

# THE HARROVIAN

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## PALMERSTON AND CRAWLEY SOCIETY

*'Britain's Colonial History and Current International Affairs', The Reverend Canon Emeritus Professor Dr Nigel Biggar CBE*

The Palmerston and Crawley Societies welcomed Emeritus Professor Nigel Biggar to speak on decolonisation, something he had recently written a book about. I arrived at the Vaughan Library just in time to grab a seat right in front of Professor Biggar. The joint Palmerston and Crawley Society Secretaries had enjoyed a dinner with Dr Biggar just minutes before, a fact evinced by the intimidating amount of black tie.

Dr Biggar began by making a few concessions, helping to define and scrutinise our definitions of colonisation. He stated that almost unanimously the public agreed that educating African children in far-off countries about the Kings and Queens of England (as an example) is less preferable to teaching these same children about their own heritage, history and culture. Professor Biggar then explained that this argument can potentially be mutated into claiming that education in Britain should be less Euro-centric. However, the same logic would stand that, being a nation based geographically in Europe, we ought to learn about European/white history. Such a principle should remain at least in secondary education, with universities offering courses on practically anything. Another area of contention outlined by Professor Biggar was the creation of ethnic heroes in the United Kingdom from nations all over the world. The idea was that these heroes should reflect the demographic of one's country, not be fabricated simply on the basis of inspiring the ethnic youth at the price of adequate education. Such fears manifest in news headlines about a 'move to decolonise English curriculum could mean Shakespeare replaced with Black and female authors' etc. Furthermore, Biggar said that one's heroes don't necessarily have to be of a similar ethnic group, names like Mandela, MLK, Churchill, and even Jesus spring to mind.



The bulk of the lecture was devoted to what Professor Biggar called the "decolonising narrative" and how it could be disassembled by combating each of its three points individually. First, Britain is an inherently racist nation. Second, slavery is the backbone of colonisation. And third, these bygone ideas of empire pollute and influence our modern sentiments towards all peoples, but especially Caribbean and Black British people today. These were three tenets of an argument Biggar believed to be "dangerous and untrue".



But why should one care about whether we defend our colonial past or not? Professor Biggar used the case study of Caricom, a faction of Caribbean nations (all 15 of them) that recently demanded King Charles pay £16 trillion in reparations for slavery to these countries. Although £16 trillion was the figure cited in the lecture, the number has been reported to be just south of £33 trillion by other sources. The answer to the question of 'why should one care?' is split between two sides, on the one hand, a "we ought to have got over it by now" sentiment is adopted, but on the other hand, many believe (of which Professor Biggar is one) that we should defend against such allegations to protect the future of our country and, as evinced through the example of Caricom, a potential monetary attack.

Professor Biggar argued that the question of whether Britain was a victim of systemic racism could be answered when one examines the Johnson administration in 2019. An administration that had a predominantly non-white membership, and other positions of high command filled by "ethnic minorities". This point speaks for itself. Professor Biggar claimed that much of the public still believes that the main disparities in the economy are race-based. "Of course, there are many relative disadvantages based on race, but such disadvantages are blown out of proportion, with the UK having been ranked in last place in terms of the amount of racial discrimination in European countries," said Biggar. Essentially, the case was more nuanced than simple ideas of "white supremacy".

The lecture also served as a promotion for the Professor's book titled *Colonialism, a Moral Reckoning*. The book itself was such a hit it was actually out of stock in most major bookstores, a fact, not shared by the ever-humble Professor Biggar, but one that Master-in-Charge RKB told me.

Continuing, the second point (or pillar) outlined was that slavery was the backbone of colonisation. Professor Biggar pontificated that we often in history hear of the slave trade

and the Atlantic Slave Triangle (a topic that has since rooted itself in the Harrow History Department's halls, and for good reason). This is an important and undeniably ugly chapter in Britain's history that deserves telling. But should we not also teach about British efforts to end slavery after its abolition in 1807? Doctor Biggar reminded us that slavery was the most widespread business exploit anywhere in the world, and almost every nation at some point in history is to blame for the trade of human lives. In Africa particularly, tribes would conquer their rivals and, in many cases, sell them to the Europeans in exchange for weapons and other goods.



It was after the abolition of slavery that the British army expended 13% of its navy to take control of a West African slave port where pirate slavers were continuing the slave trade after the imposition of the British ban. Professor Biggar quoted Robert Pape and Chaim Kaufmann when they called it 'the most expensive moral action in modern history'. The UK's pursuit of justice and anti-slavery was so strong that American Abolitionist Frederick Douglass wrote that, after a journey to the British Isles, there was a 'perfect absence of everything like that disgusting hate with which we are punished in the United States.' Essentially, slavery and colonialism should be taught in a holistic way that acknowledges the efforts to reverse the damage after an "intellectual revolution" in Britain, as well as the presence of slavery at the time, and its presence in other European countries, even after the English abolished it.

Professor Biggar's third and final point was that although colonialism is pilloried for its ignorance and dismissal of "oriental cultures", it led, for example, to preservation efforts of entire Hindu civilisations, something those host countries would simply have been unable to do. This preservation of other cultures should be considered when balancing the arguments for and against colonisation. Additionally, Professor Biggar mentioned M.N. Roy and his belief that the key to elevating the "Eastern countries" to the "Western standard" was education, the introduction of which began during the British occupation. Not overwhelming evidence in support of colonisation, but certainly interesting to note.

The lecture was then opened to the floor with the first few hands raised by beaks. A question posed by MJM asked, "Why is this a distinctly British problem?" The question was a good one and the answer seemed to satisfy the room. Biggar explained that this newfound outrage originated in the United States with the death of George Floyd and the rise of the BLM movement. Moreover, Biggar believed the attack on the UK's history of colonialism to be an attack on the West more generally, the UK was "simply a proxy".

Biggar's views on affirmative action were made clear through his answer to a question posed by The Grove Lower Sixth Robert Young. Professor Biggar felt that affirmative action insofar as helping the disadvantaged was a healthy and helpful thing, but

to replace adequate workers with underqualified individuals, simply to fill an ethnicity quota, was a bad idea.

I found it sobering to learn that Professor Biggar ran into trouble attempting to get the book published on account of the expected backlash. The fact that such a straightforward, logical, and deeply researched text had issues even getting on the shelf speaks for the situation in the West today. I couldn't be happier that such troubles have since passed and the book has proved a huge success. Many thanks to Professor Biggar for visiting us on the Hill.

## MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Cancer Treatment, Narayan Seehra, Lyon's*

The Medical Society gathered for an informative and well-researched lecture given by Narayan Seehra, *Lyon's*, in which he explored the promising developments in cancer treatment that emerge from the integration of nanotechnology in oncology practices.

Seehra started the lecture with an overview of the critical issue: cancer. Cancer is characterised by uncontrolled cell division, and its alarming global impact is highlighted by its notorious title as the leading cause of death for *Homo sapiens*. Staggering statistics from 2020 indicate that there are around 19.3 million cancer cases and 10 million cancer-related deaths annually worldwide, and additional data suggests that half of us will be diagnosed with cancer within our lifetime. Combating cancer cannot be delayed.

