'cancellations' merely amount to a reduction of a celebrity's influence to that of a normal person's reach. To put it simply, a celebrity has done whatever thing they did, to amass whatever fan base they have, then expressed a view that the majority of that fan-base did not like, so their fan-base shifted. This is simply a celebrity phenomenon that revolves around shifting attention and privilege, not an active silencing of certain viewpoints across a culture.

Moreover, this 'cancel culture' that so many people complain about is itself a simple and natural extension of free speech within society – just as the person in question has a right to express their own opinions, so do others have the right to then criticize that person for those opinions. They are two sides of the same coin. To say that we should be allowed to express but not criticize opinions undermines the very nature of free speech: a notion that opponents of this cancel culture seem to defend in the first place. What must be criticised, however, is the true culture of silencing a certain demographic.

Therein lies the real threat of the second kind of cancel culture. In contrast to the first kind, this is a genuine aspect of culture, whereby people are systemically silenced in modern spheres – not revoked of the platform they once held, but actively disallowed from expressing any opinion at all. This takes place behind a build-up of years of oppression and intolerance (an actual cultural bias note) in our society. A most blatant example is the recent spur of homophobic legislature and silencing in the US – from Florida's "Don't say Gay" bill to the epidemic of book-banning across US libraries and bookstores. It cannot be more evident that there is a cultural silencing of queer education when "A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo" (a kid's short story about a gay rabbit) was deemed too offensive to be within a school library. The contrast between these two forms of cancel culture has never stood clearer – one, a natural celebrity interaction with the public, and the other, an orchestrated cancellation of certain viewpoints across our society.

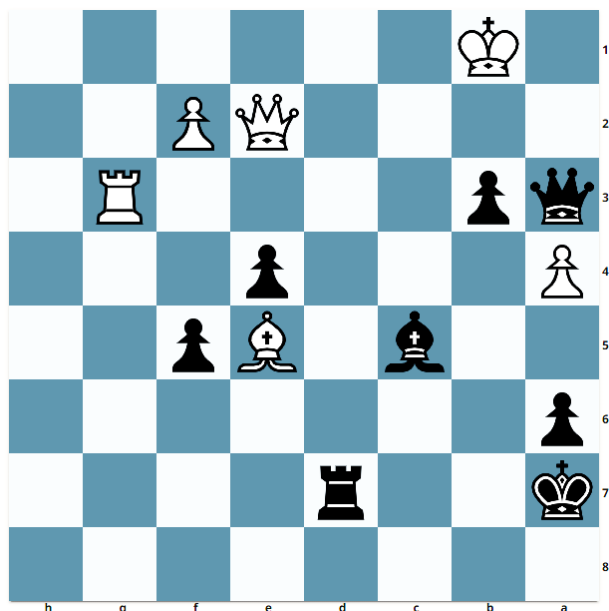
The counterargument to this stance is, seemingly, a sensible one – how can one truly discern between these two 'cancel cultures' that you propose, regardless of the opinion in question? You can't just say one form of cancel culture is wrong because it cancels something you agree with, and the other right because it doesn't. And you'd be completely right. I can't – and would wholeheartedly oppose – the banning of 'Harry Potter' across our country's libraries, and I would in fact welcome books that sensitively express a controversial view on topics such as LGBTQ rights. I would then welcome any backlash against those books, and the subsequent conversation around the issue etc. Rather, the key distinction between these two kinds of cancel culture is this: one is a short-term shift of people's attention away from a celebrity, while the other is a long-term and systematic silencing of an entire demographic across our society. Cancelled, indeed.

The solution, therefore, lies in a shift of attention. For whilst celebrity news is certainly where the money is (and hence why this side of cancel culture receives so much more media attention) and certain governments love to peddle culture war narratives to distract from their own failings, 'cancel culture's' biggest danger is that it can distract us from the true threat to free speech – not merely expressing a disagreement to a view, but not allowing a view to be expressed in the first place.

OPINION

CHESS

This week's chess puzzle comes from a game between Latvian Aaron Nimzowitsch with the black pieces and Englishman Frederick Yates in a game played in Hamburg in 1910. Black to play and mate in 4 moves. Submit your answers to JPBH by email to enter the termly competition.



