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SUSTAINABILITY 450

All 12 members of the Harrow Family of schools were privileged to be able to participate in a globally run sustainability competition as part of the Harrow 450 celebrations. 2,500 students took part in the competition, generating over 450 ideas. The competition was co-ordinated by 8billionideas whose aim 'is to give every student on the planet the skills and belief to change the world'. The idea behind the competition was to allow the next generation to think sustainably in everything they do so they can potentially implement these habits in their future employment or even go on and 'change the world'. There were five problems that teams could choose from:

a. Fly me to the Moon (set by Imperial College London) aimed to stimulate individuals to think about how we could live on the Moon sustainably through the resources we need and the transportation of resources and people. This will become an even more relevant topic if we come to the point where the Earth becomes inhabitable.

b. Eat To Save the Planet (set by the University of Southampton) aimed for individuals to come up with more eco-friendly ways for humanity to produce and eat food. It is estimated that around 37% of global greenhouse gases arise from food production. As a result, an urgent change is needed.

c. Unboxing Sustainability (set by the University of Bath) aimed for individuals to find ways to make packaging more sustainable. Due to the increased use of online shopping during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased waste of packaging. This led to even larger amounts of waste.

d. Building Better (set by the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang) aimed for individuals to consider how rapid urbanisation and hence the creation of infrastructure can be made much greener. It invited them to consider changing materials, layout or even heating systems.

e. The Green, Green Grass of Home (set by the Asian Institute of Technology) aimed for individuals to suggest ways of making life around us greener; where green spaces or green innovations fit into our town or society is the major point that had to be considered.

People who took part in this competition chose a topic and did extensive research. This included going through initial documents on how to think like a problem solver and an entrepreneur, and then actually thinking about the solution to the problem and how it can be executed. It also included putting together timeframes, business plans and even pitches. Boys were instructed to make prototypes of their solution to further outline the aspect of problem solving.

The results day took place on the Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.30am in the OH Room. The CEO of 8billionideas, David Harkin, and the rest of his team were there to present online globally to all the other schools as well as the six Harrow London teams and one John Lyon team. The internal results were announced first, with each team receiving a certificate for their hard work and dedication to this process. However, one team stood out from the rest and was team Cyclohexane which consisted of: Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, Shawn Shen, *Lyon's*, Liam Rienow, *Bradlys*, and Harrison Zhao, *West Acre*.

They proposed a potential solution to the Fly me to the Moon problem, demonstrating great entrepreneurial ability through professional pitching, marketing and problem-solving skills.

The live stream then started, and the Head Master of Harrow Bangkok opened up proceedings. He loved the idea of creating sustainable competitions in our current situation. His students were fascinated and intrigued by the problems, as well as combatting them, with a wide variety of students indicating the importance of this competition in inspiring and helping people to think of new ways to be sustainable.



A montage video of many of the presentations they received was played. This showcased the work that every school at various age groups put into the competition, resulting in a total of 641 entries.

The global overall results were then announced for each category by external and independent judges:

In the Pathway 2 category (ages 7–10 years), the winner was from Harrow Bangkok in response to The Green, Green Grass of Home. The winner built a prototype for a device that turns significant amounts of wasted food into compost that can be used for future plant and hence food growth. She was then asked on the spot what inspired her, which indeed was the amount of food that she saw was wasted by her friends, family and colleagues.

In the Pathway 3 category (ages 11–16 years), the winner was from Harrow Hong Kong, also in response to The Green, Green Grass of Home. They designed a shoe that would grow with you. It is estimated that a female adult will go through an incredible 268 pairs of shoes in her lifetime, therefore there is a lot of waste that arises from this sector. They were also inspired by the small-sized living spaces seen in Hong Kong, where this team that won currently reside. By having fewer shoes, more space can be used for more useful appliances, creating a more efficiently and organised home.

In the Pathway 4 category (aged 17–18 years), the winner was from John Lyon School in response to Eat to Save the Planet, Unboxing Sustainability and The Green, Green Grass of Home. They developed an app known as Offset me, which has the aim of changing the way we shop and eat. This essentially informs people about their carbon footprint when they shop for things online, whether that is food or clothing. This includes the actual production, transportation costs and the pollution

arising from the packaging. This may incentivise individuals to slowly decrease their carbon footprints through set targets using the app so they can help the world become a more sustainable place; indeed a fascinating idea and project.

All the prizes and certificates were handed out. David Harkin gave a final thanks to all of the students for their hard work as well as the excellent and fascinating proposals from the universities involved for the main problems that engineers and environmental activists encounter today.

Finally, the Head Master talked about the coming together of all of the Harrow Family of schools how sustainability was a lovely topic to unite us together. He also expressed eagerness to continue to collaborate in the future. He stated that this had a great link to Harrow 450, as Harrow is all about 'celebrating our past' and more importantly 'refounding our future', and how sustainability is central to the future. WMAL mentioned his three-hour final exam essay for his Natural Sciences degree 30 years ago, entitled 'Should we attempt to manage the planet?'. The fact that we were thinking about it then and are still thinking about it now shows that the world still has a lot to do. WMAL then mused on optimism that is rejuvenated through young people.

Thanks has to be given to DMM, Head of the Sustainability Committee, for giving this opportunity to the Lower Sixth and organising meetings to evaluate everyone's progress. For more information about sustainability at Harrow, contact DMM.

SOMERVELL SOCIETY

James Amihyia-Marsden, West Acre, 'The Truth on Tax', 8 March

On 8 March, the Somervell Society gathered in New Schools 1 for its very first talk of the term. James Amihyia-Marsden, *West Acre*, addressed the audience on 'The Truth on Tax' and began with a brief yet conclusive summary detailing the basic aspects of tax law. He went on to stress the important difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance; one is illegal, one is in more of a legal grey area. Amihyia-Marsden went on to explain how tax avoidance worked; those with large incomes from many different streams would understate the total value of their assets across that year, citing a plethora of royalties. Furthermore, it was stressed that wealth being stored in numerous offshore accounts made it practically impossible for agencies like the IRS to track down tax avoiders due to international law.

Amihyia-Marsden moved on to the topic of the infamous Panama Papers. The Panama Papers are an unprecedented leak of 2.6TB (11.5 million papers) of data detailing the myriad ways in which the rich could exploit secretive offshore tax regimes. Involving 143 politicians and 12 national leaders, including a link to Vladimir Putin, it was the biggest leak in history.

On to famous tax avoiders. Amihyia-Marsden started by addressing the Neymar controversy, discussing the Ramsay Principle. The doctrine was succinctly defined by Amihyia-Marsden – it is the principle that if one of your companies is corrupt, all of them are (in the eyes of the law); they will be investigated thus and treated as sullied, even large conglomerates. One of Neymar's perfume companies was found to be guilty of tax avoidance, and he received a US\$100,000 fine and a six-month suspended prison sentence. Similarly, Steve Ballmer, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers and the overall second-richest owner in the NBA, was found to pay only 12% of his US\$656 million income to federal tax. LeBron James, conversely, paid 35.9% of his annual income of US\$124 million. How is it that Ballmer, who made over five times what LeBron James did, only had to pay a third of LeBron's income tax? The answer: amortisation.

Amortisation is an accounting strategy and form of tax avoidance where an overall estimate value is placed on an intangible asset (for example, an athlete). Once again drawing parallels with sport, Amihyia-Marsden addressed Manchester United's recent signing of Raphael Varane for £35 million (after proclaiming that Manchester United was the best team, followed by an assembled chagrin. However, this writer strongly agrees). It was reported that fans believed that Ben White (then at Brighton) was a stronger alternative than Varane. This was largely true, despite his £50 million price tag. Amihyia-Marsden revealed that White's amortisation fee was significantly smaller than Varane's, leading to an arguably stronger defender for a similar price.

To conclude the talk, the overall impact of the problem was discussed. It was said that governments lost trillions of dollars annually due to tax evasion and avoidance. Further connection difficulties later, the talk was wrapped up with how tax fraudsters were exposed. This was revealed to be through reverse engineering transactions (a much more complex topic for a later time, this writer was firmly assured) and data leaks such as the Panama Papers. Many interesting questions were further fielded effectively by Amihyia-Marsden. Sincere thanks to HRF and Ezekiel Akinsanya, *Lyon's*, Ryan Nasskau, *West Acre*, and Marcus Tung, *West Acre*, in their capacities as leaders of the society for hosting such an interesting talk.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Chris Liu, The Head Master's, 'The magic of fluidised catalyst', 17 March

On 17 March, the Engineering Society gathered in Physics Schools 2 to listen to Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, talk about 'The magic of fluidised catalyst: a process overview of FCC (fluidised catalytic cracking) and its significance'. Liu began the talk by explaining the definition of catalytic cracking and lightened the mood with a few chemistry jokes.

Fundamentally, catalytic cracking is converting long chain alkanes (paraffin) into short chain alkanes/alkenes (olefin) that have higher demand than the long-chain hydrocarbons. It is done with the presence of zeolite catalyst – which is a combination of alumina catalyst and silica catalyst. Liu then spoke about the first-generation fixed-bed catalytic cracking, explaining that this cracking process is problematic and inefficient; the process was done in batches due to coking on the catalyst, and frequent decoking was required (as this coke will slowly decrease the efficiency of the catalyst). Most oil companies started with fixed-bed catalytic cracking, but realising the inefficiency, they have revolutionised and designed their own models of fluidised catalytic cracking – FCC.

Liu clarified that fluidised catalyst solves the problem of non-continuous cracking; it makes the catalyst behave like a liquid and the cycle could be sustained as coke can be cleaned from the catalyst and be reused for more catalytic cracking.

Liu continued on the role of the fluidised catalytic cracking unit FCCU: this is responsible for the primary conversion unit in many petroleum refineries, converting longer-chain molecules into lighter products such as LPG (liquefied petroleum gas). Heavy vacuum gas oil are long chain hydrocarbons. Liu displayed an example of the 20th-century fluidised catalytic cracking. This was invented around World War 2 and played a significant role in the Allied victory. Because of the war, short-chain hydrocarbons (petrol, kerosene, diesel, fuel oil) were in extremely high demand.

Furthermore, Liu revealed the chemistry behind catalytic cracking. The main reaction taking place is beta scission, forming carbenium ions by the removal of a hydrogen ion

from paraffin or the addition of a proton (H^+) to an olefin. The stability of carbenium increases as the carbon numbers increase – primary (bonded to one carbon) carbenium is the least stable, but the unstable primary carbenium rearranges into secondary (bonded to two carbons) carbenium; furthermore, the unstable secondary carbenium rearranges into tertiary carbenium (bonded to three carbons).