Then Seehra meticulously dissected existing cancer treatments (including surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy), weighing their respective pros and cons. Although surgical removal is direct and immediate, it is acknowledged for its invasiveness and potential risks of functional impairment or cosmetic damage. Additionally, chemotherapy, the most common form of treatment, is preferred for its systemic approach in targeting fast-growing cells, albeit with significant side effects including hair loss, rashes and nausea, which can be traumatic for a patient's lifestyle. Radiation therapy is a localised approach but is criticised for its potential damage to surrounding tissues and limited effect in treating larger tumours.

Seehra then delved into the innovative realm of nanotechnology. Nanoparticles, defined as particles ranging from 1 to 100 nanometres, were explored as versatile tools for drug delivery. Techniques including photothermal ablation, liposomal drug delivery, nanoparticle-drug conjugates, magnetic hyperthermia and RNA interference were elucidated as promising strategies for targeting and killing cancer cells with high precision.

Of particular interest was the detailed explanation of photothermal ablation, where nanoshells made of gold are utilised to selectively heat cancer cells to above 42°C with infra-red waves, subsequently killing the cancerous cells and sparing the healthy ones, which only die at 46°C. Liposomal drug delivery was also highlighted for its ability to package drugs inside lipid vesicles, protecting them from degradation and enabling controlled release directly to target areas, thus reducing toxicity to body cells.

The lecture concluded with a summary of advancements in nanotechnology-driven oncology and a contemplation of the limitations and potential health risks associated with it. Overall, the lecture provided a thought-provoking exploration of the intersection between nanotechnology and oncology, offering hope for more effective and targeted cancer treatments within this rapidly evolving field.



## SINFONIA IN THE FAR EAST

*Easter break*

On 23 March, a group of weary Harrovians set out to London Heathrow, commencing the Harrow Sinfonia's tour to the Far East. After a long and dreary flight, we finally landed in the shipping capital Hong Kong and were immediately bussed off to what we thought would be our hotel. Unfortunately, due to us being so eager and arriving equally promptly, our rooms had not yet been prepared for check-in; thus, there was an impromptu amendment to our itinerary, and we ended up at the Victoria Peak, observing the majestic Hong Kong skyline. In the evening, we were finally allowed to access our long-awaited for rooms and rest our weary legs and backs from hours of lugging around heavy instruments and backpacks. The following day, members of the Harrow Sinfonia visited the Ocean Park amusement park. DNW's thirst for adrenaline was sufficiently satiated by one particular attraction, consisting of multiple fast loops and inversions. Evan Song, *Rendalls*, found this less palatable and stuck with the ground activities instead. That evening saw a change of pace as we collaborated with St Paul's Coeducational School's String Orchestra, with a performance of some repertoire for them, which was then reciprocated. The following few days involved more serious performances. As DNB relaxed in the Shangri-la hotel lobby, DNW was blessed with a trip to Harrow International School in Zhuhai where a few boys and he delivered a showcase concert. The following day was our most intense day yet. An extensive three-hour rehearsal followed by a concert in the Methodist Church in Wanchai was a tremendous display of musical talent and ensemble work, as well as concentration from Harrow musicians. It was heartening that local Harrow boys could show their support at this concert. We also welcomed Douglas Collins, CEO of the Harrow Development Trust. Thus, the Hong Kong side of the tour was concluded.



The following morning, we checked out of the Dorsett Wanchai Hotel and set off back west to Vietnam. Over the course of the next few days, we were treated to many traditional meals such as *pho*, as well as being exposed to Vietnamese culture, a staple of which is traditional water puppet shows. The highlight of the tour was our joint concert with Reigate Grammar School Vietnam in the Hanoi Opera House. Both orchestras performed our own repertoire, but it would not be a Harrow concert if we didn't conclude with Auld Lang Syne; thus, RGS and Harrow Sinfonia merged to conclude what was an exquisite evening of music making and artistic representation, with tremendously executed solos from both schools and intense ensemble work held together by energetic conducting from DNW and vigorous violin playing from DNB on the front desk. The following day, after visiting a few Hanoi markets where the authenticity of Gucci bags and Rolex Submariners were questions, we left for the airport, to fly back to Hong Kong. This was to accompany those boys local to Hong Kong so they wouldn't get lonely on



the flight home. For the rest of us, we recuperated our strength at the Marriot Bonvoy HK ahead of the 14-hour flight to London and left the following morning. It is safe to say that, despite not touring for a while due to Covid, the Harrow Sinfonia tour was a complete success; I am sure Harrow left an impression on the public of both Hanoi and Hong Kong.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Last term, as Trials and tribulations loomed, 14 of the School's elite intellectuals meandered their mystical foci toward diplomacy. Indeed, their examinations were predestined to be successful. Before term ended, they attended LSE's Youth MUN. This conference is of the highest order internationally. MUN begins long before the conference. One must learn the ways of the diplomat. RKB taught these weekly. One must prepare for the agenda and to represent one's nation. Most importantly, one must grapple with the minds and hearts of those who lead. Indeed, the Secretary General and his deputy even visited the Hill, helping us in that regard.

Perhaps the biggest challenge was the lengthy opening ceremony and briefing. After several hours of teaching the basics of diplomacy, which the Harrovians smugly already knew, short debate began. The day remained valuable as Harrovians explored the London School of Economics and Political Sciences – a university it seems many delegates are destined to attend. The first evening brought a social; however, Harrovians understand that diplomacy, even when disguised, does not have an end hour. Lobbying continued.

The second day brought intensity. Firey debate enveloped every boy as they fought for their nations in a wide range of councils. One can see why so many Old Harrovian become world leaders. In fact, if every diplomat were from our dear Hill, it is clear that the world would rise from the ashes of war. The UN could even work. Yet, world peace is not the top priority. A delegate must secure the best for their nation, particularly at the cost of a sheepishly represented country. Aggression is masked with subtle smiles. Of course, the skill is to show Machiavellian brutality to the chairs. Unfortunately, some Harrovians were too talented. First-time delegates, put in beginner committees, were told that they ought to have been in higher leagues. It is the leopard, hiding behind its beautiful spots, which most precisely puts its enemies down.

The devil is in the details. On the third day we descended from the Hill again, to embed our agendas into the long lines of resolution. The final few sessions of committee are focused on passing resolutions. The best resolution benefits only you, is detrimental to your supposed competition, and leaves the sheep that you slaughtered ignorantly thankful. The devious details determine the victors of the conference. Committees have up to 40 people, yet it seems that, from our sample size, the odds to win are much greater than 1/40. Joseph Li, *The Grove*, Jonathan Song, *The Grove*, Nick Arnison, *Moretons*, Arjun Kular, *Elmfield*, Ethan McCullagh, *The Park*, Davyd Sobolyev, *West Acre*, and Ethan Soong, *The Grove*, all were awarded for their brilliance. Such impressive numbers are unprecedented. This isn't to say that Sudeep Miller, *The Park*, Harry Schneider, *Elmfield*, Otto Marre, *The Grove*, Meer Veluvali, *The Head Master's*, Rex Wickham, *The Head Master's*, Viren Bhaika, *Lyon's*, and Kevin Cao, *The Grove*, were not dominating the conference; indeed, some were told they were 'too good'. Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, and Arturo Saville, *Rendalls*, both chaired committees alongside university students. Robert Young, *The Grove* (Capt), was awarded the prize for chairing excellence. This is further proof of our worthiness for our futures.