Last week's answer: 1. **Rh7+** Kxh7 2. **Qf7+** Kh8 3. **Qg7#**
Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4:30 – 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

SPORT

HARROW FOOTBALL

13 January, The School v Wooding XI, lost 6-4

The Wooding XI: George Wooding (*Bradby's 2015³*), Alexander Harris (*Bradby's 2015³*), Archie Nicholls (*Bradby's 2015³*), Archie Hogben (*Newlands 2015³*), Philipp Benigni (*Newlands 2015³*), Andrew Christie (*Bradby's 2015³*), Cameron Macleod (*The Head Master's 2015³*), Scott Macnaughton (*Bradby's 2015³*),



Raef Tanner (*Bradby's 2015³*), Jake Tanner (*Bradby's 2012³*), Vir Singh (*The Park 2015³*), Caspar Gurney (*Druries 2015³*), Will Latham (*Bradby's 2013³*), Tom Latham (*Bradby's 2014³*), Luke Harrington Myers (*Bradby's 2014³*), Oli Glimmervan (*Bradby's 2014³*), Donald Stembridge (*Bradby's 2015³*).

The School XI came up against a strong George Wooding XI this year consisting of the upper sixth from when the upper sixth now were in shells. After being slightly intimidated by their size the game began with the school XI going uphill. With a poor start and going down 4 bases in the first half with only one base to ourselves, motivation was low. After a face off at the end of half time for the downhill the school XI were pushed back down the hill for another half of the Hempstall 6 uphill. This half was better but started to fall away with fatigue in the last 5 minutes. The Park boys of James Felton and Maxi Farah bringing in 3 bases in the second half brought the game much closer. After a close final push for another base, the ball met an old boys' arms in the air and was punted back down to the bottom of Hempstall 6. The game ended with a 6-4 loss to the school XI.

A tough game to start the season will keep us humble throughout the rest of it.

Stafford Proctor's X v the Princes

Proctor XI: Kit Wells (*Newlands 1979³*), Louis Kunzig (*Druries 1983³*), James Stabb (*The Head Master's 1986³*), Robert Thornton (*The Grove 1981³*), Jonathan Wright (*Bradby's 1984¹*), Stafford Proctor (*The Grove 1981³*), Frederik Banks (*The Grove 1984¹*), DRW Legendary Previous m/c Harrow Footer, Tom de Trafford (*The Grove 1981³*), Archie Proctor (*The Head Master's 2014³*), Alistair Lewelyn Palmer (*Lyons 2014³*), Brynne (father).

The OH teams arrived on a brightly lit and drying Hill for the opening fixtures of the 2024 season. Prior to kick off, we shared a respectful minute's silence for OHs, Beaks and friends departed in 2023.

The boys generously played up the slope for the duration and with the match underway the Princes quickly took a 1-0 lead. However, the OHs were beginning to remember the rules of footer, keeping the ball down and looking to give each other yards: Wells, the senior player on the pitch, combined well with de Trafford playing his debut match as an OH. They were the rocks in defence, rarely rolled, and released Wright down the left who then gave yards to Stafford Proctor. Noticing the defence up flat, he chipped over the top to roll between the sticks to level the score.

The school responded with good breaks from Hugo Evans (*The Park 2020*) and de Labilliere (*The Grove 2023*) but Thornton (*The Grove 1981*) and Banks (*The Grove 1984*) put their bodies on the line. Dr Wendelken 'head of safeguarding' stepped into the breach bravely. Stabb twice proved his positional awareness by taking good yards, converting on both occasions.



The school broke down the right from Proctor (*The Head Master's 2019*) (capt), feeding Boegh-Nielsen (*The Head Master's 2019*) yards and subsequently scoring. Proctor thereafter artfully managed his contacts with his elder brother and father!

Boegh Nielsen (*The Head Master's 2019*) then beat the last lines of defence and closed in on the Base when he was caught brilliantly by a cover barge from Lewelyn Palmer (*Lyons 2013*). Proctor (*The Head Master's 2013*) showed his pedigree with great breaks and footwork setting up Lewelyn Palmer to score a well-earned soccer base.

Kunzig (*Druries 1983*) was immovable with memorable throw ins gaining great territory and lead a memorable turtle gaining rather less territory!

Time was up and the Princes graciously conceded the match 5-3, with all players, umpires and supporters having greatly enjoyed the spectacle of Harrow footer on Harrow clay.

The JLM XI 8 v 1 Outcasts

On a bright but freezing day for footer, The JLM XI returned to the Hill to take on a fired up Outcasts side. JLM himself kicked off, booting the ball high and long and, fortunately, not injuring himself in the process.