Liu explained that the carbenium ions can propagate via two methods – further beta scission and carbenium ions, both of which can transfer charge to other carbenium ions. These processes can continue to occur because of the energy transfer and all sorts of molecules can be produced, for example aromatics, branched products. Liu asserted that refining is an industrial process whereby crude oil undergoes various chemical processes, converting it into products. Liu referenced the Handbook of Petroleum Refining processes (McGraw-Hill) and quoted, ‘Fluid catalytic cracking is used to convert higher-molecular-weight hydrocarbons to lighter, more valuable products through contact with a powdered catalyst at appropriate conditions.’

Feed preheat system is where feedstock is heated by the exchange with light cycle oil or heavy cycle oil; it is normally done at between 150°C to 250°C , sometimes with the additional preheat furnaces included. Reactor/regenerator system is when the feedstocks meet the catalyst; the high pressure and temperature allows the fluidised catalyst and feedstock to rise via the riser. Most of the cracking reaction takes place through this rising action (1–4 seconds). Note that the catalyst only behaves like a fluid; it is always in the solid state. Subsequently, the catalyst cools and returns to the regenerator via the spent cat. Fresh air and flue gas enter the regenerator and they burn off the coke from the catalyst; again, the clean catalyst is reused for cracking. Main fractionator: initially, the vaporised feed is cooled by the cooled circulating tower bottoms fluid. Similar to the reuse of catalyst, the circulating tower bottoms fluid can also be reused when it condenses; they both contribute to this concept of the continuous production of useful short-chain hydrocarbons.

Liu went on to introduce the gas concentration unit. Overhead gases such as naphtha, C3, C4 LPG and dry gas are the shortest products; they are most in demand. The gas concentration unit provides recovery for the C3 and C4 LPG, along with light liquid products. There are two stages: in stage one, the hydrocarbons are partially condensed to separate liquid and gas streams, whilst in stage two high pressure separator and lean oil are used to separate final components.

To conclude, Liu commented that FCC are ingenious methods of mankind to solve problems regarding supply demand; many who work in the industry only consider the engineering aspect of this industry and are ignorant of the scientific approach to FCC. Chris suggest that there might be a possibility of an artificial intelligence FCC system in the future, and it might dominate the oil industry.

OSRG ARTS SOCIETY

Heath Robinson Museum

On Monday 8 March, members of the OSRG Arts Society voyaged out to Pinner to visit the Heath Robinson Museum. The museum commemorates the life of Heath Robinson, an English cartoonist, illustrator and artist, best known for his drawings of whimsically elaborate machines that achieve simple tasks like stirring a cup of tea or tucking children in to bed. The chances are that you will have seen one of these marvellous illustrations, or those inspired by Robinson (such as in Wallace and Gromit), as they are printed everywhere, even to this day. Robinson’s work was part of a new artistic and illustrative movement globally, along with the rise of

magazines such as The New Yorker and surreal cartooning in general. What is refreshing about his work is how little it reflects the politics of the day and how it simply generates humour from something ridiculously complicated, or for that matter, something ridiculous. In fact, the term “Heath Robinson contraption” gained dictionary recognition around 1912. So, the boys were all, of course, very excited.



Traffic was sparse and the Harrow group was early, and so, choosing the scenic route (we were being driven in the minibus by LAM) the group made a quick detour to Pretty Corner, a tiny community park at the edge of the town, encircled by mock-Tudor houses. There, LAM and Mrs Walton deliberated on the most direct route onwards while the boys read an infographic describing a rock collection, set into a pedestal beside the footpath. A most thrilling detour, particularly for GCSE geographers, who got to indentify which of the 52 rocks were permeable.

Five minutes later, the boys arrived at Pinner Memorial Park, the location of the Heath Robinson Museum. The trip had officially begun.

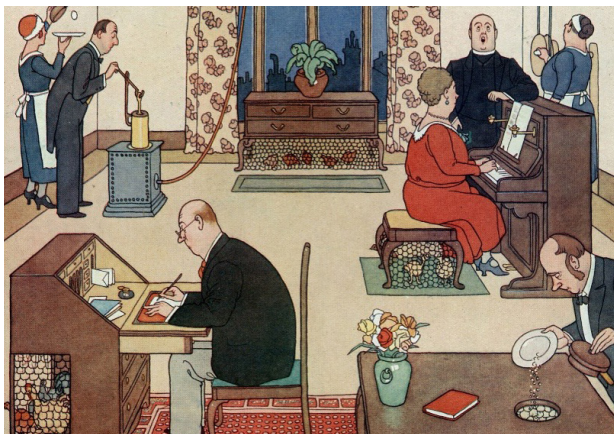
The group was greeted by the Head of Visitor Services, who had been booked to open the museum that afternoon especially for them. She guided them into the main room, the permanent exhibition, which covered the entire life and art of Heath Robinson. The museum was designed by an award-winning museum designer and mimicked Heath Robinson’s autobiography *My Line of Life*, in that the exhibition starts with an ink splat, then turns into the silhouette of a suburban landscape. Beneath the visual representation of Heath Robinson’s autobiography is a 3D sculpture that flows around the walls of the room, representing the flowing page, because, at one point, Heath Robinson was so popular that he was producing at least two or three commissioned pieces a week, which went to almost every magazine in the country. Dotted across the symbolic designs were many examples of Heath Robinson’s original work, which are beautiful to experience in the flesh. The works are far less perfect when not printed on the page, you can see the individual black paint strokes instead of block colour, and the outlines are far less straightened and more individual and quirkier. The drawings are so brilliantly full of character.

After completing the tour of the first room, the group tried their hands on some replica “Heath Robinson Contraptions”, then moved on to see the temporary display in the second main room.

Selected by the Curator, an unpaid volunteer, this display contained artworks that Heath Robinson had created for the books that he himself had written. This was fascinating. Not only could viewers see the original works from his books, but the exhibition also showed his creative process, how he sketched out five or six drawings, inked them, coloured them and then redid the process to produce the final product.

After the obligatory visit to the shop, we gathered in the adjacent café – suitably named Daisy in the Park – and enjoyed hearty refreshments. This writer is, however, determined not to fulfil the eternal trope of OSRG write-ups: talking about the

café trip for far more than half the article, so I am unfortunately going to cut the food review short.



We made our way back to the School minibus and, thanks to LAM's excellent knowledge of the byways of Harrow, and a penchant for driving rivalling Verstappen, the boys were deposited outside Rendalls in no time at all. Another edifying experience courtesy of the organisational abilities of the OSRG team.

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Kanta Morishige and Finlay Douglas, Newlands, 'How Food Waste Impacts Climate Change', 8 March

On Tuesday 8 March 2022 Kanta Morishige and Finlay Douglas, both *Newlands*, hosted the Senior Geography Society with a captivating talk surrounding how food waste impacts climate change, to commemorate Food Waste Action Week. The pair brought an element of originality by starting the talk differently from many seen at the SGS, with some quickfire questions for the audience to gain a sense of the extent of food waste. Some of the staggering facts included that, in 2015, £13.5 billion was spent on wasted food in the UK – showing why the topic of the talk was so relevant and important.

So why do we waste food? Food serving sizes have increased at rapid rates globally, consumers expect fruit and vegetables in perfect conditions due to consumer misconception that fruit have to be a certain colour/shape to be 'edible', and supermarkets have overstocked stores to maximise profits. This is a result of the lack of ethical viewing by firms and consumers. Many only look for their own benefit, which has many negative effects on the rest of society. These views are quite naïve as the SGS also learned about the energy/resources that go into food production, which shows why wasting food is so problematic.

Another factor in climate change is 'food miles'. The audience were shown the interesting effects of time-space compression and globalisation in creating large carbon footprints. As moving food is responsible for 25% of all miles covered by heavy goods traffic in the UK, 9 million tonnes of CO₂ are polluting the atmosphere, showing that if food weren't overproduced, if we were to be more sustainable, carbon footprints would decrease.

So, what can be done to limit these effects? If food waste were a country, it would have the most greenhouse gas emission production in the world after China and USA. This is due to micro-organisms breaking down the food and releasing methane, which contributes to the greenhouse effect, global warming and therefore climate change. To stop this, the innovative app Too Good To Go was explained, where you can buy unsold food from places that sell food in your vicinity, allowing ethical benefits for both producers, consumers and therefore everyone worldwide.

A question from the audience started another really key point in how to limit food waste problems – education! For example, even the talk itself was a form of education, a simple presentation, around 20 minutes long, yet everyone listening gained a good sense of the ideas and problems associated with food waste. To fix the issues, those trying to educate could benefit from new technology by capitalising on social media advertising to increase reach to as many as possible.

Overall, the talk was extremely interesting with a great final discussion lasting almost as long as the lecture, showing how engaging and topical the talk was. It was also a great form of education, showing why and how we should solve the issue of food waste.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

Chris Liu, The Head Master's, 'Mikhail Borodin: the Red Missionary', 22 February

On Tuesday 22 February, Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, presented a talk to the Slavonic Society on 'Mikhail Borodin: the Red Missionary'. Liu began the lecture by informing assembled members of who exactly this "Red Missionary" was and detailed Borodin's early life in Tsarist Russia. Borodin was born in 1884 to a Jewish family in modern-day Belarus, where he began work at a very young age as a boat man on the River Dvina. During his teenage years, he worked in the port of Riga (modern-day Latvia), where he simultaneously was able to learn Russian at night school. Liu explained that it was during this time in Riga that Borodin began to make his forays into politics, joining the General Jewish Labour Bund – a socialist party – at the age of 16. Later, having switched allegiances to the Bolsheviks in 1903, Borodin was faced with two choices: exile from Russia or deportation to a labour camp in Siberia. Having chosen the former, Borodin made his way to London where his stay was cut short by another deportation by British authorities wary of Communist activity. Liu then went on to describe Borodin's exploits in America; having been deported from Britain, Borodin eventually reached the United States, where he spent over ten years teaching English and opened his own school for Russian Jewish immigrants.