Captain Young ought also be congratulated for competing across four days at the Sorbonne in Paris. This was a university-level conference, and he worked in the expert committee against solely university students. With most of his competition being 23 and nearly finished with a Masters in a related topic, it is very impressive that he was received a 'Distinguished Diplomat' award.

Thus we return – Heros on the Hill. Our capes, in the form of Western business attire, will soon be worn again. Until the day that every diplomat's name is followed by '(OH)', international troubles will always arise. If you have any interest in practising diplomacy, a skill that shows and grows character (while also being to your credit particularly for US unis), email Mr Robert Young at 20YoungR@HarrowSchool.org.uk.

## MY JOURNEY TO TWICKENHAM

by Seamus O'Leary

I suppose my journey to Twickenham started in December 2022, when we lost the quarter-final to Trinity on the Sunley pitch. I'd said to Cam Ellis (our captain) a few months earlier, "Cam, wouldn't it be great for you to play at Twickenham and Lord's in the same year? It may not have been done before." Unfortunately, Cam was injured for the game and it became really tight and tense. When Charlie Griffin scored a try midway through the second half, I thought we'd go on and win it, but with about five minutes to go, we knocked on near the half-way line. They

had a good scrum and ran in a try down the right towards the tennis courts. At the death with time up, we were almost up on their goal line to win it, but we committed an infringement and the game was over. Our boys were absolutely devastated. As the boys walked up the steps to the Bowyer Webb, to see Cam, Griff, Truscott, Kepu, Jasper, Conor O'Flaherty and others all in floods of tears was heartbreaking. I must admit that I shed tears as well that day. It was definitely the saddest moment I've had at Harrow. I remember Trinity's big prop forward after the game, coming over and celebrating in front of our boys, nearly causing a riot. To be honest, upon reflection, I admired him really because that's how much it meant to him to beat Harrow. The irony was, Trinity lost the final at Twickenham.

Now we roll on to September last year when the boys returned to Harrow. Charlie Griffin and Kepu had been away in South Africa with the England Under-18s during the summer and had done very well. Some of the boys spoke about and were inspired by Henry Arundell, who had left Harrow two years earlier and had gone on to play professional rugby with London Irish, being picked for England in the World Cup where he scored five tries against Chile. (he is currently playing in Paris with Racing 92). To be honest, I was delighted to see Kepu named as captain. He is our leader, our inspiration, our 'go to' player. When he's running with ball in hand, he gives his team mates a lift and a great buzz always goes up from the crowd. Mind you, after the first two games in September, it has become the same now when Reggie Hammick has the ball in hand. After the first few training sessions, I thought to myself that this is definitely a better squad than last year's, the emphasis being on 'squad'. It's more balanced with boys coming in and playing in different positions; boys coming off the bench are equally as good. I could sense a greater self-belief and spirit within the boys. I had the privilege of going on away games to Radley and Tonbridge, and actually feeling that sense of spirit in the boys. You just can't beat spirit in a squad, that sense of bond and loyalty to each other. It's there in abundance.

We won all our league matches for the second year in a row and our Cup run took us to the quarter-final at home against Ipswich on 7 December. I actually watched the game on a train from King's Cross to Newcastle, where I was going to attend my daughter's graduation. Initially, when the fixture was agreed, I explained to my daughter that I couldn't go to Newcastle, as it clashed with our quarter-final, but my family 'reared up' on me and I had to go. Some people's senses of priority are ridiculous. We smashed up Ipswich in the first half, and it was all over by half-time leading 33-0, with our England stars Kepu, Griff and Winters running riot, scoring five tries between them. Indeed, Ipswich scored a single try with the last play of the game and we were worthy winners 47-5. It meant a fitting end to the term and we all went home and had a great Christmas, unlike last year when I was still thinking of the Trinity defeat on Christmas Day. The boys returned in the new year and started training at the end of January for the semi-final, which felt very unusual as it was now the football term. However, we were dealt bad news that Kepu (shoulder), John Edwards (ankle) and Sam Winters (hand) were all injured and out for rest of our Cup journey. The loss of these three players would have been a massive blow to any other team, but not to Harrow. The boys regrouped, reset, and there was a great self-belief that the boys could win the competition for themselves and for the three injured boys. Both semi-finals were fixed for Saturday 2 March at Aylesbury Rugby Club. This was going to be a little tricky as it was a weekend, and so possibly for the first time ever, the boys travelled to the game from all round the UK instead of travelling together from Harrow. Well I needn't have worried. Our opposition, Blundell's from Devon, were blown away by half-time, just like Ipswich. We controlled the second half and won comfortably 39-14. Kirkham, who were favourites, won the other semi-final but were not so convincing. So now the best two school teams in England would compete in



the final at Twickenham on Thursday 14 March. O Bolsheviks.. O Fiddlesticks.. I was going to Ireland on 11 till 16 March on my annual holiday.....I had booked the flights last October.

The Cheltenham Festival every March is something I have a great passion for. It is the Olympics of horse racing and goes on for four days, from Tuesday to Friday, generally on the third week of March. On average about 10,000 people from Ireland come over every year and descend upon the Cotswolds. However, I do the opposite. I go back home to Ireland and this was my 21st year in a row. It's quality time spent with my brothers, cousins and friends in our local pub for four days. Indeed, my son now comes every year with some of his old Bristol Uni mates. It's always a brilliant week but the final at Twickenham was on the Thursday of Cheltenham. I decided that I couldn't miss the final and on the bus coming back from the semi-final at Aylesbury, I started looking at return flights from Dublin. I searched for bus and train tickets to travel on Thursday for the final. and to return back on Friday for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, which is a very special day in our local pub. I managed to book all the tickets but the timings were very tight and everything had to align. And so final day at Twickenham arrived. I caught the 7.30am bus from my home town Kilkenny to Dublin, wearing my Harrow School top, reaching the Airport at 10.15am. My flight to Stansted was at 11.05am; thankfully, I got through security quite quickly, and actually took off at 11.15am. We landed in Stansted at 12.30pm and I managed to catch the 1pm train to Liverpool Street, arriving at 1.40pm. Then, I jumped onto the Metropolitan train to Harrow on the Hill and sprinted up Grove Hill and boarded the last bus to Twickenham at 2.30pm. Perfect timing. When we arrived at Twickenham, Kirkham and our boys came out into the car park to 'warm up', which looked very odd. I waited at the main gate for them to come back in and I wished them all the best of luck. A few of the boys joked with me about coming back from Ireland for the game, but to be honest, I wasn't going to miss this game. This was our chance to make history. It might never happen again in my lifetime.