The JLM XI was going downhill to start and took early advantage, pouring pressure on. JLM took yards quickly and had the ball on target before the ever-pesky Harrison Dunne was able to kick it away. Then, JLM again missed an easy chance, followed by another missed by JRP. A rocky start but pressure would soon tell. Boreham looped up a clearance, JLM pounced (or: moved very slowly) to take the catch and thump it home for a 1-0 lead. Having got the ball, exhausted, it was time for the first of several interchanges. RRM, leaping through the sky like a salmon to shoulder the ball, was everywhere and MGJ was similarly diving to his left and right like Shay Given to take yards. Soon, it was 2-0, RRM snagging yards and dutifully sending it home. The Beaks were getting the glory but the hard work was done by the boys – Nelson in particular squirreling around all over the place. The boys soon got in on the base action too – Harrington-Myers slotting home to take the score to 3-0 and a comfortable lead.



However, the Outcasts kept fighting. Ballingal, Newington, Taylor and Dunne all particularly impressive. Quist led a charge up field, the ball got close to the JLM base and a melee ensued. It was tight, it was close but the base was given. SMK judging that the ball had crossed the line at the base of the ruck. Hemstalls 5, unlike Hemstalls 6, does not have goal-line technology yet – something for MJMR to consider. 3-1 and the game was on.

JLM's XI soon however struck back twice before the half. AGJ, who had missed a sitter or two himself, snagged yards and took the score to 4-1 before Hope plucked one from the air, went quick and drilled it home from 40 yards – his celebration, as one might expect, over the top for what had just happened.

As the half-time oranges came around, it was calm heads all-round for the JLM XI. The tactic was simple going uphill – park the bus, let all the Beaks rest at the back and bring it home. However, that plan was soon overthrown as off the kick-off the Outcasts dilly-dallied, the JLM XI charged and followed up into the base with Nelson (I think) scoring straightaway – 6-1.



The Outcasts kept on coming but excellent defense kept them out and the game rolled nicely in the second half. Keaveney got boomed by Taylor, AGJ and Hope both missed absolute sitters and Dunne was bounced by JLM. Soon, Dr Barke got in on the action following up beautifully to shin the ball home. 7-1. The Outcasts kept on coming but the wiley rotations (i.e. having about 7 more players than the other time) meant the JLM XI kept in front and faced little danger.

There were rumours of a potential 8th base but we're not sure if there was, such was the dominance of the JLM XI. A resounding victory, a great game played in good spirit and good fun all-round.

CANADA SKI TRIP

In a stellar showcase of prowess and perseverance, Harrow's ski team left an enduring mark on the Canada Cup this year.

The men's open giant slalom (GS) event witnessed an impressive podium sweep, with Ulrico Zampa, *The Head Master's*, gaining gold, Viktor Van Den Berghe, *The Grove*, securing silver, and Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, banking bronze.

In the Under-16 competition, Ferdinand Klitzsch, *The Grove*, added to the glory with a gold medal in the GS category, while Ethan Jones, *Druries*, showcased his talent with a bronze in the Under-14 GS event. The men's open slalom displayed the team's versatility, as Zampa continued his winning streak with another gold, Timmy de Hemptinne, *Bradlys*, gaining the silver, and Van Den Berghe bringing in bronze. Max Nardo, *Bradlys*, shone in the Under-16 slalom, grasping the gold for Harrow.

The team's overall accomplishments were nothing short of spectacular, with the Under-16 GS team, comprised of Ferdinand Klitzsch, *The Grove*, George Behan-Windeler, *The Head Master's*, and Min Choi, *Bradlys*, getting a gold medal. The men's open GS team, featuring Zampa, Van Den Berghe, and Williams, replicated this success by earning gold.

The grand finale of the Canada Cup showcased Harrow as the overall victors, a testament to the team's exceptional talent, strategic co-ordination, and unwavering commitment to excellence.



Harrow faced stiff competition from 12 other UK schools, and three schools from the USA.

FOOTBALL

The School v various, 11 January

*1st XI v Queens Park Rangers, QPR FC Academy,
Won 6-3*

The sight of the spherical panels of a soccer ball pinging their way across the carpet-like turf of the Sunley at the start of January. It felt like a genuine treat to be gathering the 1st XI once again at the Boyer Webb, with a full season ahead of us playing on an immaculate Sunley to the backdrop of the Wembley arch acting as one of the more picturesque sights in all of football.

Our opponents for this season opener were the QPR FC Development Academy – a truly interesting project that enables talented footballers to pursue education beyond GCSE level. Technically gifted players with great coaching staff, even they seemed to appreciate the beauty of the Sunley Field, one player caught stroking the turf in the warm-up.

The Harrow 1st XI has changed dramatically since last year, in part due to a high number of leavers last season but also due to the dramatic improvement of several players. The introduction of so many new players from last season was noticeable with a relatively shambolic post warm-up-pre-match routine making the team almost late for kick-off. Harrow paid the price for their slow start and despite some good early exchanges, the boys went behind when a clever one-two of passes from the QPR team drew out the makeshift centre-back pairing of Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, and Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*.