Following the October Revolution in 1917, Borodin returned to Russia and swiftly integrated himself into the fledgling Bolshevik Party. An international revolutionary, Borodin was then dispatched in the succeeding years to various countries including Sweden, Mexico and Great Britain under the alias of "George Brown" to establish communist organisations. It was during the latter trip, Liu informed us, that Borodin was arrested and imprisoned for six months in Glasgow, ostensibly for a breach of immigration regulations. Upon his return to Moscow, he was handpicked by Lenin to lead one more expedition – this time east to China. Liu then detailed Borodin's work in Guangzhou, where he supported Sun Yat-Sen's Kuomintang in its infancy.

Speaking no Chinese, all conversations with KMT leaders were carried out in English, which he had become fluent in during his time in the US. Borodin co-ordinated negotiations between the KMT and the Communist Party of China to form the First Chinese United Front as well as proposing reforms for both parties, including land reforms and land redistribution. Such reforms were not implemented under the KMT. During the Great Revolution of China from 1926–27, Borodin continued Soviet aid to the KMT and supported the Northern Expedition, which made the KMT the dominant force in China. Liu also informed us about the existence of tensions between Borodin and the KMT leaders especially after Sun's death, with the KMT leaders concerned of the growing urban and rural worker movement, and growing communist influence in China. Although Borodin made attempts to, he was never able to establish any direct connections with local workers due to the language and culture barriers. All of his interactions with local people took place in his fluent English translated by KMT officials. In 1927, the Communists were purged by the KMT, which rejected Soviet aid thereafter, forcing Borodin to flee back to Moscow.

Having returned to the USSR, Borodin was swiftly assigned the blame for the failure of the revolutionary mission in China, earning him the ire of the Soviet leadership, which assigned him insignificant jobs including the deputy director of the Soviet paper and lumber trust, a factory inspector and a specialist in immigration from America. During this time, however, Borodin did not give up his revolutionary zeal and was reported to have been collecting information on India for a revolutionary campaign there. Surviving the Great Purge in the 1930s, he reconnected with an American journalist whom he had met during the Chinese expedition, Anna Louise Strong. Founding an English-language Soviet newspaper known as the Moscow News, Borodin became the editor-in-chief and, in 1941, was appointed editor-in-chief of the Soviet Information Bureau. Nevertheless, he never regained his former glory and, in 1949, he was arrested amidst an antisemitic fervour following Israel's turn away from the USSR and Strong's attempts to portray Maoism in a successful light through the newspaper. Two years later, Liu explained, Borodin died in a Siberian prison camp, but was posthumously rehabilitated in 1964.

Overall, this was a particularly insightful talk into a relatively unknown historical figure, a man who helped lay the foundation for the modern global order yet was repressed and relegated to the pages of history by Stalinist authorities. Many thanks to the Slavonic Society and KAF for hosting and supervising the lecture and especially to Liu for preparing the lecture.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

Maslenitsa Celebrations and the Final Round of the Inter-school Russian Poetry Reciting Competition 27 February

For the first time in two years, Harrow's Slavonic Society hosted Russian learners from four other schools to celebrate the old Slavic festival celebrated in many Eastern European countries and known in Russia as Maslenitsa. This cheerful celebration coincided with the final round of the Inter-school Russian Poetry Reciting Competition. St Paul's Girls' School, Hampton School and James Allen's Girls' School joined a small crowd of Harrow boys for some poetry and traditional Eastern European delicacies. In a packed OH Room, the audience were greeted by two ladies from a folklore group Izba dressed in traditional Russian dresses. They started the festivities by singing a couple of traditional Russian songs that usually accompany Maslenitsa and followed with a brief lecture on the various elements of the Maslenitsa festivities.

Maslenitsa, which comes from the Russian word for butter (масло), is a celebration that takes place in the run-up to the period of Lent and Easter. Maslenitsa takes place over a week, with each day having its own purpose. It is a Slavonic tradition of pagan origin also celebrated in Ukraine, Belarus and other countries in Eastern Europe. Unsurprisingly (given its name), food plays a major role in the festivities, and the audience was fortunate enough to experience the hospitality of KAF who had organised an enormous selection of Slavonic bites to accompany the event. On the savoury snacks table, there was a selection of mini pirozhki with beef, bacon, sauerkraut, mushroom and potatoes. And for those with a sweeter tooth there was, of course, a mountain of pancakes with several different toppings to accompany them. There were also plenty of jam doughnuts should the pancakes not do the trick.



After we had sufficiently tucked into the veritable feast, the audience returned to listen to the explanation of the different days of the Maslenitsa week. First, the guest speakers explained the significance of the effigy they were carrying at the start of their display. On Monday, the wooden effigy (чучело), often in the form of a woman, is made from sticks and clothed in traditional dress. The effigy is meant to symbolise the harsh winter and is burnt on the final days of Maslenitsa. This is followed by the bachelor's search for a wife on Tuesday, where young men would look for a woman to marry after Lent had ended and marriages were once more permitted. It should be noted that Lent is a time for mourning and is typically quite austere, so marriages are prohibited. On Tuesdays, the playful festivities begin and the flirting between young men and women takes place with pancakes and play – sledding was particularly popular. Although Tuesday may be the beginning of the social activities, Wednesday is the day for the culinary activities. Wednesday is known as Sweet Tooth Day when people try to enjoy as many fatty, sugary foods as they can before the day is through. These treats are traditionally prepared by mothers-in-law and used to be the only day they were allowed to criticise their sons-in-law freely. For the sons-in-law, it was not a particularly bad exchange, and they were treated to delicious treats and more revelry. Thursday continues the revelry and often sees men fight to show off in front of potential admirers. Keen to replicate this tradition, several boys were reluctantly brought forward to compete against each other. The goal was to push the other over a given point using only their inter-locking shoulders, with the use of hands forbidden. Harrow boys managed to retain their pride as Archie Powell, *The Grove*, saw off the competition rather comfortably.

On the final three days of Maslenitsa, the focus changes somewhat to women in the family. Friday is the day sons-in-law treat their mothers-in-law to a delicious feast and they arrange a special blini (pancake) for them. Friday is also an important time to spend with family, distant relatives and old friends. In a similar vein, Saturday celebrates the sisters-in-law who are invited to meet the new wife and start a good relationship with their husband's family. Just like Friday's celebrations, it is a day to celebrate the importance of familial relationships and

people spend more time with family. The week ends with the Day of Forgiveness when people ask others to forgive them for all the things they may have done to one another. People usually say, "Forgive me," to which people respond, "God forgives you and I forgive you." Once all the wrongs are put right, people gather together to burn the aforementioned effigy and say a final goodbye to winter. The talk was concluded with some dancing where the audience were able to join hands to form a long chain around the room. Though difficult given the limited space, it was certainly a good ice breaker (no pun intended) for the rest of the festivities.



While most people were preoccupied with the talk, some audience members were performing in the final round of the Inter-school Russian Poetry Reciting Competition in the Alex Fitch Room. Boys and girls from Shell to Upper Sixth performed in the final heat after being put forward as their school's finalist from successes in preliminary rounds. At the end of the afternoon's events, the winners of each category and runners-up were announce, with the winner reciting their poem to the whole audience. Despite most prizes going to the girls, Harrow saw two boys reach the top categories. Many congratulations go to Johnathan Ford, *West Acre*, for being first in the Shell category, and to Tamir Zolboo, *The Head Master's*, for his success as runner-up in the Fifth Form category. All finalists were rewarded with delicious sweets for their efforts, while winners also received books.

Many thanks go to all our guests and their teachers for coming all the way to the Hill to spend the afternoon with us, to the external adjudicators Dr Nadia Bragina, Lecturer and Coordinator in Russian Language Studies at Queen Mary University of London, and Ms Lidia Robertson, a professional actress, and to NP for his help in assisting the adjudicators. We are also grateful to the folklore group Izba for all the fun provided on the day and for sharing all their knowledge about this fascinating festival with us. Of course, the Slavonic Society and all those in attendance are immensely grateful for KAF for her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication that led to such a fantastic afternoon, emphasising all that unites all the Slavs, despite the deeply upsetting divisions that we witness today.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

Julian Alexandrov, The Knoll, 'Extraordinary Ordinary Lives in Soviet Bulgaria', 22 March

On Tuesday 22 March, the Slavonic Society gathered for the last event of the Spring term in Modern Languages Schools, as Julian Alexandrov, *The Knoll*, gave a talk entitled 'Extraordinary Ordinary Lives in Soviet Bulgaria.' This was a very insightful lecture about the life of Kosta Nikolov-Gliganski, who was Alexandrov's great-great grandfather.

The talk began with Alexandrov touching briefly on the start and end of communism in Bulgaria. It was in the year 1944, when the Soviet Union declared war on the recently proclaimed neutral country. Within a few days, a coup d'état was launched, and the Bulgarian monarchy fell, replaced by the Bulgarian Communist Party as the country's new ruler. Almost 40 years later, after a cultural liberalisation took place, Bulgarians slowly repelled the relatively newly established party and ended its reign in June 1990. Yet, there are still some architectural and other remains of the communist era in the country.



After this introduction, the lecture shifted to the interesting topic of how Nikolov-Gliganski started his business. He was born into a family of farmers in 1898. It was quite common for villagers to farm in Smiadovo, where he was born, at that time. However, he was not limited to farming, like many of his relatives and neighbours. He started collaborating with rich businessmen in Sofia and Shumen, learning many valuable skills from them, and it was exactly these skills that helped him flourish in the future.

Around the year 1924, Nikolov-Gliganski secured a loan of 1,000,000 leva (approximately £500,000) and started his own business, Smiadovski Gligan, together with Stoyan Subev Domuschiev. He then changed his surname to Gliganski, which was a peculiar move. His factory sold traditional Bulgarian salami, called *lukanka*. Many thanks to the speaker for bringing this delicacy in for us to try during the lecture, along with KAF's homemade bread!



As this salami was so delicious, it deserves a whole paragraph of this article to itself. *Lukanka* dates back about 400 years. It was first mentioned by Polish author Samuel Twardowski. Julian revealed to us the 'secret formula' of *lukanka*, which consists of veal (30%), pork (45%), pig fat (25%), 22g salt, 4g black pepper, 3g cardamom, 2g sugar and 1g Chilean nitrate. However, despite its delicious taste, the salami started to lose its fame slowly. Fortunately, Nikolov-Gliganski decided to experiment with the recipe by adding just a small amount of garlic to the salami, and its popularity peaked again.