It was a very tense and see-saw game. They were leading, we were leading. They were leading, we were leading. We scored three lovely tries through Zac, St John and Griff, but at half-time Kirkham led 22-19. Sometimes a game can be defined by small margins. Crucially, Kirkham missed an easy conversion from their second try, which I felt was to have consequences at the end of the game. In the second half, Cam got a great try in the corner, right in front of us, to put us ahead again 24-22. Then, with about 13 minutes to go, they got a line out 5m out from our line and from the resulting maul, their fly-half side-stepped our fly-half to score in the corner. With four minutes to go and Kirkham leading 27-24, we got a penalty in front of the posts. This is where you need to know the competition rules. I couldn't understand why Edstrom didn't take the kick to level the game, but apparently, if the game ends in a draw, the team that scored the first try wins. I wonder how many people up in the stands knew that. Bizarre. So Edstrom kicked for the corner about 20m from the end line. We won our line out, but we infringed in the drive for the line and they got a scrum. With only a minute left, they decided to run the clock down and after a couple of phases, their no 7 Seb Kelly, who was arguably Kirkham's best forward, was judged to have knocked on. Scrum to Harrow with 30 seconds left. I watched our set up and particularly looked to see where Charlie Griffin was standing. The scrum was perfect. Reggie back-heeled the ball and Dinan took it out of the scrum cleanly and passed to Edstrom who passed to Simmo and then the mis-pass to PK and now the ball was in Griff's hand. He took off like an Olympic sprinter in a diagonal run across the pitch. He was moving so fast, I thought his father was running after him shouting, "Charlie, you have to play for Ireland". It took four Kirkham boys to pull Griff down a metre from the line but crucially, he recycled the ball back and in the second phase, Sammy passed the ball

to Reggie. I think everyone in the stand knew what was going to happen next. Reggie only ran forwards. With time up now and with three defenders in front of him, he drove forwards in a low position like a boring machine making a tunnel for HS2. After he knocked the first defender, St John grabbed him from behind and helped him push through the last two defenders. As he reached the line, Reggie managed to prise the ball from under his chest with one hand and reached forward and put the ball down on the line. The referee was in a great position and immediately gave the try. Game over. We'd won. There was quite a pandemonium in the stand with everyone going crazy, cheering and hugging each other. Winston Churchill, Joseph Banks, Nehru, Robert Peel, King Hussein of Jordan, ye might be Giants of Old, but we have a New Living Giant of Old, Reginald Hammick. Let's campaign to put a statue of Reggie outside The Knoll. Edstrom missed the conversion, which thankfully we didn't need, so we won 29-27. Like I said earlier, small margins. If the game had gone differently, he might have needed that conversion to win it. After our boys were presented with the Cup, they all came up into the stand, which was wonderful. I hugged most of the boys and Reggie nearly suffocated me. Reggie, who has come to us for Sixth Form, is living the dream at Harrow, loving every second of every day here. It was very moving that, after the final whistle, he ran across the pitch to hug his coach and Assistant House Master JLM with utmost passion. Most of us wouldn't hug our wives like that. One other thing that amused was Hopey doing his cheerleader bit in front of the stand, shouting up to the Harrow boys 'Give us an 'H'... Give us an 'A' etc. By the time he got to 'W', he was hoarse. He is quite a character is our Hopey. If he could bat like he talks, he could be playing cricket for England for the next 20 years.



As we boarded our bus back to Harrow, CMC had sent out an all-staff email that due to our ‘meteoric’ rise in rugby, the Works Bar would be open tonight to celebrate. CMC and ‘space’ are like Ant and Dec. They go just hand in hand. Quite a few beaks turned up. As my flight back to Dublin from Stansted was at 8am the next morning, I bailed out and went home around 11pm and went to bed. The next morning, my daughter woke me at 5.20am and drove me to Ealing Broadway and I caught the 5.38am Elizabeth Line to Liverpool St. Wow, it took just 21 minutes. Quick time for a cappuccino, chocolate sprinkle and two brown sugars and I boarded the 6.15am train to Stansted arriving at 7.05am. Going through security was quite busy, but I made it down to the departure gate as people were boarding. We took off at 8.15am and landed in Dublin at 9.35am. I cleared customs at 10am, just enough time for another cappuccino, and I caught the 10.15am bus for Tipperary. The timings were tight, but I made it. I arrived back in my hometown Kilkenny at 1.10pm. Great. The first race was at 1.30pm so I went straight to my local pub. It was Cheltenham Gold Cup Day and the pub was going to be rockin’. Sure enough, the pub was mobbed and as I walked in still wearing my Harrow School top, I immediately saw my son, brothers, cousins and friends. On seeing me, everyone stood and applauded, shouting “Harrow!”, “Harrow!” It was very moving. Apparently, my son and brothers had watched our game on YouTube the day before. After downing a pint of Guinness in 2, I proceeded to tell everyone about my last 24 hours. Some of my family declared I have mental health issues, but they don’t understand. That was best sporting 24 hours ever in my life. I flew back to London the following day. My grandfather’s motto was ‘Life is for the living, death is for the dead’. So true. I think the seeds of our victory at Twickenham were sown by that loss to Trinity in the quarter-final in December 2022. A lot of the boys will now leave Harrow this summer with Rosslyn Park and National School Medals. You can’t achieve anything greater than that in school’s rugby. Many congratulations to JLM Alex, GBF, Liz our physio and our backs and forwards coaches Craig and Matt.

P.S. Nothing to with rugby, but I couldn’t help noticing that the MK2 Artillery Gun which was installed in the corner of the Parade ground last year is actually aiming at Eton. Somebody in CCF obviously has a sense of humour.

However, things still are not perfect, the spacing between the tables allows for one person to move at a time – not ideal when the mass exodus for Speech Room or Chapel occurs in the mornings, and my legs will have to get used to the trek that is getting from the serving stations to the new seating. Furthermore, the temporary solutions to accommodate the moving of the wall are less than desirable.

Nonetheless, the change is greatly appreciated by all boys at the School, and I am being a little picky. Furthermore, we can now hope that progress will be moving at a faster rate now that the biggest part of the project is complete. The fire-drill map is titled ‘SCH Plan Summer – first half of term’, which could indicate that new changes could be seen by as soon as next half-term. We can only hope. But for all the satire and dry humour *The Harrovian* provides for our construction coverage, I am sure we can all say that we are very appreciative of these new changes and for the work of both the construction crew to facilitate these improvements, and of those working in the SCH to continuously provide us with three hot meals per day while working around a construction site.

In the meantime, one boy, upon seeing such a magnificent view out of the windows, said that “It feels like I am a king surveying my green kingdom below me”. I cannot wait to see what changes arise in the future to fully upgrade our dining experience.

## CORRESPONDENCE

*Letters to the Editors*

DEAR SIRS,

I have worked hard to ensure that whatever the fate of the Eton-Harrow match on 10th May coming, and in future years, no misguided reform will threaten the wonderful facilities that Harrovians deserve.