Harrow managed to respond pretty quickly, and it was through one of those players who have undergone a dramatic improvement so far this year, Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*. 'Bally' has been a terrific addition to the team in the development football programme and he was at his busy best to create plenty of openings for the Harrow team. The equaliser came when a well-executed high press was seized upon by the brilliant Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*. A quick change of passes with captain Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, released Ralph down the left wing and he played an inch-perfect cross to the front post, expertly finished by Mr Ballingal.

There was a rapid-fire period of goals that followed. Teddy Tarbotton, *West Acre*, in full-flight is a thing of beauty – dynamically weaving past tackles, surging into space before executing a pin-point pass (all to the background soundtrack

of coach Dan telling him he's taken too many touches). For Harrow's second goal, Teddy was at his driving best, surging from half-way into the box down the right before delivering an unmissable ball to the back post that Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, duly tucked home. Yet it was QPR who ended the half on top, Harrow failing to control possession and making a complete mess of their own to concede making it 2-2, but QPR were dominant as the half wore on and deserved to go ahead from a headed goal.

Despite some exciting openings, the 1st XI were way off consistently producing their best football in that first half. A half time team talk that was part-rollicking, part-substitution heavy certainly seemed to do the trick – the legend of the Harrow School Association Football Club, Father Nic, providing plenty for the boys to think about including several 'Clough-isms'.

And so, Harrow came out like a completely different side in the second period. The front three of Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, Arthur Porter, *Druries*, and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, were a menacing threat backed up by a more settled backline and midfield shape. Harrow got back on level terms with their first attack of the half – Kitan Akindele getting his second of the day by latching on to a Teddy Tarbotton cross. Akindele was at it again to put Harrow in front, this time driving from deep to force a save out of the QPR goalkeeper that Porter was on hand to tap in for his first 1st XI goal.

The goal of the day came from a flowing team move. Zain Ayoub, *The Knoll*, picked the ball up from deep at left back, playing a great ball down the line before overlapping his run and receiving the ball back from Akindele. His chipped cross was inch-perfect to main man Arthur Porter who delighted the crowd with a chest, touch then bang straight into the top corner to put Harrow 5-3 up. One parent remarked later that they doubted they would see a better a goal all season.

Harrow finished the scoring when another high tempo passing move found it's way to Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, on the edge of the area, who threaded an inch-perfect through ball that Teddy Tarbotton could finish clinically.

Resolute defending from Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, and Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, meant the score finished 6-3, perhaps slightly flattering the 1st XI after a relatively below-par first half. There were plenty of positives to take from the game though, not least the opportunity to get back to playing on the Sunley Field and to feel ever more prepared for the big fixture versus Tonbridge next week.

2nd XI away v Westminster School 1st, Lost 0-3

After a tough first 20 minutes of the season, we found ourselves 3-0 down. In great spirit, the boys picked up the tempo and played some great football against a 1st XI opposition. We had our share of chances and with clinical finishing and a more compact defense that scoreline had every chance of being different. Back to training next week to put our wrongs right and come out victorious when it matters in the league. The double is still on with the 2nd's league and cup to play for after our warm up game against Westminster 1st XI. Player reviews:

Henry Macdonald, *The Park*: Glad he remembered he was a goalkeeper after the first 20 mins as he finally put his gloves on and made some great saves. At 3-0 down this was a bit late though.

Oscar Bearman, *Moretons*: Provided some good energy down the left. Tracking back wasn't on his mind though.

Cam Childs, *Newlands*: Made some good challenges to be fair, but was back to his usual antics after winning the ball back and kept trying to run the length of the pitch.

Neti Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*: Striker bodied him a couple times in the early minutes. He shortly after decided to show who was boss with a reckless off the ball challenge worthy of a red

card in typical Neti fashion. Overall, a good aggressive display.

Alex Cox-Lang, *The Knoll*: Skipper on the day and used his voice really well, shame his footballing abilities didn't live up to that.

Leon Deshpande, *Moretons*: Kept his opposite man relatively quiet. Although, so was he.

Ed Swanson, *Druries*: A few great touches in the middle of the park. Told me multiple times to make a run in behind when he got the ball but I'm still waiting for the pass.

Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*: Decent performance but don't know why he thinks he can sit at the back of the bus.

Melvin Ackah, *Newlands*: Great strength in holding off a few players but can come out of their 8's pocket now that the game is over.

Ollie Mitchell, *Rendalls*: Brilliant footwork to carry the ball forwards on plenty of occasions, but kept getting distracted by a bird on the sideline.