Sadly, starting in 1944, most privately owned business in Bulgaria were nationalised and, three years later, Smiadovski Gligan shared their fate. The quality of the company's products immediately dropped, and the factory was closed soon after. Perhaps due to this, Domuschiev (Gliganski's companion and

business partner) died of a heart attack, having previously survived a few attempted killings by the communist government.

The now unemployed Nikolov-Gliganski, who also lost his business partner, tried to get a job as a security guard in the factory he used to own, but even this was refused him. He tried to get another job when he moved to Shumen, and was yet again refused. He then moved to Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria, where he spent the remainder of his turbulent life.

The lecture was very engaging and brilliantly delivered, serving as a fitting end to a busy term. Our thanks go to the speaker for both feeding our minds and bodies, and to KAF for facilitating yet another fantastic Slavonic Society event.

ALEXANDER SOCIETY

Fr S P Seaton, 'Religion, violence and the origins of suicide bombing', 22 March

On the last Tuesday of the term, Father Stuart gave a thoroughly interesting talk to the Alexander Society about suicide bombing. SPS began with the common belief that suicide bombing is a uniquely religious form of violence. SPS then illustrated this association with two quotes from Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. The first from Dawkins was as follows, "Many of us saw religion as harmless nonsense. September 11th changed all that." "[It] revealed faith is not harmless nonsense, it can be lethally dangerous nonsense." The second from Hitchens, "If I were to ask you, can you think of a wicked action that could only have been performed by someone who believed they were on an errand from God? There isn't one of you who would take ten seconds to think of an answer." Of course, here he is referring to suicide bombing. Both call religions into question as a cause of violence and a dangerous force. SPS acknowledged this and went on to outline the four things he wanted to show in his talk; Dawkins and Hitchens' reasoning is quite false; their evidence contradicts their conclusions, Dawkins and Hitchens' anti-religious arguments are themselves dangerous. The categories they and others who make more broadly anti-religious arguments use are misplaced and result in us distorting the evidence to the degree that it's just bad history.

Firstly, SPS tore down Hawkins' reasoning by simply pointing out that anything could be lethally dangerous, including love, science and water. SPS then deconstructed Dawkins further by pointing out a flaw in his reasoning. How can it be that suspicion is cast over all religions because a small number of extremists of one specific religion commit an atrocity. Before finally rounding on why Dawkins' reasoning was false by using the example of 9/11, an atrocity committed by Islamist terrorists. SPS pointed out first that suicide terrorism is in fact prohibited by Islam but went further, reasoning that 9/11 only proved that Al Qaeda were dangerous. Therefore, to cast aspersions over the whole of Islam is deeply wrong.

SPS then continued saying that, despite this, Dawkins and Hitchens might argue that religion was the motivation behind suicide terrorism. This was before SPS thoroughly refuted this position using cold, hard statistics. These came from Robert A Pape who had studied every suicide attack from their origin in the early 1980s until the invasion of Iraq in 2003. These showed that over half of all suicide attacks in this period were secular actions. The most prominent organisation in this period was the LTTP in Sri Lanka, who are fervently anti-religious. Post-2003, however, one might argue this was not the case. This too would be wrong. Suicide terrorism after 2003 was, in fact, caused by the military intervention of the West. This is due to altruism, as Robert A Pape argued. He says that a suicide terrorist is a desperate and selfless individual who sees

his country occupied. However, his country is unable to drive out the occupying force militarily, so he blows himself up in the hope that the occupying force will find it too costly to stay. SPS used this reasoning by Pape to further refute the argument that suicide terrorism has religious motivation, especially with regard to such terrorism after 2003.

Having thoroughly refuted the reasoning of Hitchens and Dawkins, SPS went on to address the overarching idea that religion leads to war. Firstly, by reasoning that even those conflicts that are considered religious wars were not, in fact, entirely religious conflicts. SPS used the example of the crusades, reasoning that these started as an attempt to prevent Christian Europe being overrun by Muslim conquerors. Next, SPS explained the problems with how we today define a "religious" war as opposed to a "secular" one, and how these further disprove the idea that religion causes wars.

Finally, SPS showed that it was the secular (in our sense of the word) that is the more dangerous entity. He used the examples of Stalin's purges, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, the Holocaust and Chairman Mao to illustrate the prominence of anti-religious secular thinking in some of societies worst atrocities, further illustrating SPS' point.

Overall it was an excellently delivered and thought-out lecture from SPS that provide great food for thought.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Akachi Anyanwu, The Grove, 'Xenotransplantation, cutting edge or cruel?', 28 February

On Monday 28 February, Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*, addressed the Medical Society about the rising medicinal technology of xenotransplantation, its necessity in the near future, and the controversial aspects it faces. Before delving deep into this study, Anyanwu defined the term 'xenotransplantation' as a process of transplanting required cells, tissues, and/or organs from non-human organisms, or alternatively as human cells having *ex vivo* (out of life) contact with animal cells.

Anyanwu's lecture mainly focused on the process of foreign transplantation, and the necessity of xenotransplantation. Due to demand for vital organs exceeding the supply, ten patients die everyday while waiting for vital organ transplants in the United States. With the use of xenotransplantation, around 4,000 deaths could be prevented. Transplanted organs can act as temporary organs while waiting for a more permanent organ transplant, instead of using a costly and sometimes unaffordable ECMO machine (costing from \$73,000 up to \$210,000). Anyanwu explained how an ECMO machine for kidney dialysis leads to a distinctly poor quality of life for patients who need it, and is often difficult to use effectively. Anyanwu believes that xenotransplantation can act as a cheaper replacement as well as providing a better quality of life.

Later, Anyanwu outlined the various milestones in the history of xenotransplantation. The first-ever blood transfusion of an animal's blood into a human body was conducted by Jean Baptiste Denys, a French physician, in 1667. His first patient, a 15-year-old boy, was given sheep's blood and survived by successfully suppressing allergic reactions. Despite the early success, the next two patients who were given the same treatment died, and the practice was widely banned. Still attempts at xenotransplantation continued. In the 19th century, skin xenograft technology was invented, a process of transplanting non-animal skins from animals, such as rabbits, dogs, and fish, onto the human body. The effect of xenograft was not effective, merely protecting the skin underneath as it healed.

Following the successful kidney transplant between two identical twin sisters in mid-20th century, organ transplantation

was in high demand, and the lack of organs was an immediate problem. Xenotransplantation was an increasingly realistic option: Dr Keith Reemstman considered primates (chimpanzees) as valid candidates for heart transplantation to humans, but none of the transplanted patients survived. Later, the cause of death was discovered as the infection of SIV disease that was harmful to humans but not chimpanzees. In the late 1980s, Dr David Cooper suggested that pigs were suitable, pig organs being big enough to replace human organs. His initial experiments failed, but after a few years, he discovered a typical sugar (alpha 1,3 galactose hydroxyl groups) that triggered the human immune system. Taking this into account, pigs were genetically modified to remove this sugar and create sugar alpha 1,3 galactosyltransferase instead. The outcome was successful, with many investments of billions of dollars, but a problem was found in the mid-1990s. A fatal virus (porcine endogenous retrovirus) was found in pig cells that caused devastating impacts in humans, leading to the closure of all labs in 2001. The problem was solved using a recent CRISPR nanotechnology to remove this typical virus gene from the pigs' cells, and 37 cloned embryos that were born did not show traces of this virus. Recently, in January 2022, a 57-year-old man was successfully transplanted a genetically modified pig's heart from CRISPR with regular diagnosis.

The procedures of xenotransplantation are as follows: scientists grow pigs in sterile organ farms specifically for scientific research, which are then killed and dissected for their organs to be removed when needed. Since pig hearts have two ventricles and atria like human hearts, pig dissections highly resemble the operations on humans, including initial incision and removal of cartilages.

Anyanwu believes that the dangers of xenotransplantation should be considered, namely, potential foreign infection and organ rejection. Some endogenous diseases from animals, such as pigs and chimpanzees, wreak havoc in human populations, so these must carefully be eliminated by advanced genetic engineering (CRISPR). Organ rejection, however, poses an even greater difficulty.

Organs are rejected when the body detects the transplanted organ as a foreign tissue, which happens in a matter of minutes. Some organ rejections can be suppressed with immunosuppressant drugs, but some rejections are too aggressive to be suppressed. Recent genetic engineering innovations enabled cloning human DNA sequences into a pig's tissue, so that the immune system will not trigger the lymphatic system. If such innovation is harnessed, immunosuppressant drugs can be applied the same way as they are to regular transplant candidates.

Graphs comparing the survival rates of xenotransplantation and regular transplantation of kidneys show that the survival rate of xenotransplantation is significantly lower than regular transplantation. Xenotransplantation technology, however, is rapidly developing. Anyanwu believes that xenotransplantation is showing high hopes of replacing normal transplantation in years to come.

There are still questions over the morality of xenotransplantation, and many have medical, religious, and environmental concerns. Groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and more fundamental religious sects have often expressed worries over xenotransplantation, though Anyanwu claimed that both Jewish and Islamic groups may be more open to the idea. A major ethical issue with xenotransplantation is that many people believe that genetically editing animals for human benefit is cruel and immoral. Another problem that many environmentalists raise are the confined, crowded conditions of organ farms that are distinctly cruel. These animals are solely bred to be killed and have their organs harvested. Animal Aid, an environmentalist group, said "Animals have a right to live their lives, without being genetically manipulated with all the pain and trauma this entails, only to be killed and their organs harvested."

Anyanwu believes that the benefits outweigh the negatives, and that xenotransplantation is worth it. Xenotransplantation

will save millions of lives around the world in the near future, with Anyanwu ending his excellent lecture with the old adage: you can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs (or perhaps genetically modifying them).

MEDICAL SOCIETY

James Rates, Newlands, 'The delicate art of anaesthesia', 21 March

Before the Easter holiday, the Medical Society heard a fabulous talk by James Rates, *Newlands*, on the delicate art of anaesthesia. This talk gave an insight on the different types of anaesthesia and its revolution. Rates managed to describe various examples which portrayed the delicacy of anaesthesia as well as the peril of knowing that one might have only a 50% chance of survival. Right at the beginning, Rates included a quote from William Shakespeare, 'He that sleeps feels not the toothache'. This served as a brief summary of what the talk was going to cover, including the unpredictability of anaesthesia before the 19th century.

Rates explained the four key ideas he was going to chronologically cover including: anaesthesia before the 19th century, anaesthesia in the 19th century, modern anaesthesia and the action of propofol.

