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COUTTS LECTURE

Professor Robert Saxton, Oxford, 23 January

As the first batch of snow melted away on a cold Wednesday morning, Professor Robert Saxton, a famous academic and equally well-regarded composer, came from Oxford University to give a series of talks on a range of topics, from composing in the style of Mozart to the life and works of Benjamin Britten.



The talks began with a double period about orchestration and writing idiomatically for different instruments. Professor Saxton started by showing us a Honda advert, in which a choir mimics the sounds of a car. The point of this was to help us understand that instruments can do so much more than play conventional notes and intervals, which is especially important in today's music. He went into great detail about the harmonic series, which was demonstrated by a pupil on the French horn. He described the problems with equal temperament, where pianos are tuned to play well in any key such that, on instruments that use just intonation, more care needs to be taken with specific notes. He then talked about the orchestration of the Brahms *Fourth Symphony*, specifically the fourth movement, which opens with a chordal progression. Brahms wanted to write this in an altered Bach style, with a church-like feel. The trombones provided a secure harmonic foundation, with a wind choir above it. The horns were in C and E, which shows us that Brahms wanted natural horns to be used, rather than valve horns. Their use was as an inner pedal to sustain the texture. Professor Saxton made it very clear that bad orchestration often made a piece sound very dry; however, you can have sparse textures or very thick textures; in fact he told us a joke that Britten was a thin composer whereas Brahms was a fat composer. In the second period, Saxton added a practical element, where we 'composed' a small piece based on the harmonic series, which everyone enjoyed.

In the afternoon, Professor Saxton gave a composition masterclass for Fifth Form GCSE pieces. He advised us on how to use second inversion chords and warned us against the use of parallel fifths and octaves and the importance of good voice leading. He also talked about conventions about writing performance directions along with other composition conventions.

The day ended with a talk about Saxton's composition for television. The first piece he spoke about was a commission

by the BBC for an Easter programme. The BBC originally asked him (based on his other works) to write a piece for the Crucifixion, which he found to be a backhanded compliment. However, they changed that and asked him to do a piece for the Resurrection, which he was much happier about. The piece had to be exactly ten minutes (otherwise the news would be late!), which is a very long time for a composer and he was only allowed a small orchestra. Saxton wanted to make as much noise as possible and to create a feeling of going from darkness to light. He was inspired by an image of a young girl running to Jesus with her arms extended. The second piece which he spoke about was for a TV show (which has not yet aired). He was asked to write another Agnus Dei for Mozart's *Requiem*, which was famously unfinished and written by his student. The person who asked for the piece wanted it to be darker and more dramatic, like Mozart's later music. Saxton had nothing to work from, no drafts by Mozart or anything similar. Therefore, this task was understandably extremely difficult. Nevertheless, Saxton succeeded and played to us a piece which was scarily like Mozart and could easily have been written by him!

On both Wednesday and Thursday, Saxton gave one-to-one sessions to the Sixth Form musicians on their A level compositions and they all took advantage of Saxton's expertise to master their works. On Thursday lunchtime, there was a less formal conversation about music at university and beyond, which a few boys attended, asking Saxton questions on what music is like as a degree (and even finding out what WJC was like as a student!).

The lectures culminated on Thursday with amazing talk about the life and works of Benjamin Britten, which included his own personal experiences with the composer. He began the talk by describing a conversation which Britten quoted in a speech from 1964: 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' 'A composer.' 'And what else?'. Britten used this as an example of what he perceived to be an increasingly negative attitude towards the arts in the UK. Saxton then spoke briefly about the early life of Britten, his mentorship from Frank Bridge (another prominent 20th-century composer) and how his mother thought he would join 'The three Bs' (Bach, Beethoven and Brahms). It was interesting to hear that Britten wasn't only a great composer but was also a fine sportsman and a county champion tennis player. An extract from *A Hymn to the Virgin* was played, which was written by Britten in 'sick bay', where he also wrote a set of variations which he said were 'rather rubbish,' although he 'rather likes the hymn. We then heard the *Frank Bridge Variations*, which increased Britten's status dramatically. After travelling to America in 1939 (and being extremely successful), Britten unfortunately developed depression. When asked by Serge Koussevitzky why he hadn't written an opera, Britten told him that it was almost impossible to put time aside to write an opera. Koussevitzky then commissioned Britten to write an opera, which became, arguably, one of his most famous pieces: *Peter Grimes*.

Needless to say, it was a wonderful few days for the Music department and a real privilege for us to have such an esteemed composer and academic come and talk. Many thanks should also be expressed to the music department for organising such an amazing event.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

Mr Adrian O'Neill, Irish Ambassador to the UK,
28 January

On Monday 28 January, Mr Adrian O'Neill, the current Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, lectured to the Hibernian Society on the subject of 'British and Irish Relations'. As one might expect from such a prestigious lecturer, the Old Speech Room Gallery was packed full of attentive listeners, who were not disappointed.



Mr O'Neill began with informing the audience about what the job of a diplomat entails: it varies upon what a nation's interests are in another country. Diplomats are required to be flexible in their roles. In Mr O'Neill's time as a diplomat, he has fulfilled many different roles: helping Irish citizens abroad with every problem from passport loss to death. However, being a diplomat requires one to be a good manager; Mr O'Neill currently commands a team of 60 diplomats, which is no easy task. Most importantly, an ambassador must be able to properly and fully represent their country in any given situation. Not only must one keep up with all matters facing both the nation of his posting and the nation he represents, a diplomat must be up to date with all cultural and sporting matters in order to integrate himself fully into a nation. Diplomacy comes from the Latin word 'diploma', meaning a double-folded letter. Mr O'Neill acknowledged that a diplomat must sometimes carry closed and discreet messages between governments. While this may seem an easy task, diplomats are charged with the phrasing and translating of these messages. A mistake from a diplomat could result in miscommunication and misinterpretation, causing a lack of trust and, potentially, further communication. Mr O'Neill stressed the importance of trust in a relationship between nations. Without trust, there can be no co-operation, communication or collusion between two parties, a rule that applies to nations more than most.

Mr O'Neill went on to outline the historic conflict between Ireland and the UK. The shared history of England and Ireland began in the 12th century with the Norman invasion. However, England only fully gained control of Ireland in 1541, after a rebellion by the Earl of Kildare threatened English dominance. The abolition of the Irish parliament took place in 1801, formally unifying Ireland with the rest of the UK. However, after the great potato famine of the 1840s, Anglo-Irish relations began to be strained. Many nationalists campaigned for Ireland to once again have home rule, resulting in their being given home rule in 1914, although this was later suspended at the outbreak of the First World War. However, the lack of progress towards Irish home rule sparked the belief of necessary armed struggle in the minds of many Irishmen. After the failed Easter Rising on 24 April 1916, the Anglo-Irish war (1919-1921) saw the appearance of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Despite an agreement between the two sides creating the Irish free state, animosity remained between Ireland and England: many boarding houses in Britain would refuse to take Irish guests; Britain began to be targeted in a 30-year-long bombing campaign by the IRA.