Leon Mills, *Newlands*: Rotated in and out on the day, but the unorthodox beanie cameo at the end made up for it.

Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*: Reminded me of prime Neymar. Not for his footballing ability, but the way he rolled around the floor after every tackle. Showed good footwork too.

Tochi Orji, *The Park*: Needs to invest in a pair of studded boots as he looked like he was playing on an ice rink. When he was standing he used his pace effectively causing their back line problems.

Max Bloomfield, *Elmfield*: Like Tochi, found standing up in these conditions difficult. Maybe he's just not agile enough to turn around without slipping.

Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*: Now that's why they call him 007! Zero goals, zero shots on target, 7 balls skied over the Westminster gates. My striker! (I wish he wasn't).

NAF: Off the bus and 10 mins to warm up? Mr Fannon had other ideas. A solid 10 minute lecture on the importance of effort was not reflected in the first half scoreline. However, something must've gone right in the half-time team talk as we looked a much better side in the second half. Full credit goes to the coach for this which we will take into our next fixture.

3rd XI v Westminster School 2nd, Won 2-1

A tough test for the 3rds first game of the season playing against a Westminster 2nd XI side who have already enjoyed a full term of football. In the first half we pressed aggressively from the front, Jack de la Poer Beresford, *The Park*, and James Amihyia-Marsden, *West Acre*, winning the ball back repeatedly. With some flashes of brilliance in the midfield, that was well run by Jack Young, *Newlands*, finding our dynamic winger Oliver Rezek, *Druries*. For all our possession and chances we went into the break 1-0 up, an own goal from a corner.

In the second half, their cohesion and fitness started to shine through. They began to win the midfield battle and created a few chances which Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*, and our defence did well manage. An outstanding effort from Amihyia-Marsden saw their defensive confidence crumble, and a rebound off his back looped over the keeper and put Harrow 2-0 up. Westminster fought back and scored a goal through a corner which bounced around in our box and ended up going in as an own goal.

An outstanding first game on the season where everyone showed a great desire and passion to win.

4th XI v Westminster School Colts A, Lost 0-2

Harrow went 2-0 down in the first 10 minutes and despite a few good opportunities were fortunate to only be two goals down at the break. A change of formation and greater communication transformed the 4th XI in the second half in which they began to dominate the ball but unfortunately could not make the most of their opportunities in the opponents final third. The team should be greatly encouraged by the second half performance. Stand out performances from Sam Howes, *The Grove*, who showed great composure at the back and Asnani Ahaan, *West*

Acre, whose impressive tenacity and technical ability helped Harrow dominate the ball in the second half.

5th XI v Westminster School 3rd, Lost 1-6

Against the Westminster 3rd XI was a tough battle against some strong opposition, but some great passing and defensive play which kept their score to a single digit. A nice consolation goal in the final play of the game allowed us to finish with a smile on our faces.

6th XI v Westminster School Boys-U16B, Lost 1-6

Although this fixture clearly came far too early in terms of team preparation, with just 2 training sessions behind us, the 6th XI had only themselves to blame for most of the goals conceded against a sprightly and skilful Westminster U16 B team. The game started well, with both sides looking to play a passing game, notwithstanding a bobbly pitch, and Harrow created several openings before Otto Marre, *The Grove*, slotted home from close range following good bustling work by centre forward Tom Leonard, *Lyon's*. At the other end, the Harrow back four was doing a good job closing down the pacy and determined Westminster forwards, and Milo Walker, Bradbys' made a couple of smart saves when they did manage to carve an opening. A miscued clearance, however, provided a gift to the Westminster forward (by no means the last gift presented to them in this game) who calmly stroked the ball into the corner to level matters. Another soft goal on the stroke of half time gave the visitors the edge at the break.

With the slope in our favour, the second half started brightly and again Westminster were being put under early pressure. Several chances and half-chances were squandered unfortunately with our forwards requiring too many touches – shooting practice for sure next week... But we were very much still in it when two ridiculously soft goals were conceded within a couple of minutes of each other – both from poor decisions to pass to players who were not concentrating, and both leading to a Westminster forward running one-on-one at the keeper before converting. Heads then dropped, though there was time for both sides to hit the crossbar before a couple of late goals sealed a somewhat flattering scoreline, though there could be no doubting which team deserved to win.

So, much to work on in training before our next match, but there were potivies too to take from this performance.

Colts A v Berkhamsted School, Drew 3-3

The Colts As drew 3-3 against Berkhamsted. Toye Kolawole, *Newlands*, scored with an excellent finish from a corner and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, finished well after some superb work from Jooney Ku, *West Acre*.