The introduction was short and concise. Rates talked about the involvement of anaesthesia in surgical procedures and its significance. A line from Genesis 2:21 was included here, 'And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof.' The Biblical creation story shows how the idea of anaesthesia was deeply embedded in humanity. Rates briefly mentioned that the death rate 150 years ago due to anaesthesia was 1 in 4, showing that saving someone's life used to be extremely difficult and risky.

Next, Rates talked about the manual methods of anaesthesia, which were intriguing but at the same time gruesome. For example, the first method Rates mentioned was nerve compression, which involved pressing onto the nerve around the neck area. On Rate's slideshow, we visualised this using the pictograph showing someone being compressed on the antecubital fossa. Rates spoke about the scientist Edwin Smith and the methods he used, known as surgical papyrus. This did not end well, with 48 cases of people not showing any signs of pain relief. The next method Rates mentioned was bilateral carotid compression, which is more commonly known in the present day as a "headlock"; this leads to unconsciousness. The last method Rates mentioned was a 'knock-out blow' which was rather an aggressive way to end the spectrum of methods.

Having had enough of the spine-chilling manual methods, Rates went on to talk about the non-manual methods. This included Indian hemp and juice of a poppy, powdered rock from menthis, and the mandrake plant, which all proved to be useless after a few years of testing.

Additionally, there were other examples of non-manual methods including cannabis, opium, alcohol, English dwale and a mixture known as mafesian, which was discovered by Hua Tuo, a legendary Chinese surgeon. Cannabis acts as a stimulant, depressant and hallucinogen, whereas opium affects the opioid receptors in the brain. Alcohol is a GABAA receptor positive allosteric modulator. Dwales are full of opioids and mandrake-derived concoctions.

However, Rates went on to talk about the religious objections to taking anaesthesia. According to some world faiths, the use of anaesthetics was a sin.

Rates moved on to talk about the 19th century where there was a shift in the anaesthesia used. English chemist Humphry Davy realised that nitrous oxide could be used as a pain relief

in 1799. However, it took an American scientist, Horace Wells, to attempt to use it. He made someone who suffered an injury to the leg inhale nitrous oxide and the results were quite promising, with the patient feeling little to no pain at all.

There were different uses for anaesthesia. Rates mentioned that nitrous oxide was used successfully by Horace Wells to remove teeth.

Although Horace's assistant/colleague William Morton failed to use Wells' method successfully, causing Wells to take his own life, Morton did have some success later. Morton applied drug using inhalation and surgeon John Warren successfully removed a tumour. The year after, chloroform was used by an English obstetrician. Chloroform has a superior therapeutic index causing less vomiting. John Snow famously used this method to assist the birth of Queen Victoria's child.

Rates then talked about modern anaesthesia. The triangle that is vital for a working anaesthetic includes analgesia, a loss of consciousness and muscle relaxant (diazepam).

Rates then discussed general anaesthesia and the process anaesthetists use to successfully numb a person. This includes induction, which is bringing someone into unconsciousness; excitement which is to lower heart rate; and hypertension, as well as a loss of reflex. Stage 4 was medullary paralysis, which prevents respiratory cardiovascular failure.

Towards the end of the talk, Rates described the structure of propofol, which includes a benzene ring, to which an alcohol and two propyl groups are attached. Propofol comes in the form of an emulsion in a canular injection container.

The focus of the talk was how anaesthesia affected the human body, especially the receptors. Rates talked about a specific receptor known as GABA_A. Propofol binds to this receptor, causing hypnotic effects. It mediates the ligand-gated receptor in the NB brain region. The receptors essentially force more chloride ions to flow through, making it more difficult to depolarise and therefore generate an action potential.

The side effects Rates mentioned were respiratory depression and hypertension, which are both caused by propofol. However, other anaesthetics such as etomidate can cause adrenal suppression and transient skeletal movements. Furthermore, barbiturates causes bronchospasms and respiratory depression, which shows why propofol is the preferred anaesthetic.

Rates ended the talk by exploring how much anaesthesia is given to patients – basically, the amount of anaesthesia given to a patient is merely according to the anaesthesiologist's preference. This may seem surprising, but the accuracy of these physicians improves as they acquire better knowledge of the right amount of anaesthesia to inject into a patient.

Rates answered the extensive questions with significant knowledge and skill. Thank you to JAA, Nicklas Host-Verbraak, *The Head Master's*, and Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, for arranging and hosting this talk.

TREVELYAN SOCIETY

*Professor Kenneth Fincham, University of Kent,
'Religious Division in England 1618–49'*

The Trevelyan Society was delighted to welcome Professor Kenneth Fincham from the University of Kent to deliver a lecture in the Old Speech Room Gallery entitled 'Religious division in England 1618–49'. Professor Fincham chose to start the talk from 1618 because this year was particularly important for religious divisions between Protestants and Catholics across Europe, with the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War in Bohemia, whilst 1649 signalled the end of the Second English Civil War and the execution of Charles I.

After briefly outlining the aims of his talk, Professor Fincham marked out the four most significant religious groups in England

during the reigns of James I and Charles I: Catholics, Conformist Protestants, Puritans and Laudians. Firstly, in England, Catholics were a small minority who were clearly subordinate to their Protestant counterparts under the law. Anti-Catholic sentiment was prevalent in every corner of English society and measures such as recusancy fines were imposed on the Catholic population. However, Professor Fincham noted how the circumstances for Catholics gradually improved in England as James I and his successor Charles I began to espouse tolerance of Catholicism. Conformist Protestants were the largest religious sect during this period, and they were willing to comply with the governance and usages of the Church of England. The Church of England, before the time of William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633, was similar to the Roman Catholic in terms of ecclesiology but theologically it was very closely aligned to the Calvinist Church, making the Church of England particularly unique. The monarch held the position of Supreme Governor of the Church of England, giving them, in theory, total power over religious matters. Professor Fincham provided an example of a well-known Conformist Protestant during this period, George Abbott, who served the Church of England as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1611–33. Puritans were a minority group of radical Protestants who wanted to purify the Church of England of any 'popish' practices. Additionally, Puritans did not accept the monarch as head of the Church but rather hoped for a Congregationalist Church, where no form of power structure governed how people practised their religion. Thus, Puritans came into conflict with monarchs on numerous occasions and they played a significant role in the English Civil War on the Parliamentary side. Lastly, Professor Fincham mentioned the emergence of Laudians, inspired by William Laud, who served as the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1633 to 1645. William Laud undertook reforms within the Church of England during the 1630s, including the rejection of the Calvinist doctrine of predestination and the increased importance of ceremony. Ultimately, Laudian reforms caused further divisions among the religious groups in England, particularly Puritans, creating a climate where civil war was possible.

Once Professor Fincham had covered these religious groups, he delved into more detail on what the Laudian programme of the 1630s entailed and its repercussions on English society. Laudianism was entrenched in hostility to Puritanism, and reforms such as the rejection of predestination and the implementation of the Declaration of Sports (promoting pursuit of various forms of relaxation and recreation on Sundays) caused Puritans to become disillusioned and alienated from the Church of England, creating almost unbridgeable divisions. Furthermore, Laud instigated a programme designed to enhance the interior beauty of churches, also known as 'the beauty of holiness'. This included the decoration of fonts, renewal of stained glass and the rehabilitation of organs. Professor Fincham provided numerous examples of this taking place, such as renovations at Old St Paul's Cathedral, the painting of the Prophet Ezekiel at Passenheim and the restoration of the Abbey Dore Church. Laud also sought to enhance the status and wealth of the clergy and thus enabling the church to play a central role in the life of the state. The Laudian programme not only alienated Protestants in England but also created resentment for the monarchy in Scotland, which Professor Fincham illustrated effectively with an image of the Scots rioting against the new Scottish prayer book, implemented by William Laud in 1637.

Lastly, Professor Fincham briefly discussed how religious divisions deepened in England during the 1640, with the Irish Rebellion of 1641 and the English Civil War. The Irish Rebellion was an uprising by Irish Catholics, angered by the treatment of Catholics by the Protestant elite. The rebellion in Ireland alerted Protestants in England to what they perceived as a Catholic conspiracy in the Church of England. Moreover, Professor Fincham noted how the English Civil War led to a collapse in censorship, which evidently saw a wider range of

opinions being voiced by the public. He argued this caused radicalisation to take place and thus greater religious divisions emerged across England.

Professor Fincham then took a range of challenging and thought-provoking questions from the audience. Many questions considered the significance and legacy of the Irish Rebellion of 1641 and whether the rebellion lingered in the minds of English Protestants, most notably Oliver Cromwell. One particular highlight was a question about whether 'Laudianism' is the correct term to use when referring to the religious policy pursued during the Personal Rule of Charles I, with some historians such as Nicholas Tyacke arguing 'Carolinism' is a more appropriate term to apply. Professor Fincham responded that, because William Laud exercised so much influence over Charles I's theological thinking, 'Laudianism' is the most appropriate term to use in this context.

Professor Fincham delivered an excellent, detailed and engaging lecture that offered the audience new perspectives on the topic of religious divisions in England from 1618 to 1649.

SOCIETIES' FAIR

Super-curriculum building from Spring term

The Super-curriculum is an area of School life that offers boys opportunities to take control of their intellectual curiosity and explore subject areas that are beyond the GCSE and A-level syllabi. Being engaged with the various School clubs and societies is a vital part of the Harrow experience, and participating in society events is an excellent way to cultivate interests, learn new skills and meet new people.

Some younger members of the School, however, have found it difficult to get themselves acquainted with societies and other super-curricular opportunities, and this has been exacerbated by lockdowns, remote learning and the restrictions to life here on the Hill that we have experienced over the last few years.



With this in mind, ADT, alongside Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, and Antonio da Silveira Pinheiro, *The Park*, decided to organise Harrow's first ever Societies Fair, as an opportunity for every boy to find out more about the School's many societies. The inaugural Societies Fair took place on the evening of Sunday 16 January, in the Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall. Similar to a university Freshers' Fair, representatives of a plethora of clubs and societies ran their own stalls, showcasing what their society does, engaging directly with potential members and building up their mailing lists.

Over 60 clubs and societies were represented at the fair, and several hundred Harrovians attended the event. With stalls ranging from Marmots Club (rock climbing) to the Oriental Society to Chess Club, the boys had lots to explore and choose from. Many societies set up their stalls in imaginative ways, using their expertise to their advantage. The Culinary Society, for example, had a pancake-making station where boys were able to cook themselves a tasty treat, while the Drone Society showed drone footage in real time overlooking Old Schools from the SCH. Many societies tried to lure potential members with refreshments, and the Tea Society went above and beyond by providing an 'all you can drink' tea-tasting stall.