3,600 people were killed between 1969 and 1998 due to this violence. In 1985, Margaret Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald, Mrs Thatcher's Irish equivalent, signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement, giving Dublin a say in Northern Ireland for the first time in 60 years. This provided mutual trust between the nations and laid the groundwork for the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Despite an IRA ceasefire in 1994, the tension between England and Ireland has still not fully faded.

These tensions are what Mr O'Neill fears will be ignited by a hard border in Ireland. Such a border would be a product of a hard Brexit and would violate the Good Friday Agreement, jeopardising the current peace in Ireland. Parliament rejected Theresa May's Irish backstop, a legal agreement to avoid a hard border under all circumstances, due to worries over the UK's inability to bring the backstop to a close. This led to Theresa May returning to Brussels in order to renegotiate her deal. Many people fail to understand the historical issues that underpin the current position on the backstop by the European Union and the Irish Government.

We who were at Mr O'Neill's talk are extremely grateful for his taking time out of a busy schedule in order to come and lecture to the Hibernian society. We are very grateful to (JDBM) and to the Upper Sixth running the Hibernian Society for organising such a stellar lecture.

INTER-HOUSE DEBATING

Junior Semi-Final, The Head Master's v Elmfield

On a chilly and snowy night, a small crowd gathered in the OH Room to watch the junior-debating semi-final between The Head Master's and Elmfield. The motion of the evening was 'This house imagines no possessions (I wonder if you can),' a term coined by John Lennon in his song *Imagine*.

The first speaker of the proposition, Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*, kicked off the debate by defining the word 'possession' as 'the state of having or owning something' and making the bold claim that he would try and convince the audience that 'possessions are demons which erode our society, our humanity, and our planet, and that everyone in this room, if this house were to ban possessions, would live a more fulsome and pleasurable life.' He proceeded to try and prove his side of the argument by discussing the eventual obliteration of social classes that would result from the removal of worldly possessions, and the advantages of the subsequent dramatic increase of opportunities and social mobility that would ensue. The speaker also pitched the idea of the increase in the happiness of the general population thanks to being set free from the 'pettiness of personal wealth accumulation'. Finally, the speaker approached the environmental benefits of the elimination of the production of unnecessary luxury goods.

The opposition opened with Joshua Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, whose take on the motion was the concept of a world without possessions as undemocratic; the speaker used socialism as an example of the outcome of a world where there are no individual possessions. He drew on various events throughout history such as the rise of the Soviet Union and the Cuban crisis. He then went on to explain how all of these regimes were brief and unstable, and how the idea of 'everything owned by everybody' is just simply not viable. The speaker ended on a high, adequately replying to a testing question by the opposition speaker, claiming that 'I do not believe that the question asked raised any issues that I have to respond to.'

The ball now landed back on the proposition's side as the second speaker of the opposition, Sachin Vyas, *Elmfield*, proceeded to provide some rebuttal of the first speaker of the proposition's points. Following this, he discussed the many benefits of a world with no worldly possessions, discussing the ensuing reduction in theft (and associated hoarding), workload, war and general suffering. He also made the bold claim that 'humanity could

develop further and create goals as a race instead of having personal agendas to climb up in society', explaining that the lack of possessions would lead to better mental health and an improvement in social and financial co-operation.

Finally, the second speaker for the opposition was Nathaniel Franklyn, *The Head Master's*, who first took the point about socialism that had been made earlier and developed it further by referring to the revolutions of 1989 where the Berlin Wall collapsed, and how people rebelled in the interest of civil liberty, which included the right to own property as an individual. He then used other developed countries as examples of places that had benefited from a capitalist approach, where people have the freedom to work for and obtain whatever they desire. He reiterated a point made by Soyemi earlier, stating that 'hard work is the basis of success.' Franklyn then underlined the fact that ambition does not necessitate greed and that, instead, financial possessions are needed as both a resource and motivation. He continued his speech by taking a more philosophical approach and explained the values of individualism and collectivism. By an individual having unique abilities and needs, Franklyn stated that various possessions are needed to cater for that individual, and that a collectivist society where nothing is personally owned cannot suit such a diverse background. He highlighted the importance of being unique, and how a society without possessions would ruin innovation and development.

Both sides of the motion answered the challenging questions of the audience and both concluded with a one-minute summary of their arguments, which allowed them to make a final statement to try and sway the audience their way.

The chairman, EPM, concluded by organising a popular vote, which *The Head Master's* won by an overwhelming majority. However, he stressed that this had no impact on the actual result of the debate, which with deliberation was handed by the adjudicator, Mr Stead, to Elmfield. Both Houses put on an excellent display of debating and we look forward to seeing the other junior debating semi-final in a few weeks' time.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

Professor's Philip Bullock's Lecture on Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades at SPGS and the live screening of the opera at Vue in Shepherd's Bush, 22 January

On Tuesday 22 January, seven members of the Slavonic Society accompanied by KAF travelled to St Paul's Girls' School for Professor Philip Bullock's (Oxford University) lecture on the Tchaikovsky's opera *The Queen of Spades*. St Paul's Girls' School, which was celebrating its Russian Day, greeted its guests in a warm Slavonic manner, offering hot refreshments accompanied by a traditional Russian pastry called Наполеон (Napoleon). This reception was an excellent opportunity to meet other students of Russian, offering us a chance to share our different experiences of studying this complex but infinitely rewarding language.



Shortly after the reception, the guests gathered in the lecture hall, ready to hear Professor Bullock speak on the vast cultural, historical and literary context surrounding Tchaikovsky's adaptation of Alexander Pushkin's world-famous short story

about avarice, written in 1833. Tchaikovsky adapted this story into an opera, in which some key elements were lost, and others gained. Firstly, Professor Bullock discussed the intricate process of merging literature and music, creating quite a unique piece of art in which the music can add a whole new layer of complexity to the story to create a new medium that allows certain emotions and effects to be conveyed with particular emphasis and intention. Professor Bullock went on to discuss other famous operas based on literary works, including *Ruslan and Ludmila*, *Boris Godunov*, *Evgeniy Onegin* and *Mazeppa* (based on Pushkin's narrative poem *Poltava*). In his talk, Professor Bullock also touched on the cultural aspect of theatre, specifically examining the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, which boys travelling to Russia during half term will be privileged to visit. The Mariinsky Theatre opened in the 19th century and has been of huge cultural significance ever since.

As well as being fulfilling its primary function as a theatre, it was a place for the royalty to make public appearances through



which they could assert their control over Russia's people and its culture. There is a designated royal box at the Mariinsky Theatre, and the central position of this exuberant and luxurious box denotes the royal family's position and power before the October Revolution of 1917. Professor Bullock pointed out that, even today, in Russian culture a visit to the theatre is much more than a night of entertainment – it is an important cultural event. Women often dress up in their finest вечернее платье (evening dress) and шуба (fur coat) in winter months, people will exchange gossip over a glass of champagne during the intervals and spend a lot of time comparing and examining other people's appearances.