Colts B v Berkhamsted School, Won 2-1

After going 1-0 down from a penalty, Harrow equalised just before the end of the first half and player of the match Dario Holland, *The Park*, scored a fantastic goal to win the game 2-1.

Colts C v Berkhamsted School, Lost 0-3

In a spirited encounter at Harrow School, the Colts C faced off against Berkhamsted in a highly anticipated match. Despite an excellent start by the mighty Colts C, it was Berkhamsted who emerged victorious with a final score of 3-0.

The first half saw the Colts C displaying resilience and determination, with Seren Elias, *Lyon's*, and Debe Njoku, *The Headmaster's*, delivering outstanding defensive performances. However, a quick break from Berkhamsted resulted in a 1-0 lead at halftime. Undeterred, the Colts C entered the second half with a newfound vigor, operating like a well-oiled machine. Quick-paced counterattacks created dangerous situations for Berkhamsted, though the C's were unfortunate to miss the target with some powerful yet slightly off-target shots.

Despite the valiant efforts, Berkhamsted managed to secure

a second goal. Noteworthy plays in the second half came from Israel Olaigbe, Moretons, and Harrison Gray, The Park, with Olaigbe earning the well-deserved title of Player of the Week for his outstanding contributions.

An unfortunate last minute penalty resulted on the final goal scored by Berkhamsted While the final score may not reflect the Colts C's commendable efforts, the team showcased determination and promise, setting the stage for future successes on the field.

Colts D v Berkhamsted School, Won 5-2

Harrow showed good firepower in front of goal and courage in defence. A brace of goals for Rory Griffin, *The Head Master's*, and Judah Amankrah, *The Knoll*, and player of the match Alex Gethin, *Rendalls*.

Colts D v Berkhamsted School, Won 5-2

Harrow showed good firepower in front of goal and courage in defence. A brace of goals for Rory Griffin, *The Head Master's*, and Judah Amankrah, *The Knoll*, and player of the match Alex Gethin, *Rendalls*.

Junior Colts A v Westminster School, Won 7-0

There was much to encourage in this opening performance of the season. The JCAs were 5-0 up by half time and added two more in the second period. The quality of the football in the first half was often excellent, with Joel Otaruoh, *Lyon's*, cutting in effectively on the left wing and producing some excellent shots and combinations. Harrow pinned their opponent into their own half through relentless pressing and tenacity in midfield. Paul Olusegun, *Druries*, and Lucian Spencer, *Elmfield*, led this effort and they were aided by the lively display of Auberon Dragten, *Rendalls*, in front of them. Westminster attacks were rare, yet on the occasions when they did venture forward, the partnership of Tobe Odogwu, *The Knoll*, and Sam Gibbard-Jones, *The Headmaster's*, proved an impenetrable barrier. Tobe in particular produced a number of moments of composed play to snuff out attacks and set the Harrow team moving forward again. Goals came from a variety of sources: Daniel Sam, *Rendalls's*, produced a hat-trick ; Eli de Venecia, *The Headmaster's*, was a constant threat and scored an unstoppable long range effort before half time. Tito Odanaike's, *Elmfield*, cool, controlled finish put the seal on a dominant display up to the break. The quality of the passing diminished in the second half and the JCAs will need to raise their level against more competitive opposition. That said, a further strike from Sam and a well-deserved goal from Gibbard-Jones added gloss to an already overwhelming scoreline.

Junior Colts B away v Westminster School Yearlings A

The Harrow away match staple of an expedited warm up had the boys sharp and limber as the whistle went to get us underway. The pinball machine started up and some first touches to forget saw the opposition take the chance to open the scoring almost immediately. Seemingly, the two and half shots in the warm up had not been sufficient to ready the keeper as effectively as first thought. No matter, Damon Chiu, *Newlands*, quickly took an incredibly liberal approach to his position as a striker and decided that collecting the ball in our defensive third and running the length would be the best response. A cool finish followed and it was hard to argue with his logic as Harrow came back level before five minutes had been played.

Frustratingly, the remainder of the half was typified by difficulty maintaining possession and soft defending, despite the slight physical presence of the opposition Shells. Ultimately, unfamiliarity in defence provoked some rather unusual errors and the opposition wonder kid needed no second invitation to snatch another in the ensuing chaos. Fortunately, the referee took pity on Henry Zhu's, *Newlands*, hopeful tumble in the box and Chiu calmly levelled proceedings from the spot as the half came to a close.