Herewith a photo of my celebrations when I won consent for this gigantic facility, guaranteed on a 999 year lease.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
MIKE STONE (MORETONS 1957<sup>2</sup>)

## OPINION

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

After a mighty long time waiting, tangible changes have at last been made accessible to the beaks and boys of Harrow School in the SCH. The wall of doom has now enclosed the southern side of the building, but in doing so it has opened up a spacious and modern new interior to the east.

Complete with floor to ceiling windows (and blinds), overhead lighting, and wonderful views of the golf course and the London skyline, the SCH truly does feel upgraded. It now offers a myriad new seating options, which is beginning to reduce the cramped feeling of the building.





## CHAOS AND CONTROVERSY

### *Pakistan's Election Scandal Unveiled*

In the unfolding story of Pakistan's politics, recent events have revealed a troubling reality, exposing the fragile side of democracy. This look into the aftermath of a controversial election aims to tell a detailed tale and question the erosion of democratic values amid unsettling allegations of rigging. As we navigate through this story, the goal is to highlight the significant challenges facing Pakistan's democratic institutions, sparking concern for justice within the country and urging a closer look at the need for thorough electoral reforms.

The story we're witnessing goes beyond the surface of democracy, unfolding like a fading legend shared among the public, much like stories of the tooth fairy and Santa Claus. For those who once felt proud and duty bound while casting a vote, recent events have cast a shadow over the democratic process, leaving behind scepticism and worry.

Abraham Lincoln's powerful words about government "of the people, by the people, for the people" now carry an unsettling tone. The recent rise of a Prime Minister with questionable family ties, and the subsequent appointment of his niece as Chief Minister, paint a solemn picture of democracy fading away – a lamentable procession we find ourselves reluctantly part of.

The initial sense of pride and duty upon entering the polling booth, echoing Lincoln's ideals, now collides with the stark reality of a democracy in crisis. The recent election, supposedly a cornerstone of democratic expression, transformed into a theatre of manipulation, shaking the very foundations it claims to uphold.

Concrete evidence of this degradation lies in the contested victory of Shehbaz Sharif, the current Prime Minister. His second-term election stirred a huge amount of controversy, raising profound doubts about the integrity of Pakistan's democratic process. The clash on 8 February, between Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Omer Ayub Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), witnessed allegations of widespread electoral rigging, setting off protests and fervent calls for transparency.

The shockwave of these allegations reverberated with the confession of Commissioner Rawalpindi, Liaqat Ali Chatta. In a brave admission, Chatta revealed manipulating results for independent candidates leading by a substantial margin and implicated the chief election commissioner and the chief justice of Pakistan in this act, casting a dark cloud of doubt over the credibility of the election commission and raising questions about the military's influence.

Chatta's confession serves as irrefutable evidence of large-scale rigging in the general elections, plunging the nation into a profound crisis. His revelation was underscored by the resignation of an unnamed politician, confessing to the rigged nature of the vote and laying bare a lack of trust in the fairness of the electoral process.

Analysts, the watchdogs of justice and democracy, voiced grave concerns about "election engineering" in Pakistan's February vote, suggesting it might be one of the most unfree elections yet. These doubts permeate the very fabric of the nation's electoral process, throwing into question the essence of democracy itself. Zahid Hussain, an astute author and political analyst, emphasised the gravity of Commissioner Chatta's confession, reinforcing longstanding doubts about the fairness and transparency of Pakistan's electoral system.

Adding to the complexity, Shehbaz Sharif's contested victory revealed a political landscape fraught with controversy. Securing 201 votes in the 336-member National Assembly, Sharif's legitimacy faced immediate criticism from opposition parties and ignited fervent calls for investigations and sweeping reforms.

As tensions escalate and protests erupt nationwide, the fallout from the election has cast a profound and unsettling shadow

over Pakistan's political landscape. The challenges posed by electoral rigging and irregularities threaten to destabilise the government and undermine the very democratic institutions meant to safeguard the people's will.

In this dire situation, the urgency for comprehensive electoral reforms and measures to ensure transparency and fairness in the electoral process has never been more palpable. The fate of Pakistan's democracy hangs precariously in the balance, raising significant questions about the nation's commitment to justice and its democratic journey. Will Pakistan emerge from this crisis with a renewed dedication to transparency, or will the allegations of rigging continue to haunt the very core of its democratic aspirations? Only time will unveil the destiny that awaits a nation grappling with the challenges of justice, democracy, and the pressing need for reform.

## HOW A SINGLE COURT CASE POISONED A NATION

*Mac McDowell, Elmfield*

The New York Times *co. v Sullivan* court case of 1964 is often cited as a point in American history where the proverbial media floodgates were opened, unleashing the tidal wave of modern-day "identity politics". At its core, the case involved a full-page advertisement published in the New York Times by supporters of noted civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. The advertisement criticised certain actions of public officials in Montgomery, Alabama, and their handling of a civil rights demonstration. The advertisement accused the Montgomery police force of 'padlocking the student dining hall' and referred to police action as having welcomed 'an unprecedented wave of terror'. L.B. Sullivan, a Montgomery city commissioner, and a man in charge of maintaining the integrity of the police force, sued The New York Times for defamation and libel. Sullivan alleged that the advertisement, with its fallacious assertions, damaged his reputation. The Supreme Court's decision in this case, the New York Times prevailed, established a new standard for defamation law in relation to cases involving public officials. The court held that, for a public official to succeed in a defamation lawsuit, they must prove that the statement in question was made with "actual malice" or with reckless disregard for the truth. This ruling expanded the protection of the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which established freedom of speech rights and the power of the press, recognising that public officials must tolerate a higher degree of criticism and scrutiny. The court reasoned that a functioning democracy requires the vigorous exchange of ideas when it comes to monitoring public officials. Without the "actual malice" ruling, public officials might use defamation lawsuits as a means to silence criticism and stifle public discourse.

The New York Times *Co. v Sullivan* decision established a precedent that protected the media's ability to report on public officials, even if some statements made are incorrect, so long as there is no evidence of actual malice. This case effectively attenuated the protection of the First Amendment pertaining to the right to free speech and free press in the United States. With the dismantling of such legal guardrails in 1964, it's easy to imagine why misinformation has burgeoned to the extent that it has today.

Ideally, 'news' is intended to be presented honestly and directly. Unlike a dictatorship or absolute monarchy, democracy functions in such a way that its workings are not meant to be glamorous per se. Of course, politicians must often 'celebrityise' themselves when campaigning for election, but during off-years, government ought to run its course in a fairly pedestrian way,

with the focus resting only on the machinations of the country, rather than the personal details of the civil servant.