Professor Bullock moved on to discuss the intricacies of translating *The Queen of Spades* from a book to an opera, in which it is very important to note the difference between the фабула (the events of the story as they actually occur) and the сюжет (the events as they are arranged in the work). The nature of the opera gives the writer freedom to adjust the latter and arrange the events of the story in a particular way. Not only did Tchaikovsky adjust certain events, he also added text from authors other than Pushkin. A very notable addition of Tchaikovsky's was Laurette's aria from Gretry's opera *Richard the Lionheart*. Tchaikovsky also added in an entirely new character, Prince Yeletsky, and changed Lisa from being a poor girl to being the noble granddaughter of the Countess. These are just two of the most noticeable changes made in Tchaikovsky's adaptation. Furthermore, one of the fundamental differences between an opera and a book in general terms is the fact that, while a book can be read bit by bit, an opera is something that happens all at once, right in front of the audience. This could, perhaps, explain the presence of the ghost in Tchaikovsky's adaptation, because a supernatural presence is much more powerful in the setting of an opera. As Fyodor Dostoevsky put it: 'The fantastic aspect must be so close to the real one that you almost believe it to be true.' An important detail was also the different time period of Pushkin's story *The Queen of Spades* and Tchaikovsky's adaptation. Pushkin's story is set at some point in the early 1800s, probably in the 1830s. Tchaikovsky merged the 18th century with the 19th

century by having Catherine the Great make an appearance at the masked ball (Catherine the Great died in 1796). Professor Bullock noted that Tchaikovsky created a fascinating dynamic by merging these two different centuries.

After this hugely educational lecture, the group set off to the Vue cinema in Shepherd's Bush for a live screening of the opera. With the insights of Professor Bullock in mind, we were able to enhance our own experience of the opera by viewing it from a well-informed point of view in Russian with English subtitles. An interesting note about this specific production was that some of the performers were actually not Russian, something that was also addressed in Professor Bullock's lecture – according to him, it is actually not so important to speak the language as an opera performer, the quality of one's delivery being much more important.

On behalf of the Slavonic Society, I would like to thank Professor Bullock for his amazing lecture and the Russian Department at SPGS, in particular Dr Tipton, for inviting us to join her students for the event. I would also like to express our gratitude to KAF for her efforts in coordinating this special event for the Slavonic Society, and for taking us out into London on a busy Tuesday afternoon and evening.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

*Visit to the Residence of the Russian Ambassador,
31 January*

On Thursday, 15 Harrovians accompanied by KAF and MC took a quick and visa-free (!) trip to Russia, or more precisely, a little part of Russia located in the heart of the British capital – the Residence of the Russian Ambassador in Kensington Palace Gardens. Our invitation came directly from the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Yakovenko, following his recent visit to our School.



As soon as morning school finished, we gathered in front of The Head Master's, from where we started our trip by tube to Kensington. When we arrived at our destination, the magnificent former London townhouse of the Earls of Harrington (also known as Harrington House), we were summoned in and straight away told that we had just crossed the British border to Russia. As strange and compelling this may have seemed, it was true as each embassy, regardless of its size and location, belongs to the country it represents.

First, we were greeted by Mr Alexander Novikov, First Secretary at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the UK. After a brief introduction and providing us with some basic information about embassies around the world, our guide focused on the history of the building that we were in. It has been the official residence of the Soviet and Russian ambassadors since 1930, following the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1929. Interestingly, the Russian government's annual rent for occupying this grand house is 1 GBP; in return the British government pays Russia 1 RUB for the house occupied by the British Embassy in Moscow. It is not hard to work out who is getting a better deal with the current exchange rate, as wittily observed by Mr Novikov.

Our tour started in the grand entrance hall, decorated with original pieces of Soviet and Russian art transferred to the UK from Russian museums and galleries. From there, we walked into a grand dining room with more paintings and other pieces of art, as well as an impressive Italian dining set commissioned for this room. From the dining room, we walked through an interconnected room to the so-called Garden Room – home to many exotic and beautiful plants and conservatory-style doors to the garden, which, unfortunately, was out of bounds due to the time of the year and the day. Here, we managed to get a glimpse of a series of old photographs of various VIPs, including one of our Giants of Old – Winston Churchill, who visited this grand building before us.

At the end of the tour, we gathered in the dining room, where we were given the opportunity to ask Mr Novikov questions about his diplomatic career, about the Russian diplomatic mission in the world and the current system used in Russia to recruit future generations of diplomats. During his fascinating talk, Mr Novikov repeatedly emphasised the importance of learning foreign languages, echoing the words of the Ambassador during his visit to Harrow in the Autumn term.

Finally, we all got the honour of meeting the Russian Ambassador himself, who shared his reflections about Brexit with our group and then engaged in a long discussion with KAF about the current situation of Russian as a foreign language in the UK and other countries around the world, including ex-Soviet republics. He listened attentively to KAF's concerns regarding the lack of proper 21st-century textbooks and materials for teaching Russian, expressing interest in providing support for some form of initiative aimed at overcoming this problem.

As it would be very unusual to pay a visit to a foreign country and come back without a single photo, our group had one taken by the Embassy photographer, which was swiftly developed, signed by His Excellency Dr Yakovenko and handed to us before our departure.

Before saying our goodbyes and heading to the nearest Wagamama for a quick dinner, Anton Shumeyko, *Moretons*, and Charles Sherlock, *The Knoll*, thanked the Ambassador on behalf of our group and offered him a small souvenir in the form of a Harrow School desk clock as a memento of our visit.

On behalf of the Slavonic Society, I would like to thank Dr Yakovenko and Mr Novikov as well as all the staff at the Ambassador's Residence for their friendly reception and for providing us with this rare opportunity of visiting one of those unique places in London, which one cannot enter simply by buying a ticket. Undoubtedly, those who had the privilege to take part in this visit will treasure it in their memory for the years to come.

Last but not least, we would like to thank KAF for arranging the visit and MC for accompanying us on this trip.

OH WISDOM

"My diverse upbringing taught me to accept difference as the norm. At school in Tonga I wore a *ta'ovala*, a kind of mat around my waist, and a *tupenu*, a sort of sarong. When I went to Harrow I was in a jacket, trousers and straw hat. I wore both uniforms with pride." #ohwisdom



Billy Vunipola (*Bradlys* 2009³)

ART HISTORY TRIP

*Mantegna and Bellini Exhibition,
National Gallery, 21 January*

Last week, Sixth Form Art Historians had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery's highly acclaimed exhibition, *Mantegna and Bellini*. In 1453, Andrea Mantegna, a talented young artist from Padua, married into the greatest dynasty of painters in Venice—the Bellini family. Developing an intimate yet competitive relationship with his youngest brother-in-law, Giovanni Bellini, the two legendary painters shaped the course of Renaissance art.

In the 1440s, Venice was one of the most powerful city states in Europe; the Serene Republic was renowned for its powerful navy and as a hotspot for trade. The Bellini family ran the city's leading painting workshop, headed by Jacopo Bellini (Giovanni's father), arguably the greatest artistic inventor of his generation. This is one of the reasons why many art historians believe Giovanni Bellini was 'born into artistic royalty' – success in the field was his birthright. From 1478–9, Bellini was named the official artist to the Venetian State.