The evening was a great success for both the attendees and the secretaries running the stalls. Plans for next year's fair are already underway, as we try to give new boys and newly appointed secretaries a platform that ensures that no boy will miss the chance to participate in a club or society that may be of interest to him. We look forward to the Societies Fair taking a permanent spot in the Harrow calendar, hopefully enhancing the experience of every boy and further highlighting the importance and benefits of the Super-curriculum.

Many thanks to all the secretaries and society representatives who took part with their excellent displays, and to NP, who supported the addition of this event to the School calendar.

UNIVERSAL CHALLENGE

The Lenten term is home to the most hotly contested inter-House competition of the academic year. No, not the House soccer or footer, nor the House art; not even the House badminton. No, this is the Universal Challenge competition, pitting Houses against each other in a ferocious knockout tournament of general knowledge, delivered on the buzzer, playing for the highly coveted Guild Challenge Cup.

Right from the first evening of competition there were some excellent matches, including a real nail-biter between Bradbys and Druries, which went down to the last few seconds when Bradbys snuck through by 230 points to 200.

In the quarter-finals, Rendalls surprised everyone (including themselves!) by knocking out reigning champions The Grove 260-210. The competition saw its first tie in living memory when The Head Master's and Elmfield finished on 240 points apiece in a breathlessly exciting game. Elmfield's captain, Aum Amin, was quickest to the buzzer in the tie-breaker question to secure semi-final qualification by the narrowest of margins. Also through to the semi-finals were The Park (winning 320-140 against The Knoll) and Bradbys (after another close win, this time against West Acre).

The two semi-finals were slightly more one-sided, with Elmfield breezing into the final with a confident 340-140 win over Bradbys and The Park showing their strength with a similarly impressive 390-180 win over the giant-killers Rendalls.

On the evening of the final, before the main event, we were treated to a third-fourth playoff between the losing semi-finalists, with Bradbys emerging victorious in a nip-and-tuck contest by 190 points to 150.

The pedigree of the finalists – particularly Amin and Henry Ridley, *The Park* (an awfully handsome chap who happens to be editing this very article...) – had been evident in the previous rounds, and the buzzing crowds anticipated a fearsome battle. Basically every boy in the two Houses had turned out to support and the atmosphere was electric. Needless to say, the match did not disappoint.

The standard was unbelievably high, with both teams lightning quick on the buzzers, and the depth of knowledge on topics ranging from *Ghostbusters* and scalene triangles to the politics

of Liliput and moons of the solar system – particularly when considering the speed of recall – was incredibly impressive. The teams were neck-and-neck throughout, and the players were in imperious form – as soon as one team looked like it might press ahead, the other came storming back.

With three minutes to go the scores were basically tied at 310-300 and it was anyone's game. The Park foursome then found some magical extra gear, scoring two complete sets (starter question plus all three bonus questions) meaning they were suddenly in possession of a 90-point advantage. Sadly for Elmfield, this was an insurmountable advantage at this late stage and, when The Park scored the next starter question with time running short, it was all but over. Moments later, the whistle for time sounded with The Park winning by 430 points to 310, the scoreline not quite reflecting the closeness of the match throughout.

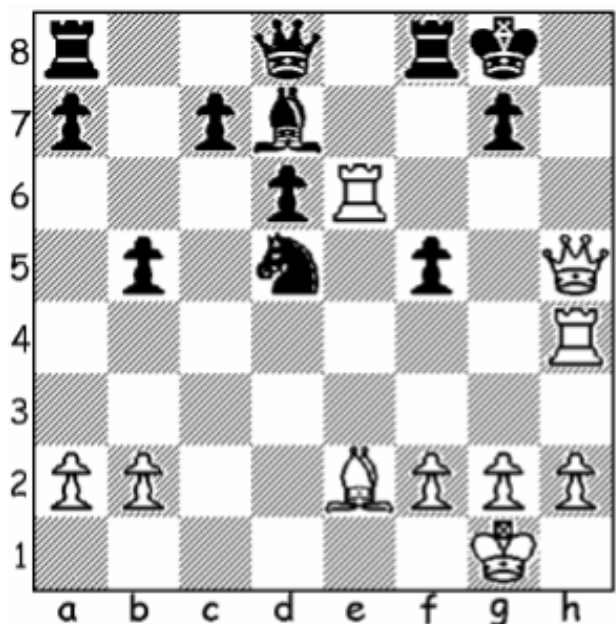
As is tradition, the winning House Master of The Park, BJDS, joined a crack team of beaks – WJC, NJM and LAM – to play The Park in an exhibition match following their win. The boys were good, but even they were no match for the experience and wisdom of the beaks' side, whose knowledge of everything from famous Swedes to Tom Cruise's wives via dog breeds was frankly encyclopaedic. Eventually, the beaks won a very enjoyable match by 290 points to 90 to put the boys in their place for another year.

OPINION

CHESS PUZZLE

The weekly chess puzzle set by JPBH (Master i/c Chess). Email him your answers (jpbh@...) – the best solver throughout the term wins a prize.

This edition's puzzle: White to play and mate in 3



Last week's answer: 1. Nxf7+ Kd7 2. Bf5+ Kc6 3. Nd8+ Kd6 4. Bf4#

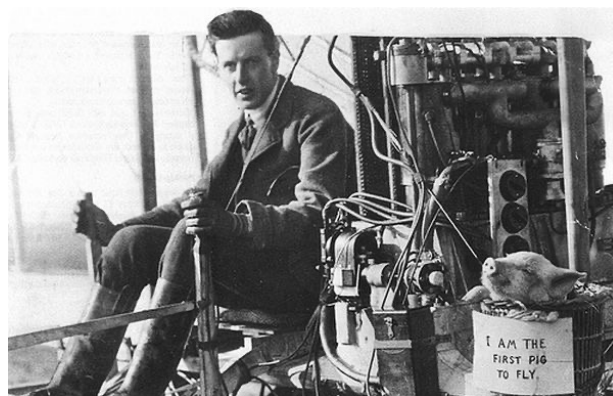
CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRS,

John Theodore Cuthbert Moore-Brabazon (*The Head Master's 18972*) was that rare phenomenon, a humorous engineer.

After Harrow, he read engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge, and spent his holidays working for Charles Rolls, the founder of Rolls Royce, as a mechanic. Though he loved cars, he loved aircraft more and, in 1908, learned to fly in France in a Voisin biplane. He became the first Englishman to make an officially recognised flight of 1,500 feet. On one of his flights, he attached a small basket to the aircraft's wing, and within it placed a piglet, to prove that "pigs can fly" – photo here.



At the outbreak of war in 1914, he joined the Royal Flying Corps. His technical disposition led him to organise and lead the photography of enemy infantry from spotter planes, a lethal activity, which he survived. By the war's end in 1918, he was a Lieutenant Colonel. He then became Tory Member of Parliament for Chatham. He was a popular MP, and developed an interest in the growing British aircraft industry.

At the outbreak of WW2, Churchill recognised his ability, and brought him into the Government. On December 18 1940, Churchill and OH members of his entourage – Moore-Brabazon, Jock Colville, Jack Churchill, and the Minister for India, Leo Amery – went to Harrow for Songs. They found that the boys sang the songs well, despite depleted numbers.

Moore-Brabazon was then promoted to Minister of Aircraft Production, a key wartime role. But on 3 September 1941, at a private dinner, he cheerfully expressed the hope that Germany and Russia would annihilate each other. This was a popular view, because everyone knew how brutally Germany and Russia had ganged up to enslave Poland, partitioning it like two wolves eating a sheep. But his remark did not go down well with The Daily Mirror or the Russians, who were supposed to be our allies. So regretfully Churchill had to "kick Brab upstairs" to the House of Lords, where he continued to support the war effort as Lord Brabazon of Tara.

After WW2, he enjoyed playing golf and became Captain of the Royal and Ancient in 1952. He also spoke in the House of Lords on a wide variety of subjects. He was most concerned about the decline of the UK aircraft industry, fearing it might become "cast in a pygmy mould". But he was embarrassed when that industry produced in 1949 an impossibly gigantic prop-driven four-engined beast called The Bristol Brabazon – it only flew once. He also spoke in favour of prostitution, claiming (wrongly) that St Augustine, when Archbishop of Canterbury, had favoured prostitution (it was St Augustine of Hippo).

In 1959, Brab visited us in our home, Queen's Hill, next to the fairway of the second hole at Sunningdale. My mater, who loved flirting with great men, was thrilled. But Brab hadn't come to play golf or flirt. He had come to do business with my pater Rocky, who was a director of the investment firm now called 3i. Brab wanted money to develop the UK greyhound

racing industry. He got it. Betting stadia still host greyhounds endlessly rotating around the six-dog tracks, where the bookies still take a relentless 15% of the gross bet.

While he and pater were discussing terms, I marvelled at Brab's menacing black Roller as it sank into our deep-gravelled drive. Its number plate was FLY 1, reflecting Brab's ownership of the first UK flying licence. Yet my over-riding memory of Brab that day was how sad he looked. He had only five years to live.

Perhaps the horrors of old age had gripped him. Like Winston, his long and illustrious career came at a price. Was their fantastic work rate was so arduous that towards the end neither could stay young at heart? So Harrovians who presently feel out-run, out-flanked, out-performed, or out-debated by other lads, especially those in the Phil, may today reflect that relative failure is a boon, for laurels, over time, can weigh like lead, e.g. many in the Phil will get arthritis.

Brab died in 1964, aged 80, but he will ever be remembered as a Giant of Old, because of the range of his endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

MIKE STONE MORETONS 1957².

HERE AND THERE

Many congratulations to Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, on being awarded his Triple Blood.

Congratulations to Graham Lambert, Greg Morgan, both *Lyon's*, and Archie Powell, *The Grove*, for being awarded their Greater London Cadet Award: Deputy Lieutenant's Certificates.

Congratulations to the following boys on achieving distinction in higher grade ABRSM examinations this term, Aanu Ajibade Grade 6 Alto Saxophone, Spencer Chan, for Grade 8 viola, and also Nathan Shepard on passing his ARSM diploma in Singing with distinction.