A coaching masterclass at half time saw the diggers return from the break a new team; calm in possession and aggressive in defence, Westminster were quickly nullified as a threat. Incisive passes from the midfield began to cause the defenders no end of bother with both wingers harassing their opposite man into mistakes. Willing the nightmare to end, the opposition right back elected to intercept a beautifully weighted pass into his own goal rather than face the misery of it landing at Manny Oppong's, *Rendalls*, feet deep in the box.

Nic de Leo, *The Park*, returned to the pitch with clear instructions and did not disappoint with the Wayne Gretzky approach to shooting that saw him pepper the 2nd XI game behind the goal time and again. The statistical play is straight from the coach's playbook and inevitably paid off halfway into the second half with a clean strike into the bottom corner. Westminster had the wind knocked out of them and Zhu took the opportunity to add further misery with a supreme strike from the edge of the box that gave the keeper no chance.

A typical season opener saw Harrow grow into the game and steadily blow away the cobwebs of Christmas to finish resounding victors.

Junior Colts C v Westminster School Junior Colts B, Won 4-1

This was far from a perfect performance but was very effective in to successfully 'get the ball rolling' and hopefully provide some good momentum for the weeks ahead. With snow forecast, we really hope our midweek match and training won't be cancelled; it would be a shame for this squad's progress be put on ice...

Harrow won the toss and captain, Rupert Lian, *Rendalls*, opted for the team to begin playing uphill. This allowed Westminster an early momentum advantage as they swept downfield, leaving themselves too over-exposed for a sucker-punch counter down the left. Harrow's forthright, attacking defensive line was very effective. Suleman Mohammed, *West Acre*, Elendu Ukeje, *Newlands*, and Llewellyn Palmer, *Lyon's*, all seemed very effective in their roles, complemented by the speed & passing strength of full-backs Feng York, *The Knoll*, and Caspar Davidson, *Rendalls*, the latter feeding a well-weighted through-ball for Timur Mir, *Newlands*, who powered down his wing before crossing into the box where Bodi Kennet, *The Knoll*, timed his run perfectly to knock past the keeper.

Westminster pushed well enough to maintain the scoreline until the 2nd half when Harrow came flying out of the traps. This time it was Jake Jung, *The Knoll*, who created his own chance before coolly slotting past the keeper. Westminster tired faster than Harrow whose fitness, and strength in depth, allowed pressure to the end, embodied in no small part by Toritseju Backhouse, *Druries*, who is still learning the finer details of the sport yet still managed to run rings round some of the opposition. He created many chances but often drove into a wall – once he tweaks his ability to pass & shoot, he could be a very effective footballer. Rupert Lian, *Rendalls*, and Zino Mendicino, *West Acre*, both fully deserved their goals – just rewards for two of the most energetic, industrious players on the pitch. Abubakir Aben, *Lyon's*, performed much of the less glamorous, unseen yet vitally important work around the field, as did William Bearman, *Moretons*, who showed a great deal of composure throughout to ensure that when he was called in to action, he was alert and ready. He would have started the season with a deserved clean-sheet, were it not for a lapse in Harrow's midfield pressure that allowed a tentative shot he could have done little about. Onwards...

Junior Colts D away v Westminster School Boys-U14B, Lost 0-1

A well balanced and scrappy match against Westminster, the Junior Colts Ds showed good physicality, keeping the ball in Westminster's half for much of the game. Neither side managed to capitalise on any advantages, although a window of

opportunity presented itself for the Westminster side, securing them a goal with only 10 minutes left on the game. Special mention goes to our Goal Keeper, Sam Walker, *Bradlys*, who proved to be a formidable defender, denying the opposition multiple advantages from long ranged volleys.

Yearlings A away v Epsom College, Lost 2-5

Harrow took a few minutes to settle into their opening game of the season, and it was not until Epsom went into a deserved lead that the Yearlings showed what they were capable of. Growing with confidence in possession, Harrow equalised as Derek Aderibigbe-Ovwori, *Druries*, latched onto a deft through ball from the right foot of Luke Attfield, *Druries*, and slotted it home.

The second half started with a very early goal from Epsom that knocked the wind out of our sails, and led to a period where the home side raced into a 5-1 lead. Eventually Harrow settled and forced a second goal, as Shiden Goitom, *West Acre*, headed home from Attfield's deep corner.

The Yearlings A can draw many positives from this game against a powerful and talented opposition.

POTM was Attfield for his complete midfield performance and two assists, in addition to consistently excellent set pieces.

Yearlings B away v Epsom College, Lost 2-4

We started off the game extremely well. We were very dominant in midfield and the defence were putting in brave tackles and creating good opportunities to launch a counter attack. This was extremely encouraging as this was our first proper game of the season.