There have always been news organisations that trek for the titillating at the expense of truth. Whether it's the yellow press of William Randolph Hearst who single-handedly led to the United States involvement in the Spanish American War, or an outrageous headline in the New York Post: 'HEADLESS BODY IN A TOPLESS BAR', the media has never shied away from sensationalism and half truths. The 'yellow journalism' of Hearst with flashy headlines and shocking imagery couldn't hold a candle to the misinformation spread today. Although The New York Times v Sullivan distinguished between intended and unintended malice, much of the misinformation promulgated today by both the Left and Right is consciously unfounded. It is partly because of social media and the internet (as well as frightening examples of hushed foreign reporters such as Alexi Navalny) that our belief in free speech and the First Amendment has never been stronger. To suggest limiting journalism and news coverage to that which is proven in fact, would mean opening a Pandora's box of debate. It is nonetheless clear that this broad licence to interpret facts and publish outright lies is a problem that needs amending.

Perhaps the freshest example of such phenomena was during the 2016 US presidential election. Donald Trump quickly became the frontrunner for the GOP and leftist media outlets such as CNN or MSNBC wasted no time in investing all their energy into the largest political hatchet job ever witnessed in the United States.

There was no shortage of false reporting during Trump's presidency. The most blaring examples are as follows. 1. The New York Times and CNN shared a story with photos of migrant children in cages in 2017. These pictures were later revealed to have been taken in 2014 during Obama's time in office. 2. In June of 2017, NBC news reported that President Putin of Russia claimed he had damaging information about President Trump. In the interview cited in the article, Putin said the very opposite, saying "this is just another load of nonsense," and asking, "where would I get such information?" 3. Time Magazine incorrectly reported that Trump removed the bust of Martin Luther King Jr from the Oval Office. That was simply not true, yet the story went viral. 4. The New York Times reported that "Trump Campaign Aides Had Repeated Contacts With Russian Intelligence", FBI director James Comey later testified that that very article "in the main was not true". 5. The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg News wrote that special counsel Robert Muller had subpoenaed Trump's bank records; no such thing had happened. The 6th and final example I'll offer is perhaps the most egregious; ABC news aired a video showing a "slaughter" and appalling attack against Kurds made by the Turkish armed forces after President Trump withdrew US troops from the region. The video was revealed to be nothing more than file tape footage from a training video used in the US to educate the marine corps.

These stories, despite their falsity dominated the news and fuelled dinner-table debate nationwide. Exploring every example of the wrongful vilification of Trump would be impossible. Stories of the Russian collusion scandal in 2019 overwhelmed mainstream news channels, and after the dust settled (and two attempted impeachments) Trump was acquitted, and the courts finally declared him innocent of political involvement with Russia. These fake reports and news stories bashing former President Trump add up and unjustly mould the views of the country. Many believe their cumulative effect was so strong, it cost him the re-election. The amount of misinformation pumped out by these media outlets about one man was and is almost incalculable and the stories continue to plague him.

It's not to say that such malpractice is reserved for the American left. Rupert Murdoch's Fox News is often thought of by Republicans as the last bastion of honest journalism. It would come as a surprise to some of them to learn that this is not

the case. Ever since the conservative party of the United States defeated the communist enemy in the 1980s, the Democratic party has become the primary target for their attacks. Again and again, we see fabricated or exaggerated news stories spun by right-wing stations that ignore honest journalism and opt instead for ad-hominem rage baiting. A continued bombardment of both sides has only helped to foster a division not seen since the American Civil War.

The question of 'why does depression seem like a bigger issue than it ever has been?' has no easy answer. It could well be the rise of the use of social media, perhaps creating an ethos of isolationism. To blame the rise of depression in the US on a single thing would be impossible, yet I believe it's possible to assume that the recent spikes in depression have been born out of the increasingly vitriolic political climate cultivated by media outlets. The once boring mechanism of politics has grown into a grotesque circus of blood sport. It promotes division, depression, and heartache for the American people.

The triumph of the New York Times co. over Sullivan not only established a tolerance for printing lies but has also corroded the quality of American journalism. The media is not being scrutinised to the extent that it had been in the past, and trust in the news has fallen dramatically from the time of Walter Cronkite.

Though sadly I offer no plan of escape from this turmoil, I believe strongly that what the United States needs more than ever is either A. a centralised or government-funded news channel with mandatory bipartisan coverage, or B. a third party altogether; the Remocrats.

# SPORT

## FOR THE LEAGUE

*1st XI v St Paul's, final match of season*

The 1st XI started out in this game versus St Paul's knowing that their terrific efforts in the season so far had left them with the opportunity to finish the season undefeated and stay at the top of the league. In the opening exchanges Harrow looked ready to do something special, moving the ball quickly and Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, was presented with the best of a series of early opportunities; his header being well saved by the St Paul's keeper, following a good passing move and cross from a Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*. With Harrow on top for the first 20 minutes, St Paul's took the lead against the run of play when a deep free-kick was headed back into the Harrow box and prodded home.

With the game ebbing and flowing, Harrow only managed to gain parity in the second half as they came out from the half-time team talk superbly. After squandering more than a few openings, it was that man again, Teddy Tarbotton, *West Acre*, who provided the equaliser – smashing home from close range from a Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, cross. Harrow then had further openings to secure the game with Tarbotton and Akindele going close. However, as the game ran into the final minutes, the usually robust Harrow defence had a momentary



and crucial lapse. Allowing the St Paul's left winger to drift inside unopposed he was able to angle a shot into the near bottom corner beyond the clutches of the diving Caspar Baker, *Moretons*. Despite a final push in the last moments, Harrow were unable to find the equaliser and the spoils went to the visitors. It was heartbreak in the end for the team, unbefitting their play and despite the individual performances of Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*, Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, and Collier-Wright in particular.

Despite the outcome in this game, the 1st XI should be proud of their efforts this season. One result does not change the memories that have been created and the smiles that have been put on faces in both the Autumn and Spring terms. The football that they have played this season has been terrific to watch at times, while their defending and teamwork have brought a real joy to their coaches; it is rare to see a team that defend with such passion.

The departing players should leave with their heads up and we look forward to hearing about their footballing adventures off the Hill in the future. Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, will leave the 1st XI as one of the finest goalkeepers that has gone through the School. His leadership and communication, especially in more recent games, has been a real testament to his work ethic and character. Equally, Akbar Khan has been a true leader of the team both on and off the pitch while in the Sixth Form. His quality on the ball as well as his commitment and passion will be hugely missed. Max Baygual, *Elmfield*, has often provided the guile and class to help score goals and keep morale around the team, and the same can be said of Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, whose touch and match-winning display against Berkhamsted will long live in Dan Edwards' head. Bradley Leong, *The Knoll*, has been technically brilliant throughout his time at Harrow and was in particularly outstanding form in the development term – he has all the attributes to be an outstanding footballer. Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, has been at the heartbeat of everything that the team does well, with his physicality and quality on the ball helping Harrow to dominate many a midfield battle. Zain Ayoub, *The Knoll*, is perhaps one of the most amiable boys on the Hill but his fierce determination and work ethic have made him a formidable opponent down the flanks and in defence for the 1st team – injuries unfortunately scuppering his opportunity to play more for the team. Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*, has provided one of the most inspiring stories to every Harrow boy – rising up from the Yearling Ds as a Shell to be one of the consistently top performers for the 1st XI throughout his Upper Sixth year. After repelling Father Nic last year with a dead leg he is still recovering from now, Tinbu has continued to leave opposition players rueing their attempts to beat him down the line. His determination to improve and his sense of humour on and off the training ground will be missed next year. And in a similar vein, Arthur Porter, *Druries*, has been the ultimate professional this year – showing the courage and determination to score goals on the Sunley for the 1st XI after starting his Lower Sixth year in the 4th XI – working hard and being coachable are the ingredients needed for success and development.