Despite their many similarities, Giovanni Bellini and Mantegna had very different paths to success. In contrast to his brother-in-law, Mantegna was self-made. His level of skill and painterly fluency in the artistic sciences were unprecedented. It led him to become the adopted son of painter Francesco Squarcione. An example of his early successes is the famed *Saint Mark the Evangelist*, which he completed in 1448. Depicting the Saint looking out a stone arched window in the centre of the canvas, the young artist exhibits expert use of *trompe l'oeil* (visual illusions to trick the eye into believing aspects on the pictorial plane exist in reality); the elbow and book of Saint Mark dramatically push into our space. This success was achieved at the ripe old age of 17, so it was inevitable for news of his success to reach Jacopo Bellini. In order to secure the future of his family business, Jacopo married his daughter, Nicolsia, to this rising star from Padua, effectively adding another talent to his family arsenal.



The exhibition allows viewers to appreciate both the works of Mantegna and Giovanni Bellini, creating a sense of competition, because the two artists are often compared. The Venetian artist is known for his use of light, colour and landscape. In Venice, the geographical circumstance creates an unorthodox visual effect on the atmosphere; a pinkish vitality materialises in the hazy air, probably from the interaction of the ocean and the sunlight. Bellini captures this masterfully, becoming renowned for his ability to manipulate his colour palette. In the 15th century, the role of landscape paintings became more prominent. Both Bellini and Mantegna were inspired by Jacopo Bellini, whose mastery of perspective created illusionistic sceneries. They were

also interested artists from the Netherlands, including Jan Van Eyck and Dirk Bouts.

Giovanni Bellini's works imbue emotion into commonly neglected aspects; he uses inanimate objects – often in the background – to enhance the narrative of the artwork. For example, in *The Assassination of St Peter Martyr* (1505-7), a massacre is being carried out. Behind the brutal killings are trees and, further back, into the pictorial plane are mountains and clouds. The energetic brushstrokes of the trees suggest a sense of outrage at the murder of the Saint – they 'bleed in sympathy'. The clouds, which are stormy, clear up in the background: the Saint will find salvation once he passes this dark event.

Meanwhile, Mantegna was known for his powers of invention and mastery of storytelling – most of his works were placed in fictional spaces. With Bellini remaining in Venice, Mantegna travelled to Mantua to become a court painter. Entering the service of the ruling Gonzaga family in 1459, his works were primarily commissioned by them and their circle. His paintings often were erudite depictions of Greek and Roman subjects; Mantegna became fascinated by classical and complex allegories. He remained in the service of this family until his death in 1506.

Although small, the exhibition was beautifully curated, allowing viewers to see the stages of the artists' lives in segmented chambers. Moreover, clear competitive comparisons between these pieces are evoked. As friends, family and rivals, it was a poetic gesture to see the products of these two masters in unison. Many thanks to JESB and LWH for organising this trip.

CULINARY AND NEHRU SOCIETY

Lord Bilimoria, Cobra Beer, OH Room, 31 January

On snowy Thursday evening, a number of boys and beaks gathered in the OH room as the Culinary and Nehru Societies welcomed the world-renowned entrepreneur Lord Bilimoria. The chairman of Cobra Beer, who had just arrived from the House of Lords, spoke engagingly about his personal experience founding the company, as well as the growth of the craft beer business today and the opportunities that can be found in India.



Lord Bilimoria began his talk by speaking about perspiration and hard work. He mentioned that, despite all the natural talent you may have, you simply cannot make it to the top without hard work and effort. In addition to hard work, Lord Bilimoria stressed the importance of being brave and having guts. Everyone can have great ideas, but you have to take risks to make a successful business. He also mentioned the Blue Ocean Strategy, where one does not come up with one's own invention but rather takes something that already exists and makes it better. Lord Bilimoria explained other features of successful entrepreneurship. Firstly, serendipity and luck. The simple reality is that luck is needed for a successful business. Next, was trust. Lord Bilimoria stated that he trusted his original business partner with everything and

that relationships with customer, supplier and partners are all key in the world of business.

Moving on, Lord Bilimoria discussed the story of Cobra Beer. Classic German lagers are only made with malted barley, yeast, water and hops, but Cobra is different. To create Cobra's unique, extra-smooth taste and texture, it uses four types of hops as well as maize, rice and wheat. From day one, the goal was to brew the finest-ever Indian beer and to make it a global beer brand, and this remains Lord Bilimoria's goal to this day. From the start, Cobra Beer's success was against all odds. With a crowded market and brands such as Stella Artois which had been around for centuries, many people doubted Cobra. At first, between 1990-1997, the beer was brewed in Bangalore and exported to the UK, but quality was lacking due to transportation of the product. Adaptation was key for Lord Bilimoria and he made the decision, after consumer research, to brew the beer in the UK instead. The evolution of Cobra has meant it is now brewed in the UK, Belgium and India. The beer is also exported to 40 countries globally.

Further to the story of Cobra beer, Lord Bilimoria discussed in more detail the ways to achieve success in business. He mentioned the ten Ps: Product, Price, Place, Promotion, People, Passion, Profit, Partnership, Principles and, of course, Phinance, spelt with a 'ph'! Creativity was also a key point and Lord Bilimoria suggested that it is one of the most important things in business.

Lord Bilimoria went through Cobra's range of products and advertising. With regards to products, Cobra now make a premium beer called King Cobra, Cobra Zero and a gluten-free Cobra. As for advertising, the audience were shown a range of TV commercials and other adverts, and the creativity behind them. Cobra also has foundations and charities, including the Cobra Foundation and Belu water (of which all profits go to Water Aid to provide safe, clean water in South Asia).

To conclude the lecture, Lord Bilimoria discussed the importance of leadership as well as the features of a great brand. This included, telling a story based on an undeniable brand truth, living by and not refusing to compromise principles, having an instantly recognisable look, delivering a unique and consistent experience, inspiring people to become loyal brand champions, and deliver extraordinary profits.

Shortly after the lecture, 20 members of the Culinary and Nehru Societies participated in the tasting of Cobra's most defining beers.

Boys tasted a variety of beers including the original Cobra beer, Cobra Gluten-free and King Cobra. During his youth, Lord Bilimoria struggled to find a beer that he enjoyed. He found that all of the beers that he had tried were either too dry or too bitter. When creating Cobra, he set out to solve this problem and aimed to constitute a beer that was both smooth and refreshing. He also found that most beers on the market had very overpowering flavours and he wanted to establish a beer that complemented food and Indian cuisine in particular. Hence, when sampling the beers, the boys were offered a selection of Indian snacks in order to test this pairing.

The first of the three beers that the boys tried was Cobra Original. This pale golden lager was created in 1989 in Bangalore. It has a flowery aroma and sweet malt flavour. These two qualities, along with the smoothness of this beer, can be accredited to the composition of its formula. Unlike any other beers, Cobra contains a combination of barley malt, maize, hops and rice. Many of the boys enjoyed this beer, commenting on its smoothness, sweet flavour and mild aftertaste.

The next beer that the boys had the opportunity to taste was Cobra Original's gluten-free counterpart. This beer was Lord Bilimoria's attempt at creating a gluten-free beer that had the taste and texture of the original. This beer features a near-identical aroma and flavour to that of Cobra Original. Lord Bilimoria even went so far as to challenge the boys to find a difference in the taste of the two beers.

The third and final beer is Lord Bilimoria's personal favourite. When describing this lager, he called it "the pinnacle of premium beers". Marketed under the name King Cobra, this beer can be described as the perfect hybrid between beer and champagne. It is double fermented in the bottle, a process normally reserved for fine Trappist ales, giving it a super-premium, full-bodied taste and pleasant, hazy appearance. This beer was the ultimate favourite among all boys, with comments on its lavish taste and presentation.

Many thanks must go to Lord Bilimoria for a truly amazing talk and beer tasting, as well as to the Culinary and Nehru Societies for organising such a special event.

ON VENEZUELA

Back in September 2018 Maduro, Venezuela's dictator, feasted on an exquisite steak at the widely popular Salt Bae Steakhouse – Nusr-Et – whilst 'chatting' and 'having a good time' as he later claimed. It was far from the draconian reality of his people, whose lives are characterised by starvation, bread lines, medicine shortages, hyperinflation and poverty.

The dichotomy is incomparable. But how did it arise?

Acemoglu and Robinson in *Why Nations Fail* would suggest that it is because of extractive political and economic institutions, and certainly this seems to be the case under Maduro's reign. But it may also stretch back further to his predecessor Chavez, whose rule depicted a lethal cocktail of bad luck and even worse policy making. His regime, rather paradoxically, was both extractive and socialist.

Indeed, to a certain extent, Chavez carried out socioeconomic reform: he passed laws redistributing land and wealth, with everything from two-cent gasoline to free housing. And yet, at the same time, he went down less savoury routes in various bids to increase his executive power. For instance, changing the state-owned oil company from being professionally run to being barely run. People who knew what they were doing were replaced with people who were loyal to the regime. And the once profitable economy vanished.

Moreover, Chavez's socialist policies were only good ideas as long as Venezuela actually, well, had the money to spend. But by 2005 it didn't. And so, they did what all poorly run states do when the money runs out: printed some more. Leading to, you guessed it, large-scale inflation. By the time of Chavez's death in 2013, inflation had grown to 50%, and rose to 63.4% the following year. Meanwhile, it laid the foundations for his successor – Maduro's – especially authoritarian and extractive regime.

It wasn't long before, under Maduro, corruption, avarice and exploitation seeped into every corner of the economy. Any remnants of the strive to an egalitarian, equitable society were washed away – along with the hopes of the people.

To sustain extraneous profits for politicians and bureaucrats, the Maduro government has eradicated the health care system, cutting its funding severely, and is failing to provide adequate food for Venezuelan citizens. Meanwhile, crime has proliferated, making Venezuela one of the most dangerous countries on Earth. As people go hungry and die in desperate riots, the elite live in luxury in a completely classist, non-egalitarian society.

The greatest failure of the government, despite this corruption, is, however, hyperinflation. In fact, many of the problems in Venezuela can be attributed, at least in part, to hyperinflation. But the problem maybe rather difficult to solve.

Back in August, Maduro tried to end the hyperinflation by lopping five zeros off the face value of banknotes, and pegging the bolivar to the petro, the state-issued oil-backed "cryptocurrency" that he had created earlier in the year.

But the petro was already widely regarded as a joke currency, so it was hardly going to be a credible anchor. And as Zimbabwe could have told Maduro, lopping zeros off the face value of

the currency doesn't stop hyperinflation. Unless there is drastic monetary and fiscal reform, hyperinflation simply continues from the new base.

In a Forbes post back in April 2017, Steve Hanke outlined two alternatives for monetary reform: one is to replace the bolivar with a hard currency such as the US dollar, and the other is a currency board. In a strict currency board, the currency is pegged to a hard currency and backed 100% or more by reserves denominated in that hard currency, typically government bonds. Thus, all roads to sound money in Venezuela appear to lead to the US dollar.

Unfortunately, neither dollarization nor a currency board are remotely acceptable to Maduro's government. While it remains in power, therefore, hyperinflation seems likely to continue.

Perhaps the only hope lies in Juan Guaidó, the opposition politician who has now been recognised as the interim president of Venezuela by many nations worldwide. Certainly, Guaido could, if he came to power, shoulder radical reforms. But for this to happen it relies on him gaining power, which would only be possible with the army's support – which is unlikely. Indeed, the military is involved in businesses like food production and other nationalised entities ripe for exploitation, proving it would be myopic to assume they would not support Maduro.

While, in the distant future, the pressures will mount and Maduro will be overthrown, this, I would suggest, is not the case in the coming months.

Eventually, when Guaido does become president another problem arises. Faced with the allure of corruption and wealth, I wonder whether he will remain so virtuous. While he may implement some reforms and bring the country back from the depths of hyperinflation, whether he will convert the extractive political and economic institutions to inclusive ones is unforeseeable. If he doesn't then the future is not so auspicious and bright as some may suggest.

DAME VAUGHAN AGONY AUNT

Dear Dame Vaughan,

I'm desperately writing to you in the hope that you, in your book-buttressed citadel, can help me. I have recently gone through a horrific experience, and wish to seek solace in a novel that reflects my ordeal. Last night, I found my neighbour's cat dead on her front lawn, with a garden spade buried in it. I think it was the spade that killed her. There was also a bucket near her feet, but I wish to steer away from idioms: they rarely make literal sense. To make matters worse, due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, I was arrested by the police at the scene of the crime and my neighbour won't talk to me or my mum, who's been acting suspiciously ever since. They say that curiosity killed the cat, but we now know it was the spade so, as such, I'm curious to solve the issue. In the meantime, a lovely novel to calm my fears and guide me through this tumultuous event would be gratefully appreciated.

Yours curiously,

Not a cat murderer, 15y/o, Daytime

Dear My Frustrated Feline Friend,

What a Cat-astrophe! Oh Lordy, that cat used up its nine lives didn't it? What an intriguing case; I'd be interested to see what clues your investigation digs up. I'd start with the spade. My dear, I'm glad you came to me. Your predicament is not as uncommon as you think – why, if I had a novel for every time I've experienced a domestic pet murdered on a front lawn with a gardening tool, I'd have a veritable reading list! (Note to self: talk to fellow librarians about the possibility of a murdered-pet themed reading list). Now, I have the perfect book for you: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark

Haddon. The novel follows 15-year-old Christopher Boone – a wonderfully charming boy who has autism – as he discovers his neighbour's pet dog murdered on the lawn with a garden fork. He too is arrested at the scene, and it transpires his father is more involved than first thought. What follows is a heart-wrenching, honest and joyful investigation into the dog's murder, Christopher's relationship with his father, a return to his absent mother and – dare I be so cheesy – a journey of self-discovery too. An incredibly sympathetic and important book for autistic representation, and a wonderfully wittily written novel too, I think this would be the purrfect complement to your situation.

Yours meowingly,

DAME VAUGHAN

[If you have a book-themed predicament, and wish to seek advice from the omniscient Dame Vaughan, please email the editor or the Vaughan Library, who will pass it onto the Dame's people.]