Aaryan Basu, *Druries*, and Jimi Adu, *The Park*, both picked up well-taken goals in this half as well.

In the second half a few of us were out of their comfort zone playing in different positions to normal. This was hard but we did our best and powered through unluckily getting the loss.

Overall there were a lot of good things about this game and lots of things to learn.

Yearlings C away v Epsom College, Won 1-0

Harrow travelled to Surrey on Saturday afternoon, confident that an excellent week's training would deliver a win against a traditionally tough opponent. The game started at a frantic pace and the physicality of the home side made it difficult for Harrow to sustain any period of dominant possession. Epsom created a number of early chances, but were continually repelled by a resolute defence, led by the outstanding Frank Thompson, *Elmfield*, and Henrik Wilett, *Druries*, along with some exceptional saves from the visiting goalkeeper, Theodore Gowon, *The Park*. Indeed, Gowon kept his side in the game with a magnificent two-handed fingertip save from a powerful right-footed shot from the Epsom striker on the stroke of half-time. This was to prove crucial in the final analysis.

Despite being second best for most of the first half, Harrow remained well-organised and looked a constant threat on the counter-attack. Harrow's best chances fell to Asher Maxwell-Odedina, *Newlands*, who shot straight at the keeper from 8 yards out, and Henry Murray, *The Head Master's*, who was unfortunate to see his snap shot saved wonderfully by the Epsom keeper, low to his left. Harry Tait, *The Head Master's*, was a bundle of energy in the middle of the park and was trying

hard to find a killer pass through to Maxwell-Odedina, but to no avail in the opening salvos.

The second half followed the same pattern and Epsom continued to create chances. However, a mixture of wayward finishing and last-ditch defending meant that parity remained, as the clock ticked ever closer to the final whistle. Maxwell-Odedina smashed a shot against the post and an effort from John Li, *The Grove*, was cleared off the line, but it looked as if the game was heading for an inevitable stalemate. Tait, however, had other ideas and with 6 minutes remaining, he pounced on a loose pass in midfield, drove at the Epsom defence, beat three defenders, before squirming the ball underneath the on-rushing goalkeeper. The ball trickled agonisingly over the line, leading to wild celebrations in the away end.

This was a fantastic way to start the season. The boys adjusted well to difficult conditions and recorded a well-deserved victory. A great platform upon which to build for the remainder of the season.

Yearlings D away v Epsom College, Won 3-1

The Yearlings D set on the pitch of Epsom while the conditions were not the most ideal. They showed great team work from the start especially the midfield with great connections from Antares Au, *Moretons*, Nick Burov, *Lyon's*, and Takuya Asakura, *The Park*. We scored early on from an indirect free kick layed off from Kiran Patel, *Druries*, and Takuya Asakura, *The Park*, putting the ball in the net. The team kept applying the pressure as it payed off at the end of the first half with a great ball from the corner taken by Noah John-Brown, *Lyon's*, and Elyas Naderi, *Moretons*, heading the ball in to the net.

We saw great defending from the defenders Patel, Naderi, Frederic Duan, *Bradlys*, and especially from Even Song, *Rendalls*, who was the stone wall that the opposing attackers feared.

The second half the D's kept pushing but unfortunately conceded with an unlucky goal. But that didn't stop us and Ameer Tinubu, *The Knoll*, scored from a chipped through ball from Asakura. This finished off the game with an overall win of 3-1.

Throughout the match we saw great performances from the defense which led to some goals. The midfield was working their hardest all the way and attackers scoring great chances. It was a fantastic game and we are happy to get our first win.

Yearlings E away v Epsom College, Won 6-1

After a tentative start, Harrow recovered from a 1 goal deficit with bombast to score 6 in the second half, including a hat trick from Shogun Dejsunthornwat, *The Knoll*. A superlative team performance.

Yearlings F away v Epsom College, Won 6-0

Yearlings F team scored 6 confident goals against Epsom's F team, who scored nil. Jesse O'Keeffe-Richer, *West Acre*, scored twice, Leo Byrne's, *The Park*, powerful crosses matched only by the clean finish on the goal of the match, soaring across three defenders and through the fingers of the goalie. Alwin Huang, *The Headmaster's*, Chuyang Peng, *Druries*, Victor Sevaux, *The Park*, made it 6 nil, in a strong display of teamwork. Man of the match goes to Max James, *Elmfield*, for consistent unstoppable performance in defence. Perhaps the highlight of the match was some late support from an unexpected substitute of James' dog Coca, who invaded the pitch in a stunning display of speed.

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