Lastly, Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, will depart as captain of the 2023–24 1st XI. His passion for the game, care for others and determination to win has helped to foster a culture within the 1st XI that means every player can develop and improve while getting results on the pitch. His creativity and unbelievable goal-scoring ability will certainly be missed, with few Harrovians having scored more than he has during his time as a 1st XI player.

We hope that the culture that has been created by the boys that depart the team feeds into the development and atmosphere around the crop of 1st XI players next season. That way, despite their one loss, the future success of the Harrow 1st XI will bear the hallmarks of this season's side. May the boys stay in touch and keep playing the beautiful game!

## POLO

The Harrow A and B teams played Eton. The A team had a fiercely contested match as Rish Rawal, *Rendalls*, and Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, both scored brilliant hat-tricks. The School's captain, Hector Rogberg, *Druries*, scored an amazing eight goals, securing a 16-13 Harrow victory. The B team played well against a high-goal Eton B team, with Freddie Thompson, *Elmfield*, Ibrahim Faisal, *Druries*, and Cory Martin, *Rendalls*, all scoring. However, in the end, the team lost 8-4



On Sunday, the Harrow A and B teams played in the National Schools Arena Championships. Over 30 schools were playing, across four divisions. The B team was in the Intermediate division and faced very tough opposition throughout the tournament. They played Stowe B team, narrowly losing 2-1 and lost 3-0 against the Radley A team. In the final match, they faced Monkton School and lost 2-1. In the end, they came fourth in the division. Huan Yan, *The Knoll*, was the Harrow top scorer, scoring two goals.

The Harrow A team played in the top division, against Rugby, Stowe, and Cheltenham Collage. In the Rugby match, Rogberg and Hu both scored hat-tricks, leading to a convincing 7-0 win. In the Cheltenham match, Harrow was also victorious, with Hu scoring another hat-trick they went on to win the

match 7-1. In the final, they faced their old rivals Stowe. The unbeaten Stowe team gave Harrow a half-goal advantage; However, this was not enough to push the School over the line, as we lost 4-1 (and a half). In the end, Harrow emerged second in the country.



## BASKETBALL

*Harrow v Rooks Heath, 22 February, Lost 69-81*

On Thursday, the School took on Rooks Heath. It was a closely contested but high-scoring match, with a multitude of momentum shifts throughout the game. Rooks Heath started strong, gaining a 20-point lead by the end of the first quarter due to turnovers from the Harrow side. However, once again Ayomide Ajayi, *The Knoll* gave a strong performance, supported by a stellar debut from Antares Au, *Moretons*. Their efforts led Harrow to bring the gap down to eight points by the half. Unfortunately, they couldn't close the gap after a hard-fought match, which ended 69-81. This was a good learning experience for Harrow, which will surely prove useful in their last game this season against Wellington.

1st Home v Wellington College, Won 52-25, 29 February

The Harrow Under-18 basketball team responded in emphatic fashion against Wellington on Thursday. From the get-go, Harrow was focused on the task at hand and were firing on all cylinders. Encapsulated by stellar ball movement and aggressive defence, Harrow dominated the whole game, resulting in a 52-26 win over Wellington. Top performance from Tomiwa Oyegade, *Moretons*, who scored 20 points and had ten rebounds. Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, and Arinze Ofurum, *The Head Master's*, also gave great performances, scoring numerous layups and being influential on the defensive and offensive ends. Overall, this was a great performance from the Harrow side as they now go 4-1 in the season.

Yearlings A Home v Wellington College, Won 43-22

The Harrow Under-14s played a great game against the Wellington Under-14 side. Led by Ayomide Ajayi, *The Knoll*, once again, they controlled the game and played with great intensity throughout. Cosmo Abernathy, *The Knoll*, and Ethan Francois, *Rendalls*, played some great defence and Frederic Duan, *Bradlys*, was influential on both ends of the floor. Overall, they ended up winning the game convincingly and is a great response from their last game.

1st Away v Tonbridge School, Won 49-41, 7 March

The Harrow Under-18s travelled to Tonbridge to play what would be their last formal game as a team, and the last game Tomiwa Oyegade, *Moretons*, Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, Jake Posner-Kane, *Moretons*, and Hymn Chau, *West Acre*, would play in a Harrow jersey. And this game did not disappoint in the slightest. It was a fierce battle between the two sides, with Harrow taking the lead at times, and Tonbridge the same. However, going into the final quarter Tonbridge had the lead 36-33. That was when Harrow played arguably the best quarter of their season, playing stellar defence and moving the ball well. In the end, Harrow completed a last quarter comeback, winning the game 49-41. Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, was the leading scorer and offensive co-ordinator in the game, scoring 21 points, an absolutely stellar performance from him. Tomiwa Oyegade, *Moretons*, also had a great game, playing particularly well on the defensive end. He ended up with a near triple-double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and 8 blocks. Overall, the Harrow Under-18s ended their season spectacularly, finishing 5-1 this season.

## RACKETS

*The School v Radley, 29 February*

1st Pair Home v Radley College, Lost

Despite the best efforts of Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, they were unable to gain a strong foothold in a match against a strong Radley pair, leading to a 0-3 loss.

2nd Pair Home v Radley College, Won

A dramatic match full of twists and turns where Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, won the last two games to win 3-2. This underlined the rapid progress they are making as a pair.

3rd Pair v Radley College, Won

A convincing 3-0 win for Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, who controlled the match with good serving.

Colts 1st Pair Home v Radley College, Won

A very high quality Colts match where Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, showed grit and determination to get through a tight final game to win 3-0.

Junior Colts 1st Pair Home v Radley College, Won

A nail-biting finish saw Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, save a match point before winning 16-15 in the final game. A tremendous match.

## GOLF

*Gerald Micklem Trophy*

4-1 loss v Wellington

3-2 win v Rugby (Plate Semi-Final)

4-1 loss v Bradfield (Plate Final)

After the wettest February on record in the south of England, there were concerns that the Micklem would be cancelled for the second year in succession. Concerns were ultimately unwarranted as the clouds parted for the majority of the two-day event.



Harrow faced an experienced and talented Wellington College in the first round. By contrast, Harrow was fielding a team of debutants at Woking Golf Club, with all of the team up against scratch players from the opposition.

Ultimately the Wellington firepower was just too much for Harrow on the day and despite courageous efforts from captain Fred Hewer, *The Park*, and Kieran Wee, *Newlands*, the team were well-beaten 4-1.