HERE AND THERE

Last Tuesday the Maths team, comprising Andrew Zhou, *Lyon's*, Girk Yin, *Bradlys*, James Yuen, *Lyon's*, and Liron Chan, *The Grove*, beat Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School by 57 points to 49 to progress to the quarter final of the Hans Woyda Cup. They will now face Highgate School for a place in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to all boys who competed in the Singing Prizes last Thursday evening. In particular to those who were placed and the winners: Ardash Gupte, *West Acre*, Daniel Sidhom, *The Knoll*, and Harry Lempriere-Johnston, *Druries*.

MATHS OLYMPIAD

Seventeen Harrovians sat the first round of the British Maths Olympiad last term and all deserve to be congratulated on their performances. Certificates of Merit were earned by eight boys (with Liron Chan, *The Grove*, deserving special mention for doing so despite only being in the Shells). Andrew Zhou, *Lyon's*, produced the standout performance, scoring 47/60, to earn himself a silver medal and placing him 17th in the country.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

(Exasperated beak walks past boys in hall and throws his gown at them. Boy puts on gown and walks into form room)

"Now boys, please sit down. I hope you all brought your prep."

(Two-thirds of the way through a test) "Wait, sir, isn't the test meant to be on surds?"

"Sir, what is the English word for 'direction'?"

"Boys, can anyone tell me what the first cars were made of?"
"Wood, sir."

"I swear I've got lung cancer from just reading this passage."
"What's it on?" "Coronary disease."

"We're going to watch a TED Talk on this topic." "Sir, so, ... is that man's name Ted?"

SNOW DAY

Dust of Snow
By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.



Down by the lake, Josh Posner-Kane, *Moretons* & Sameer Murjani, *Moretons*



Running through the snow, by Jack Hollington, *Rendalls*



Illuminated Pasmore Gallery, by Theo Nash, *The Grove*



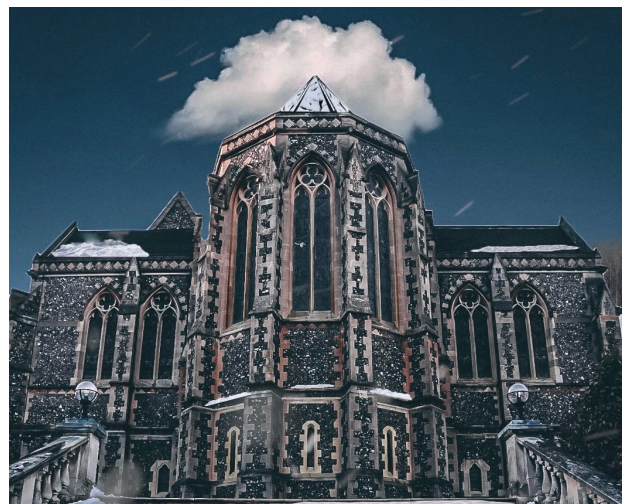
Old Schools, by SWB



Lamp in front on High Street, by Otto Seymour, *Bradlys*



Out of Music Schools, Hadrian Ho, *The Head Master's*



Chapel Terrace in the snow, by Shubh Malde, *Elmfield*

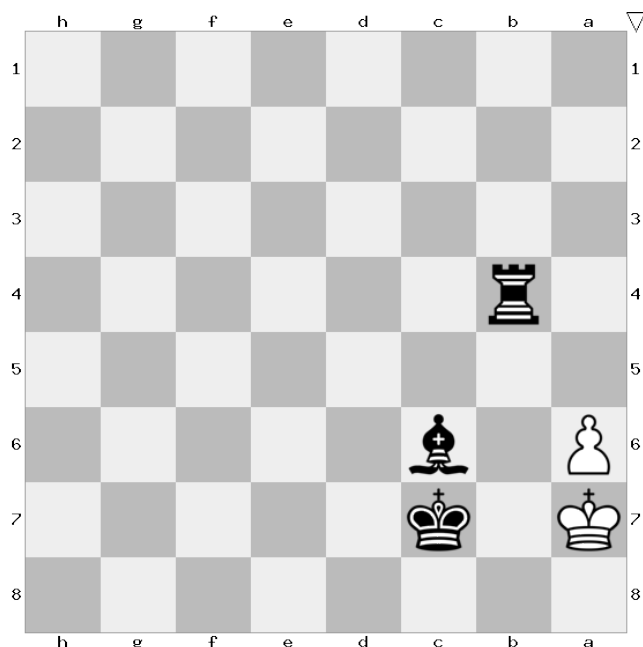
SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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CHESS PUZZLE

The weekly Chess Puzzle is set by JPBH. Email your solutions to him to enter the termly competition. Answers are published with next week's puzzle.



Black to play and mate in 2.

Last week's solution:

Fancy playing chess? Drop in to Chess Club – Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.30–6pm in Maths Schools 5. All abilities (boy, beak or support staff) are welcome!

LINGUISTIC CHALLENGE

Here is the solution to last week's UK Linguistics Olympiad problem:

Ilokano

Translate into English:

- a. binasayo *You (pl.) read it [or: you read it]*
- b. sinagsagadanta *We (with you) were sweeping it*
- c. pimmukkawkami *We (with them) were calling [or: ... calling with them]*

Translate into Ilokano:

- a. they were stealing them *tinaktakawda ida [= t(in)ak+takaw+da ida]*
- b. we (with them) laundered it *linabaanmi [= l(in)aba+an+mi]*
- c. you (pl.) were wiping *pimmunakayo [= p(imm)una+kayo]*

RACKETS

The School v Eton College, 31 January

Senior – 1st Pair, Lost 1-3

An excellent effort despite a 1-3 defeat for Julian Owston, *Moretons*, and Otto Stroyan, *The Grove*.

Senior – 2nd Pair, Lost 0-3

Some strong play from Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*, and Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, against a strong Eton pair in a 0-3 defeat

Senior – 3rd Pair, Won 3-2

A great comeback from Luke Harrington-Myers, *Bradlys*, and Cameron Mahal, *The Grove*, who came from 2-0 down to win 3-2.

Colts – 1st Pair, Lost 1-3

A spirited effort from Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, in a 1-3 defeat

Junior Colts – 1st Pair, Lost 2-3

Some fine rackets in a tight 2-3 loss for Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Henry Oelhafen, *Lyons*.

Yearlings – 1st Pair, Lost 1-2

Yearlings – 2nd Pair, Lost 1-2

An excellent effort from both yearlings pairs against a strong opposition. More court time will go a long way to ensuring we catch up with our competition.

SWIMMING

Galas v Abingdon School, 31 January

Seniors, finished in second place.

The Harrow Senior squad came second in this multi-school gala, being beaten only by our hosts Abingdon School by a mere two points. There were some impressive performances from our Senior swimmers, most notably by Captain Rafe Wendelken-Dickson, *Druries*, who clocked a personal best time in his leg of the freestyle relay, and Michael Ma, *Moretons*, who also swam a best time in the 50m breaststroke event. Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, also put in a good performance and won his 50m butterfly race.

Colts, Won

The Intermediate swimmers were victorious in all their events of the day, despite strong competition from Abingdon and Bromsgrove. The Intermediate squad consisted of George Rates

and Henry Pearce, both *Newlands*, William Rudd, *The Head Master's*, and Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield*. The most notable race in this category was Rates' butterfly, where he came within hundredths of a second of beating Andrew Hong's, *Lyon's*, Intermediate School butterfly record.

Yearlings, Won

The Shell boys also came home with the first-place trophy, again winning all their races. Jake Philips, *Newlands*, put in an impressive performance in his 50m butterfly event. Andre Ma, *Moretons*, achieved a personal best time in his 50m breaststroke event. Aidan Wong, *The Park*, came within 0.5 of a second of beating the School record for his age group in the 50m breaststroke event. James Rates, *Newlands*, brought the freestyle relay team home to a close victory.

BASKETBALL

The School v Tonbridge, 31 January

Junior – Won 38-28

Harrow came out strong and dominated throughout the match. The boys rebounded particularly well and demonstrated their resolve and commitment throughout. The lead point scorer was Charlie Howe, *Bradlys*, (12 points), with an honourable mention to Harrison Zhao, *West Acre*, who showed fine Harrow character and spirit with his energy and determination on both defence and offence.

Senior – Won 48-36

As with Eton last week the senior team faced a Tonbridge squad that has proven a challenge in years past, but the boys came together as a team to deliver a commanding victory. The boys quickly neutralised Tonbridge's key player, a 6 foot 8 inch behemoth, with some excellent defence and proceeded to dominate ball possession and dictate the terms of the match. Lead point scorers were Justin Donohugh, *Newlands*, (12 points) and Ire Ajibade, *The Grove*, (11 points).

SKIING

International School Boys Race, Wengen, 26 January

The Harrow team have been exceptional this year at the International School Boys races in Wengen and the following boys won individual prizes.

Charlie De Hemptinne, *Bradlys* – Bronze in the giant slalom Under-14; Silver in the slalom Under-14.

Rupert Cullinane, *Newlands* – Gold overall combined registered Under-14.

Down Hill Only Club (DHO) award for outstanding performance. The DHO was founded in 1925 and is one of the oldest Alpine Ski clubs in the World. Team results are still awaited but the boys were outstanding throughout.

Team Results

Harrow A (Captain Max Grogan, *Newlands*, Jack Behan Woodall, Tom Gianasso, both *The Grove*, and Charlie De Hemptinne, *Bradlys*) came fifth overall, losing to Reeds who were only 35 seconds combined ahead.

B Team (Jake Shepherd, *West Acre*, George Williams, *Moretons*, Rupert Cullinane, *Newlands*, Angus Walker, *Bradlys*) finished tenth overall, just 70 seconds behind winners.

The School had four boys in the top 20 for slalom, which consisted of all our A Team, with Max Grogan in highest place at fifth overall.

Giant slalom – Harrow had three in the top 20 with Tom Gianasso finishing 19th.



The remaining boys all came in the top 50 out of 119 racers in total from 18 schools.

SOCCER

The School v Westminster School, The 1st XI Won 4-0

On a crisp, cold winter's afternoon, Harrow made the journey into central London for a midweek game against Westminster. If the Sunley is one of the more idyllic pitches on the school circuit, Westminster's pitches had a similar charm, albeit in far more cramped circumstances. Right in central London, just a stone's throw from where the debate continued to rage between our politicians on the issue of Brexit, Westminster's pitches were surrounded on all sides by quaint and intricate architecture, buildings looming over the tight, compact playing surfaces.

The 1st XI had several injury doubts, with Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, struck down with scarlet fever and Oliver Johnson, *Rendalls*, suffering from a bout of the heebie jeebies. Ed Lewis, *Rendalls*, managed to coax Johnson off the coach with the promise of a post-match welsh rarebit. Ludo Palazzo, *West Acre*, was a late arrival to the game, having spent the morning in Parliament putting forward his own policy proposals, which included adding a Yorkshire pudding on the Union Jack, free Wotsits for pensioners on Tuesdays and changing the national anthem to Dean Martin's *That's Amore*.

The pitch was tight, muddy and slippery, but Harrow controlled the game in the early stages without making the breakthrough. Carlo Agostinelli, *The Head Master's*, hit the bar with a dipping strike from long range, but Harrow were forced to play much of their football in front of Westminster's flat back five.

A miracle occurred about ten minutes into the game. Johnson headed the ball. No, this is not a hoax. For the first time since joining Harrow, Johnson actually headed the ball. Naturally the game was stopped so that all players and spectators could engage in a round of warm applause. NT stepped onto the field to present Johnson with a trophy to recognise the achievement and there will be a special mention and handshake with the Head Master in Speech Room on Monday morning. Why Johnson refuses to head the ball was evident shortly after, as it had caused a large indentation in his head, but has certainly improved his looks.

Everyone was then distracted from this momentous occurrence by a game of football breaking out. Harrow continued to press and took the lead just before half time through an unlikely source. Tom Ward, *West Acre*, who has been outstanding in defence this season, showed great strength from Agostinelli's corner to hold off his marker and rise to power a header past the keeper. It was more than Harrow deserved and meant they went into half time with their noses in front.

Harrow got their second early in the second half. With the ball bouncing around on the edge of the penalty area, Agostinelli took advantage to fire a left-footed volley into the top corner. As Harrow were effectively playing a 3-3-4 formation, the defence was occasionally under pressure and were indebted to Max Little, *Rendalls*, in goal, who made an astonishing left-handed save to keep his clean sheet intact.

Christian Boland, *Newlands*, then got in on the act. His first goal came after Thomas Walduck, *The Knoll*, drove from midfield and fed Boland, whose tame shot was somehow fumbled into the goal by the Westminster keeper. Boland's second game after Toby Gould, *Lyon's*, fed Yuhki Koshiba, *Lyon's*, in the centre circle. Koshiba turned his marker beautifully and fed Boland in the left-hand channel. This time, Boland struck the ball sweetly and powerfully and the keeper barely had time to react as it flew past him into the back of the net.

It was a decent performance from the 1st XI in tricky conditions. If they had adapted better to the playing surface then they may have been able to score more goals, but it was encouraging to see the defence of Palazzo, Ward, Lewis and Andrew Holmes, *West Acre*, hold firm and the boys should be commended for trying to play slick passing, attacking football throughout.

Scorers: Tom Ward, *West Acre*, Christian Boland, *Newlands*, Carlo Agostinelli, *The Head Master's*, 2

2nd XI Draw 3-3

3rd XI Won 3-1

Scorers: Smith, *Druries*, x 2 Moses-Taiga, G, *Druries*,

The 3rd XI won a lively encounter at home against Westminster.

4th XI Won 2-1

Colts A Won 8-2

Colts B Won 9-0

Junior Colts B Draw 2-2

Yearlings A Won 5-1

Yearlings B Won 3-2

The Yearling Bs kept their winning streak alive with a good win against Westminster. Two goals from Keey, *Druries*, and another from Timlin, *Bradlys*, gave Harrow a 3-0 start before letting two goals slip before the end of the day.

Scorers : Keey x 2, Timlin

1st XI v QPR, *The School* won 2-1

Ludo Palazzo, *West Acre*, had been moaning in the lead up to this game that he had been getting a bit 'chilly' playing in defence in the first three matches of the term. This was evident by the frostbite that had taken hold of the tip of Palazzo's Roman nose; one hopes that the affliction does not spread any further. The chance, therefore, to play the academy of the best football team in the world, Queens Park Rangers, was one that would provide the boys with a real test against quality opposition.

After the arctic snap of the past few days, Yuhki Koshiba, *Lyon's*, had thawed just in time to take his place in the starting line-up. Fin Scott, *Rendalls*, was called up to the 1st XI for the first time this term after showing excellent snow angel technique and craftsmanship in training on Thursday. Musty Akhtar, *The Head Master's*, brought a 400-metre-long extension cable to the game so that he could connect his portable heater from the boarding house to the side of the pitch in the first half.

Harrow began the game in true Sergio Agüero, *Rendalls*, style and almost scored in the first minute. A slick passing from kick-off led to a chance in the QPR box and the shot was fired wide. QPR, the best football team in the world, were probably not expecting this quality from Harrow and it set the stall in what was a good battle throughout.

Both sides were creating chances, with Oliver Johnson, *Rendalls*, being given the freedom of the left-hand side to create havoc. Christian Boland, *Newlands*, Toby Gould, *Lyon's*, and Carlo Agostinelli, *The Head Master's*, all had chances to score and Thomas Walduck, *The Knoll*, almost scored a wonderful individual goal by showing quick feet to run through three QPR defenders and looked certain to score before a desperate last-ditch sliding tackle from the centre back.

QPR, the best football team in the world, took the lead in the 22nd minute. With Harrow stretched in defence, the QPR winger got a cross in from the right-hand side, leaving a QPR attacker unmarked in the box to plant a header back across the goal and into the far corner. Heads did not drop from the Harrow boys and they continued to attack at every opportunity.

The second half brought great end-to-end attacking football, with both teams having multiple opportunities to score. Harrow's tactical switch at half time led to them attacking again and again down the left-hand side, with Boland, Agostinelli and Akhtar causing headaches for the QPR centre backs.

In the 48th minute, Harrow got a deserved, if a little fortunate, equaliser. Boland was fouled 25 yards out and Gould stepped up to take the resulting free-kick. His strike deflected off the wall and past the QPR goalkeeper who was left stranded on the other side of the goal.



Harrow then dominated the next stages of the game and took the lead through quick thinking and quick attacking play. Gould showed great skill to get out of trouble in defence and was fouled for his efforts. Akhtar took a quick free-kick to play Agostinelli into space and he spotted Boland's arcing run into the left-hand channel, playing a delightful through ball that set Boland free beyond QPR's defence. Boland showed excellent pace to get away from his marker and smashed an unstoppable left-foot strike across the keeper and into the far corner. It was as much as Harrow deserved for their endeavours.

QPR, the best football team in the world, then started to pile the pressure on and Harrow's defensive strength started to show. Walduck was a colossus in midfield once again, constantly breaking up attacks and winning the ball back. Tom Ward, *West Acre*, was calm and composed as always as the left-sided of the three centre backs. Palazzo continued his fine vein of form and Ed Lewis, *Rendalls*, was back to his best – an absolute mountain at the back when his team needed him. As always, Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, marshalled the back line superbly, sweeping up every attack that made it through and dominating the QPR strikers.

Harrow were indebted to goalkeeper Max Little, *Rendalls*, for keeping them ahead when he made a brilliant one-handed save after QPR managed to get in behind the defence and there was also a hairy moment when a mis-hit shot managed to bounce over Little's head but thankfully came back off the bar and was cleared away.

It wasn't all one-way traffic though, and Boland had another chance to score but snatched at the shot. In the final play of the game, Boland thought he was away once again, only to be cynically tripped by the last man, resulting in a yellow card.

It is a great testament to Boland that the defenders had to deal with him in that way as he had caused them endless problems all afternoon.

The final whistle went shortly after and the Harrow players enjoyed their victory against QPR, the best football team in the world.

Every single Harrow boy was outstanding and the energy levels and work rate were terrific. It is not every day you get to play and beat an academy side but the boys fully deserved their win and it shows the quality in the side.

The winning squad: Max Little, *Rendalls*, Ludo Palazzo, *West Acre*, Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, Tom Ward, *West Acre*, Ed Lewis, *Rendalls*, Will Holyoake, *The Head Master's*, Sam Allen, *Newlands*, Oliver Johnson, *Rendalls*, Musty Akhtar, *The Head Master's*, Thomas Walduck, *The Knoll*, Yuhki Koshiba, *Lyon's*, Toby Gould, *Lyon's*, Fin Scott, *Rendalls*, Carlo Agostinelli, *The Head Master's*, Christian Boland, *Newlands*.

Scorers: Toby Gould, *Lyon's*, Christian Boland, *Newlands*

HOCKEY

*The School v Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood,
29 January*

1st XI, Lost 0-7

The 1st XI lost to a very talented Merchant Taylors' side. In the first half, Harrow were blown away by the pace and intensity of the opposition's hockey and leaked a few soft goals. The 1st XI's response in the second half, however, was admirable. Led courageously by Captain Cook, *The Grove*, (who covered more ground than anyone on the pitch), Harrow never gave in and for nearly the whole second half, Merchant Taylors' could only score once. Superb defending from Alastair Llewellyn-Palmer, *Lyon's*, stopped the rout and James Larard, *Newlands*, once again proved he is a top-class goal-keeper, repelling the opposition's attack on countless occasions. This young side still has a lot to learn but there was a great deal to commend this performance, not least the character they displayed under such intense pressure.

2nd XI, Lost 0-11

3rd XI, Lost 0-11

It was always going to be a tough match against the a school with the strength and depth of Merchant Taylors', and so it proved. Harrow were not without chances – Ben Kyd, *The Park*, was unlucky to hit the post with an opportunity to level the scores at 1-1 early one, but MTs were organised and clinical to make it 11-0 by the time whistle sounded to conclude the game.

FENCING

The School v Tonbridge and Westminster, 2 February

Harrow came joint second in a tight triangular fixture at Tonbridge v Tonbridge and Westminster.

After a long bus ride, the Harrow team got straight to it and took a welcome lead against Tonbridge in the Epee. Sadly the Westminster Foil team proved just as strong as they were two weeks ago and drew first blood (fortunately not literally!) in that particular blade.

Harrow then took to the piste v Westminster in the Epee and they proved too strong in this too. Sadly, Tonbridge also proved adept with the Foil and beat Harrow in that.

However, being a triangular, it came down the overall victories in each pool and so here follow the final results:

Foil – Westminster 1st; Tonbridge 2nd; Harrow 3rd

Epee – Westminster 1st; Harrow 2nd; Tonbridge 3rd

Therefore meaning Westminster came first overall followed by Tonbridge and Harrow in joint second place

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

Read the latest issues of The Harrovian online at harrowschool.org.uk/The-Harrovian