Well done to Joseph Wragg, Kieran Leung and Hadrian Ho, on an excellent performance of Smetana's *Piano Trio* at the finals of the South East Schools' Chamber Music Festival in London last week.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"Time is money. I think Mr Pollitt should pay me for all the time I've spent walking through his garden."

"That will be SMK." "What's an SMK?" "Dr Steven Kennedy." "Who's he?" "Head of Classics at Harrow and Editor of *The Harrovian*." "Classics, you say?" "Yes, they only teach it at certain schools." "He teaches Classics? What, you mean like *Only Fools and Horses*?"

METROPOLITAN

CHURCHILL ESSAY PRIZE

"Words are powerful", Jonathan Song, The Grove

Words are very powerful, and the preserving of precision does not mean being against the change of the language, but being against how the modern human's behaviour has changed,

and language with it, losing its precision and leading to its deformation, primarily due to how the internet and information age has changed this basis of human qualities - communication. To my greatest delight, I have found an article by Robert Fisk in *The Independent* which, albeit not perfectly, encapsulates my views with relative accuracy and in a succinct manner. Additionally, although anyone remotely reasonable would disagree with this view, I am aware that many people, with, I am sure, no bias or ignorance in their part, agree with the view of David Shariatmadari in the *Guardian*. Notice how my claim gives a sense of taking a middle ground, and the huge amounts of pauses and interjections within my sentences, along with the juxtaposition of language use between the sentence about Fisk and the one about Shariatmadari, silently persuading you. These are just some of the ways that language can persuade someone, as I am doing to you: The same ways banks and governments avoid blame and persuade you, something that is useful in real life, but nearly unnoticeable unless someone has read many books and not just the top ten websites in a google search.

Shariatmadari, aged 28, with no evidence and extremely ageist views, claimed that creativity only occurs in young people, in all aspects of life such as fashion, art, music, and therefore the same with language, making it clear that the view that the modern changes in language are useful, rather than deteriorations. Shariatmadari also, using one of the oldest rhetorical tricks [ironic, considering he is taking the view of 'new is better'], takes on the view of the oppressed, saying that it is often middle-aged or old people, stuck in their views, who are often the leaders of universities, dictionaries, and other educated long-lasting careers, and therefore they define what is the correct way of speaking, and what is bad. He would rather have illustrious careers be unceremoniously thrown out in exchange for the approval of a young leadership - approving of teenage speak, rather than speaking from experience. To impartial readers of his article, the irony and self-contradiction is clear. Many of the greatest achievements of humans had nothing to do with the age of the man or woman who innovated, it was more about how far along humanity, in general, has went. If Einstein did not exist, or if Darwin was never born, in a span of a few decades, similar theories would have propped up, shown by the fact that there are people who independently discovered similar things afterwards. This is the reason why children hardly ever make resounding discoveries - they are too inexperienced. This ageist view of Shariatmadari, that great creativity, such as Shakespeare, or Beethoven's works, would only come from young, inexperienced people who make mistakes. This is the first mistake made by his claim, discoveries are oft made, not only by young people, but older people as well, and similarly, language's evolutions are made from not only younger people, and the changes made are not necessarily good.

Meanwhile, Fisk gives an argument much more fitting of an article, about how the search for convenience in technology leads to a loss of meaning in our communication, and how having technology has reduced the variety in people, especially student's variety in thoughts and opinions, shown by their results and essays. This argument is absolutely correct, and can be backed up by many pieces of evidence from scientists and psychologists. The documentary, *Social Dilemma*, backs this argument up. Social media, like most industries, was made for making money. However, unlike most industries, this does not depend on the well-being of its users, but rather, on their addiction to the internet. The best way to do this is to have search results match one's preferences, and so having huge amounts of information on your fingertips, but it being biased to your opinions, persuading one of one's correctness, and being surprised: I have this much information to back me up, so how could someone disagree with me? This leads to people being more extreme and more closed-minded, a proven fact from the Psychology Science Association. The *Brain* by David Eagleman and *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell talk about our

brain's adaptability, and the fact that its choices are based on its memories and past experiences. Having the internet has shaped our brain to believing its correctness, and to be more polar, more unjustified. The convenience of technology and the information on our fingertips has made us more extreme, as with our language, all of which causes more conflict, more extremity, and worse language. Our language deteriorates from the internet. Fisk also said that many students merely copy off from Wikipedia, which causes less variety in their thoughts and works, less information. Although Fisk was wrong in the first part, as many students do not copy off Wikipedia, it is true that students' main source of information is the first five to ten pages that come up in a google search, a limited source, and less exploration. The first page that comes up in most topics are similar, leading student's essays to merely be paraphrases of different parts of different articles, no creativity or understanding involved. The internet leads to their paraphrasing skill's improvement, but having knowledge base reduced and convenience's importance being far larger in ones lives, the English language deteriorates with this stage of humanity. The internet is not bad, but if not used correctly, can lead to many consequences, one of which is happening - the deterioration of precision and meaning in the English language. The language must change, but certain aspects preserved, aspects now broken by the information age.

One of the greatest arguments made by Shariatmadari was that in many occasions, similar claims had been made, but not much difference was made, and that if what they said was correct, how come the world now is so much better than the past? Without as much bias, less crime, less wars, more technology, etc? Now is this not completely ludicrous? Shariatmadari asked that people should be smarter (due to language) in the past, and therefore the past should be better then now. This logic has a myriad of holes within, a plethora of absurdity within. Any reasonable fellow reader not affected by the bias caused by the internet would see these issues. First, even if language has deteriorated, that does not necessitate that society as a whole was better in the past. As we can communicate, and after the scientific revolution, technology improves as people dedicate their life to improving society, a decline would be problematic. Quite obviously, no-one can claim to know what would happen in history if something else were to occur, for instance, technology evolving in such a way so that it does not cause the degeneration of human mentality and language. However, it is quite clear to me that with the precision of our language (having certain aspects preserved, such as open-mindedness, respect and politeness) our sharing of ideas and world would have been a far better place, with not only technological improvements, but less damage, destruction, and grief. Is asking for a change of policy of technology which causes these arguments, domestic and universal, causing the world to be a worse place than it could have been, too much to ask? When these claims were made in the past, it is fair to say the uncomfortable older generation was putting some pressure on the evolution of language. The evolution and change of language is essential to modern communication, and consequently, the changing of the language is one of those things that fall under the wide umbrella of 'preservation of precision in the English language. But it is also true that this time is very different. Reiterating: the internet is not made for the users, it is made for profit. In fact, the most profitable way is to have the information on the internet agree with the biases of the user. This affects the billions of users around the world to believe their bias to be the most correct. This affects language in such ways that is completely against everything humanity should stand for. The language is not changing, or evolving for the better due to the internet. It is deteriorating in ways we cannot accept. Although similar claims have been made in the past, that was just complaints from famous authors, while this time, the emergence of social media and technology has truly changed language for the worse.

It is an irrefutable fact that technology is not made for our convenience, but for money. The most money-making aspect of technology is addiction and fuelling the rage between people with differing beliefs who have all this information in front of them that 'proves' that they are correct. Technology fuels people to use more emotional biased closed-minded language against each other rather than precise, open-minded language.

On the other hand, Fisk has made much more convincing and true arguments: that words are focused on persuasion rather than precision, much like how dictators speak, and with irrefutable evidence, showed that people, teachers, could not understand the wisdom of books of WW1, never mind the ones from the 17th century. This is a change of language that disallows us from learning the wisdom of the past. This change may be good or bad, but nevertheless locks us out from these resources where we could learn from. Adding on to the persuasion point, Fisk says that language is the basis of our communication, and yet bad grammar, persuasion skills, and use of passive voice to avoid blame. This is an incontestable argument, and it is true that language, due to the influence of technology, fundamentally changed to a means of not sharing truth, but putting one's 'truths' to others, imprinting these 'facts', whether it be opinions on cats or dogs, or avoiding blame for financial scams, language's precision being lost and shifted to persuasion has come from technology, to be exact, algorithms. This loss of precision leads our language to be different from the past in ways never seen before, and so we have trouble reading the works of the 18th century. This is a huge loss, and the loss of precision led to this loss of knowledge. The loss of precision has led to such various flaws, a plethora of ways for evildoers to get away, pitting humans' opinions against each other in a extremist war, but not with two poles, but many, a theoretical chaotic regime where every human gets angrier, with no winners.

Lastly, Shariatmadari has a convincing argument and a subpar sub-argument. The first being that language constantly changes to meet our needs, and the change is what seems, on a short scale, a decline, rather than an improvement or an evolution. The second was that a process called reanalysis allows the olden ways of speaking to be more convenient: the example given being that mine napron was turned into mine apron, which was more convenient. Reanalysis definitely helps the language move forward, and appears everywhere. This is convincing. However, this has no relation to the argument. It is true that speaking is more convenient due to reanalysis, as we do not have to speak as such: an another anadder, but this does not change the meaning, nor the vocabulary, nor the behaviour of the people speaking the language. However, the loss of precision is caused by something different altogether: technology. Some may scoff that change in language can affect behaviour, but language is something deeply engraved into culture, and its changes leads to cultural and behavioural changes. Reanalysis is one of the ways language constantly changes, and despite seeming like a decline to those used to older sayings, its is an improvement. Once again, this argument is completely true, but holds no relation whatsoever to the argument presented here: It is true that language evolves, and seems like declining all the time. However, the current time is different; due to the emergence of technology and algorithms fuelling people everywhere to be much more biased and closed-minded, the decline this time is truly a decline, rather than the effect of reanalysis or small-term changes for convenience. Words such as LOL or GTG are for convenience, and nothing is wrong about it. But social media and search algorithm's effects on our idea of knowledge, truth, effect on behaviour and language is nothing to scoff at. Both of Shariatmadari's arguments were convincing, but was completely unrelated.

All in all, the information age and its technology is not made for the users, but for profit. For profit, the easiest way is to get people addicted. This effect makes it so that all the 'information' in the fingertips of people is matched to their opinions, leading

to closed-mindedness and much more extreme mindsets, leading language to lose its precision, focusing more on persuasion, rather than precision. The loss of precision has behavioural effects caused by the change of language, not only making us lose the wisdom of the past, but also shifted to persuasion - a shift that causes people to unjustifiably disagree, instil their 'truths' to others. Despite many claims in the past, and explanations of reanalysis, this time is surely different due to the paradigm shift in our language, not just another shift of convenience. The stygian waters of fate flow by, and the emergence of technology leads to a loss of precision, a growing of persuasion and polar opinions, a change like never before. Once again: Words are very powerful, and the preserving of precision does not mean being against the change of the language, but being against how the modern human's behaviour has changed, and language with it, losing its precision and leading to its deformation, primarily due to how the internet and information age has changed this basis of human qualities - communication.