The addition of Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, for the second day of competition, bolstered hopes of a place in the Plate Final. Standing in their way was a strong Rugby School side. This was set to be a competitive and well-balanced match.

Hewer faced up against a 1-handicapper and despite getting the better of him in the earlier holes, couldn't quite hold on and lost on the last hole of the round.

Cheuk took on another Hong Kong golfer and they traded blows early on, never far from all-square. Cheuk cheerfully chipped in a handful of birdies early on, but his opponent was up to the task and kept the match in the balance. However, very solid driving and iron play led to a superb string of pars in the final holes from Cheuk finishing the match with a win 3&1.

What Cheuk's match had in balance, Thomas Tian's, *Newlands*, had in chaos. Tian started strong with four consecutive pars seeing him go four up! Some more erratic golf saw him drop back to 1Up before steadying the ship to eke out a strong lead heading into the final few holes. He would come out victorious in a 4&3 victory.

Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, found his rhythm more on day two but still struggled to find the fairway. His opponent's consistency was the difference in this match as Tom succumbed to a 2&1 loss.

Zac Baines, *Druries*, had the round of the morning in a stunning 7&6 victory. Consistency, maturity and ruthlessness demonstrated by the youngest player on the team.

The boys had done enough to find a place in the Plate Final against Bradfield in a repeat of the 2022 competition.

Fred Hewer, *The Park*, led the team well again and came up against an experienced Micklem opponent. Hewer led the match early on and was only 1 down on the last hole, eventually halving the match.

Cheuk and Tian both struggled for the constancy they had earlier on in the day and narrowly lost out. Campbell-Johnston produced some fine golf against a stoic opponent but couldn't quite get over the line. Baines by now was feeling the fatigue of a challenging few days and also succumbed to a loss. This was a tighter match than the 4-1 scores suggest, but the team have a lot to work on before the regional foursomes final at the beginning of next term.

However, they began with a bang and both Oundle openers scored oodles of runs, leaving the JCAs startled. With questionable fielding and several dropped catches, a wicket was needed to slow Oundle down. Spencer did just that with a direct hit from the boundary. Alex Storer, *West Acre*, and Alf Beresford-Peirce, *Elmfield*, bowled tightly to wrap up the first game and win by 14 runs.

The next morning, the boys travelled to Reading Blue Coat School to play Bradfield College. After a drizzly morning, we lost the toss and were stuck in the field. Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, was the pick of the bowlers, picking up three wickets, and Edward Stabb, *The Head Master's*, and Athrav Chauhan, *West Acre*, picked up two wickets apiece. Despite restricting Bradfield to a below-par 93, much improvement is needed in the field after a wonderfully extensive exhibition of misfields and dropped catches. A slow start to the innings left Harrow struggling to find their stride in the strike. With three quick wickets, Beresford-Peirce and Rawal were summoned to the crease. Both batting positively against the pressure, they brought the game home with four overs to go with Alf ending on 32\* and Rish 27\*.

On the final day of the Junior Colts pre-season tour, the team played against Reading Blue Coat School. After losing the toss, Harrow set up to field. With Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Nicholson producing a very tight first eight overs and each picking up two wickets, Harrow was on top. After a great spell from the opening bowlers, Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, and Beresford Peirse managed to claim one and two wickets respectively. Despite limiting Reading Blue Coat to 46-7 at first, Harrow let things slip in the field. With Spencer and Storer bowling the death overs to their best efforts, Reading counter-attacked. Storer managed to pick up two more and Spencer kept one end going well. Finally, a direct hit from Hyatt bowled Reading all out, but they still finished with 107 after their 20 overs.

Spencer and Nicholson opened the batting; Nicholson was rotating the strike well but sadly Spencer was lost early. After a small collapse due to some good catching and unfortunate run-outs, Stabb and Nicholson forged a vital partnership for the third wicket, until Nicholson was caught at extra cover for a very well played 32(36). Hyatt was the new man in but another run out sadly soon sent him back. After Storer was dismissed with lbw, Harrow was in a tough position, needing 38 in five overs. Still at the crease with Gupta, Stabb hit a flourish of boundaries all around the ground. But with nine needed off the last over, Harrow sadly fell one run short. After near heroics, Stabb ended on a very well-played 42.

Overall, a great pre-season was sadly capped off with a disappointing result, but it set the team up well for a grand season ahead with two major cups!

## CRICKET PRE-SEASON

After a cold season tangled with winter nets, the anticipation of cricket season grew among the coaches and the boys. The boys arrived at Bradfield, buzzing to bat. At short notice, GBF informed the boys that the season would start in 25 minutes. In a hurry, the JCAs made their way down to the pitch with all the luggage. The captain Rish Rawal, *Rendalls*, elected to bat against Oundle School to start the first fixture. Lucian Spencer, *Elmfield*, and Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, got off to a quick start but both fell before making 20. After a slow middle period, Rawal steadied the ship by scoring 61, and James Hyatt, *Elmfield*, scored an eye-catching 38 to leave the JCAs with a solid 147 (no less than a maximum break in snooker).

## CROSS-COUNTRY

*Harrow School XC v Marlborough College,  
29 February*

Another fantastic result for the cross-country team who travelled to Marlborough. Despite wet and slippery conditions, Harrow performed well, winning both the Senior and Intermediate Boys categories.

Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, placed a close second in the Senior Boys, with Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, continuing his good form to win the Intermediates by over 50 seconds. Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*, and Murray Runacres, *Lyon's*, ran well for the Juniors, coming in fifth and sixth.

## FIVES

*1st VI Home v Cambridge University, Lost, 7 March*

The two senior boys, Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Algie Anderson, *Moretons*, battled hard against a strong Cambridge pair who showed their experience and class. The boys stuck at it but went down 3-0 in the end.

*1st VI Home v Kinnaird Cup, 9 March*

Gus Stanhope and Algie Anderson, both *Moretons*, battled hard today in the main Fives Nationals, with top adult players from all over the country descending on Harrow.

Their opponents in the last 32 of the competition were more experienced and ultimately better than Stanhope and Anderson, who will have no doubt benefited from playing in such a big event before their own Nationals at the end of term.

## JUDO

*British Schools Judo Championships*

The judo team travelled to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield for the British Schools Judo Championships. Over 200 schools are represented at this event, in which an increasing proportion of competitors are of a national standard.



There were some fantastic wins, with boys digging deep and combining sound technique and intelligence to turn contests in their favour against more experienced opposition. This is, in fact, the essence of judo and we congratulate all boys on their spirit. Though most were eliminated before the medal stages, two boys made it to the podium this year.



Michel Quist, *The Grove*, earned a bronze medal in a very tough Senior Under-90kg category, impressively overcoming the disappointment of an early loss on penalties to fight on with great heart.

In the Intermediate Over-90kg category, Sultan Al Thani, *Rendalls*, made the final of an experienced pool of strong competitors, using stylish judo to gain maximum-point ippon victories. Following a determined performance in the final, leading to another ippon victory, he achieved a gold medal and became British Schools Champion for 2024.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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