SPORT

ETON FIVES

National Champions

Johnny Barley, *The Grove*, and Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, are Eton Fives Open Champions!

An accomplished victory for the Harrow first pair winning the Open event 3-1. (12-9, 13-10, 14-15, 12-7) against Shrewsbury. This was the first victory for Harrow in the senior event since 2013.

The two best pairs in the tournament produced some highly skilled fives in with an amazing spirit between all four players.

Barley played particularly well in the first two sets and was undoubtedly the best player on the court during this time. His aggressive cutting and bravery in returning cuts allowed Harrow to get upper hand early on.

The Shrewsbury pair saved match point in the third set and went on to win that to bring it back to a 2-1 advantage to Harrow with the prospect of five sets looming.

However, both Harrow boys started to dominate as their opponents tired. Ashworth led the way with some superb returns for Harrow to establish a big lead and, although Shrewsbury came back at Harrow, the final set went Harrow's way.

This achievement from Barley and Ashworth is a result of hard practice and an understanding of the game and their own strengths. Fives is a pairs game and Barley and Ashworth have become a great example of helping each other to achieve success.

FOOTBALL

Boys v Beaks, 20 March

On Saturday 20 March, the Beaks XI took on the mighty Dylan Winward XI at soccer on the AstroTurf. Due to some beak absentees in light of late returns from the field weekend, a debate ensued almost immediately over whether the boys should be sporting and lend some players to the beaks, and if so, whom. Although ADJT made a strong argument that he thought the beaks should sign Edward Pagani, *Lyon's*, and

Ehiada Garuba, *Newlands*, unfortunately neither proved to be in the transfer budget due to what we can only presume to be anti-oligarchical sanctions. However, the beaks were able to secure Inigo Sanchez-Asiain, *The Grove*, and Henry Hancock, *Elmfield*, on short-term loans until the arrival of SMS.

Early on, the game got into a good rhythm with nice link-up play between OS, SNT and RP probing away at the boy's defence. However, some good pressing from Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, and Issah Merchant, *The Knoll*, largely stopped the beaks from hitting their towering target man of JLM. After a nice piece of skill, Noah Mazrani, *The Park*, managed to put away a dipping 30-yard finish to make the score 1-0, which, in spite of his post-match comments, was definitely not intentional.

However, it was at that point that disaster struck for the boys. Ezekiel Akinsanya, *Lyon's*, felt a pain in his hamstring. In spite of efforts from the captain to apply magic sponge and make him come back on, he was unable to carry on playing. Moreover, Dami Olugbodi, *The Park*, showed a lack of willingness to play. Evidently, despite being in kit, he was just too worried about facing one of the JDC tackles that had become so notorious. Down to ten men, the boys struggled and two goals in quick succession from the beaks, including a well-taken finish from SNT, sunk their hopes of winning the match.

Thanks must go to DH for organising such an enjoyable afternoon event.

HARROW FOOTBALL

Archie Proctor XI 5-Outcasts 2



An enjoyable match played in near perfect conditions – warm sun and deep mud! The OHs started well with bases from Zeddie Johnson Watts and Michael Keith. The outcasts responded with a fine base from Brandon Chang, *Druries*. After a positive team talk, the Outcasts started the second half with confidence. Jimmy Turner, *Elmfield*, and Antonio da Silveira Pinheiro, *The Park*, scored in quick succession, and they looked in control of the game. However slack defence let the OHs back in. There were bases from Archie Proctor and another from Michael Keith. Try as they might, the Outcasts could not break down a very physical OH defence. A final base was added by Alastair Llewellyn Palmer.

The School 4 -1 Henry Webb's XI

The XI ended the season with a flourish against Webb's XI on Hemstall 6. Archie Tait, *The Head Master's*, on debut, scored after a matter of minutes before two well-taken bases from Jack O'Connor, *Druries*, put the XI into a 3-0 lead after 15 minutes. The XI's superior fitness and footer knowledge ultimately proved too much for the young Old Harrovian side. Baba Obatoyinbo,

The Knoll, finished off a well-worked passage of play with a well-taken base, before the OHs scored a consolation base with the last kick of the game. A very good result to cap off an excellent season.



Man of the match: Jack Hadley, *The Head Master's*.

Princes XI v The Little Green Men, W 5-3

The Little Green Men are a largely Norfolk-based cohort of OHs who are assembled under the leadership of Kit Wells, *Newlands*. This annual fixture provides an excellent afternoon of football with the enthusiasm of the LGM being matched by the speed of the Princes. It took the LGM a while to find their rhythm and by the time they did they were two bases down. But they soon managed to get some well-taken yards in front of the Princes' base and by half-time the score was a tantalising 3-1 to the Princes. The LGM were sportingly granted the opportunity to play downhill in the second half, which they gratefully accepted and the Princes also agreed that they would avoid any more "soccer" bases, instead only scoring via yards. This resulted in a very competitive and enjoyable second half, but the LGM were unable to exploit their advantages and the match finished with a 5-3 win to the Princes.



Scorers: Chris Jolker, *The Grove*, (3), Federico Gherzi, *The Head Master's*, and Carrick Reid, *The Head Master's*.

FENCING

15-17 March

On 15, 16 and 17 March, the Fencing team competed in the Public Schools' Fencing Championship, held at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre in London.

On the first day, Francois de Robert Hautequere, *Lyon's*, and Sean Jarrett, *The Grove*, fought in the Senior Foil competition.

Jarrett fought well and placed 54th out of the 73 Senior Foilists. De Robert Hautequere made it into the final eight, which earned him a plaque commending his nearly flawless skill. He fought hard in his final bout, and his overall rank was an impressive fifth of 73. Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, competed in the Junior Epée competition. He just narrowly lost his final few bouts finishing in 20th place of 122.

The next day, we had three other fencers taking part in the competition. Daniel Eldridge, *The Grove*, in the Senior Epée category, Brian Chang, *Druries*, in the Junior Foil, and Henry Barker, *The Park*, in Mount-Haes Foil. It was a gripping competition and the boys supported each other through the entire day, darting around the centre to watch each other's bouts. Chang placed 36th of 111. Eldridge made it to the final 16, putting in an excellent effort and placed 16th of 88. And Barker also did very well all the way through and made it to the final 16 in his category, placing him at ninth out of 78.

The final day consisted of all the Sabre fights, in which Aiden Lee and Luke Pain, both *The Head Master's*, competed in Mount-Haes. Lee's quick and precise technique got him to the final 16, and he finished 11th of 48. Pain fought in the semi-finals and tied for third, earning a plaque for his lightning-fast blade work and his stamina.

Overall, it was an enjoyable few days for everyone and a fantastic experience for the team.

SQUASH

Londonderry Cup Final on Friday 1 April at the RAC: Harrow v Lancing

The Londonderry Cup is the premier public schools' old boys' squash tournament and is one of the oldest tournaments in the squash calendar, dating back to 1934. Harrow last won this cup in 1956 and last competed in the final in 2012, losing to Norwich.



The first match up in the five string format saw top Lancing star and 2021's British over-35s Open Champion, Tim Vail play Harrow's Angus Gillams. Angus came off the PSA tour a few years ago, having reached a career high of 62 in the world and is a talented left-hander. The match carried momentum, with Angus playing some great front-court shots but, ultimately, some precision rail roads and tight play forced errors from our Angus and led to a comfortable 3-0 victory for Tim. First blood to Lancing.

The second-string match saw Lancing's, Brandon Hanley take on Harrow's Seigo Masuda. At 6'7", Brandon was a daunting opponent to say the least, and he had the physical likeness and looks of a boxing world heavyweight champion. Both opponents played high quality premier league squash and subsequently the first game was well contested, resulting in an 11-9 triumph for Brandon. The second game was also tight but the tall man pulled in the win, resulting in 3-0 to Brandon. Second blood

to Lancing. Overall standing at 8pm – 2-0 to Lancing; Harrow had a battle on its hands.

Next match was the third string, Harrow's Alex Titchener-Barrett (Captain) against Will. From the word go, this match was tense, especially with what was at stake. The first game was close, with Alex always slightly ahead due to some tight railroads and nice short play. Alex closed out the first game 12-10 and entered the second game with confidence. Will couldn't find a way to beat the pressure applied by Alex. 3-0 to Harrow...overall standing 1-2.

The fifth string match followed – Lancing's James Barrington featuring against Harrow's Davide Bernardi. James, now in his early sixties, has clearly played some excellent squash in his days as demonstrated by his striking ability in the knock up. Davide started the match with intensity and traded quite tightly until about 5-5. He quickly realised that the match would be won through tight drops to the front of the court and this enabled him to take a comfortable 3-0 victory. The overall standing was now delicately poised at 2-2.

Everything was riding on the final rubber of the evening, the fourth string match between Harrow's Henry Prideaux and Lancing's Peter Berkley. This game lived up to everything that we thought it would be. Henry came out of the blocks in his usual effortless style, landing some great drop-shot winners leading to an 11-9 first game to Harrow. Henry battled through another long and exhausting game to go 2-0 up. The gallery was now getting fired up, with both sides' supporters witnessing a Londonderry Cup final go to the wire. The third game was again fiercely contested with Henry reaching matchball at 10-9, only to be overturned 12-10. 2 games to 1 – a slim Harrow lead.

Pete found something in the tank to grab the fourth and levelled the match at 2-2. The final game continued to be a close contest until 6-6 before Pete managed to grab a three-point lead at 9-6. At this crucial point of the match, Pete pulled up with cramp and looked to be in trouble. After a short time out for injury, the game was back on and Henry reeled the score back to 9-9. Although Pete hit an outrageous winner to get matchball at 10-9, Henry dug deep to survive the matchball to turn the game around in his favour – 11-10: matchball to Harrow! With a roar from the crowd, Henry grabbed matchball in style and ended 66 years of waiting to win the Londonderry Cup again.

Special mention should go to contributions from other Harrow team players Jerome Wilcox, Rob Dale, Hector Scott Lyon and Doug McKnight.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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



CELEBRATING OUR PAST
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE