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THE FLIGHT OF THE DRURYS

Monica Kendall, author of *"Lies and the Brontës: The Quest for the Jenkins Family"* (SilverWood, 2021)

In February 1826 the newspapers had a field day:

'The town of Harrow has lately been thrown into the utmost state of consternation, owing to the sudden disappearance and unforeseen defalcation of Mr. Mark Drury, the second master of the school, and who has been above 40 years in the Harrow establishment; and also of his son, Mr. John Drury, another master of the school; both of whom quitted the town by night, leaving enormous debts behind them; but they have since been arrested, and are both at present in prison.'



(Above: 1864, laying and blessing of the first stone for the church in Brussels (which was never built), engraving in *The Illustrated London News*. William Drury is far right, second from the right.)

The amount of debt increased at each retelling, particularly the sum owed to a local butcher, so that one journalist gasped: 'they must have eaten cattle whole'. The son's name wasn't John, he was William James Joseph Drury (1791–1878), and he was to be a huge presence in Brussels (certainly in physical size) for the next 50 years. He was then aged 34, and was to be vast irritant to my great-great-grandfather the Revd Evan Jenkins.

Evan was born three years after William on a tenant farm in mid-Wales, but he learnt English, Latin and Greek at an extraordinary school nearby. He may have intended to follow in his elder brother David's footsteps by teaching the Classics in Chelsea until he was of the age to be ordained. David had found his first curacy in West Yorkshire with Patrick Brontë, but Evan's life was to be different, though also involving the Brontës.

In 1817, across the bridge in Battersea, was a clergyman who had been a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; he had also been tutor to Viscount Althorp, the eldest son of the second Earl Spencer, after his removal from Harrow by his dissatisfied father. Later, Revd Joseph Allen must have recognised something in young Classics teacher Evan; he probably advised him that Cambridge was not out of his reach financially. Revd Allen's note that he had examined Evan and found him satisfactory still exists at Trinity College. After graduating, Evan left for Brussels to pay off his student debts. It became a permanent move. By 1835, Evan was appointed honorary chaplain to King Leopold I of the Belgians, and he took pastoral care of

Charlotte and Emily Brontë when they studied French in the early 1840s. My book purges many of the fabrications that have arisen about their stay, and while researching, I couldn't escape from William Drury.

One newspaper reported about the scandal in 1826 that Robert Peel, luckily then Home Secretary, had saved his former House Master Mark and son William from the 'inconvenience' of prison. Mark was in his 60s and the brother of the former Head Master Revd Dr Joseph Drury, who had retired in 1805. There is a myth that Byron led a gunpowder rebellion in favour of Mark being appointed the new Head Master. The only comment by schoolboy Byron about William (who was four years younger) was that he was 'no friend of mine', but Byron found a mentor in William's older cousin Henry Drury, at whose house he had lived first.

William and his father turned up in Brussels around 1828, his first wife having died. Presumably William took his six children with him; he quickly remarried (and had another ten children, at least). What he did in Brussels has not been explored until now, and what is written in the Harrow Register is misleading: 'Chaplain of the English Chapel at Brussels and to the King of the Belgians 1829–78'. Not only was there no 'King of the Belgians' until Leopold in 1831, William was not made honorary chaplain until 1862, three years before the king's death and many years after Evan Jenkins's death: Evan was the only Anglican chaplain to the king in Brussels from 1835 to 1849. And William certainly was never chaplain of 'the English Chapel'. The 'English' chapel was the Chapel Royal, shared between Belgian Protestants and Anglicans, to which Revd Jenkins was appointed from January 1827 until his untimely death in September 1849.



(Above: 1865, *Druries*, Harrow School Archives)

Going back to William's arrival in Brussels: I knew that my three times great-grandfather John Jay had a school in Brussels from 1821 (Evan Jenkins married his eldest daughter Eliza); I knew that young Anthony Trollope was a Classics assistant at William Drury's school in 1834. But no one had known where Drury's school was until I did a blitz through the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography searching for anyone who had been at my ancestor's school. I found one man, the journalist Charles Mackay, and from his memoirs I discovered that William Drury had bought John Jay's school.

That was not the cause of annoyance for my family, it was what 'Revd' William Drury did next. Whether William had any practice at being a clergyman is doubtful, as indeed is whether

he had any religious beliefs at all, but he set up a chapel across the park from Evan's Chapel Royal, which was only consecrated seven months later by an experimental 'Bishop of Europe'. After the Revolution of 1830, William somehow got himself appointed chaplain to the British embassy. This should have been Evan's by right as the senior clergyman, but the temporary ambassador was an enemy of the new King Leopold, and the king went to Evan's services.

However, under King Leopold's astute rule of the new country of Belgium – and with a new ambassador – Evan was made chaplain to the embassy. William had to move to another chapel in the suburbs (shared with Belgian Protestants), but was asked by the king to teach English literature to his nephews Prince Ernst (who called William 'Lord Byron's former playmate') and Prince Albert – already destined to marry Victoria. A few years later it is probable that Charlotte Brontë went to a few of his services, maybe just to meet one her heroes, Byron, at second hand.

William had started out as a huge annoyance to my ancestor, but when I was researching in the archives in Leuven, Belgium, I came across a short note by Evan addressed to William. It was tucked into William's register: 'I have a very bad cold in the head. Will you have the kindness to inter for me a poor woman's child?' It may have been written less than a year before Evan died at only 54. The irritating William had become a colleague, and he officiated at Evan's funeral service at the Chapel Royal.

Almost 40 years on from his escape from Harrow, William attended the ceremony of the laying of the first stone of a church solely for Anglicans in Brussels, organised and fought for by Evan Jenkins's sons, as seen in the photo (William is the tall man to the far right of 'Soapy Sam', the Bishop of Oxford). When I was sent a photo of cousin Henry's house Druries taken only a year later, in 1865, it struck me that William simply wouldn't recognise his old school. The school in Brussels failed and William turned to private teaching, yet he survived to baptise five of Evan's grandchildren, and long enough for King Leopold to finally make him an honorary chaplain. But Evan's note that William had preserved in his church register is poignant: however annoying and unorthodox William had been when he first arrived, he had become a trustworthy colleague.

The Editors would like to thank Monica Kendall for her contribution of this article to *The Harrovian*. Monica went to North London Collegiate School a long time ago. After her Master's degrees at St Hugh's College, Oxford, and University College London, and spending far too long as a book editor, she is now doing a PhD at the University of Aberystwyth. Her book is available at UK bookshops and online, monicakendall.com.

NEVILLE BURSTON PRIZE

Summer Term, Adjudicator Alex Chamberlain OH

Arguably one of the most prestigious cultural accolades of the Arts calendar, this year's Neville Burston Prize was a hive of talent, innovation and experimentation. Harrow was privileged to welcome back to the hill OH Alex Chamberlain (*Druries 1968*) to adjudicate this annual award made to an Upper Sixth student for outstanding work during his final year. Alex is an artist we're proud to call one of our own, and one who famously was commissioned by the Army to produce an oil painting of the 100-year-old veteran Captain Sir Tom Moore, who raised over £32 million for NHS Charities. I'd like to extend my thanks to all the Upper Sixth Art beaks, LWH, CRM and NEP for their generous support, and to Pam and Terry for their awesome effort in organising and setting up yet another superb exhibition in the Pasmore Gallery, alongside the metropolis of exhibitions which were available to boys on Speech Day. The writer of this article hopes to convey the adjudicator's sentiments when referring to the following artworks.

Rising to victory with an admirable effort was George Phillips, *The Head Master's*, whose recreation of the British Museum was genuinely very impressive. Phillips' passion boomed from the walls in the form of exquisitely refined pencil drawings and wonderfully curated objects. Alex noted the collections mature coherence, which had the ability to draw one's imagination far and wide, featuring an eclectic mix of subject matter. His final remark was that the work appeared to him like a deconstructed menu in a three-Michelin-star restaurant.

Next was Freddie Strange, *Newlands*, who offered an ambitious enlargement of the human hands. For the adjudicator, the zoomed in gesture conjured imagery of parental care or spiritual comfort. Alex recollected a past surfing adventure when he'd run in to a spot of trouble and, indeed, may have appreciated these to have been hands on, so to say... Others were intrigued by the contrast of the two hands, one tense and one relaxed, perhaps hinting to a more conceptual meaning.

Presenting a boldly curious and intensely thought-provoking entry, Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, submitted a pond of black liquid comprising of floating white blocks. One might have been inclined to observe the dark colour leaching into the lightness of the floats as a representation of the pollution caused by global warming, or the marbled pattern of the contaminated ink as a nod towards oil spills, further highlighting man's pillage of earth, for want of not sounding too melodramatic. Alex explained he could picture a lone polar bear standing of one of the structures wondering how long until it melted...

Then we had Adam Auret, *Lyon's*, who had constructed a mechanic sculpture that appeared as if a perpetually running fountain or pump, reminding the adjudicator of M. C. Escher's iconic staircase. Alex was very impressed by the quality of the workmanship and the seamless marriage of the multiple components which seemed to reside in perfect harmony.

Demonstrating an immense amount of portraiture prowess, Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, provided a show-stopping montage of miniature heads morphing into one amalgamation.

There was clearly a huge amount of care and attention to detail, using a subtle and reduced palette, reminding Alex of a collection of exquisite Roman coins. As a portrait artist himself, Alex took a particular interest in the way in which the same figures were portrayed in a different way or perspective, left painfully ignorant of the relationship Gray's had with the many personalities. Another striking part of the piece was the mark making around the edges, which was like Van Gogh's signature style.

Charlie Read, *The Grove*, provided two fantastically textured and vibrant paintings, residing in style somewhere between Francis Bacon and Sargy Man. The mark making seemed expressive, spontaneous and exciting, allowing the viewer to interpret them in their own way. It was laudable that Charlie had not tried to dictate the meaning to us, though Alex did emphasise not being afraid to own your own work and to dictate if you so wish.

Pioneering an intelligent reference to the historic way of storytelling and iconography, Shubh Malde, *Elmfield*, submitted an outrageously dynamic and eye-catching large-scale tryptic. Alex suggested perhaps a varnished glaze would lift the vibrancy, nonetheless these marvellous creations were superb.

Next was Joe Smith, *Bradlys*, offering an optical-illusion-esque pen drawing. Standing before it had a remarkably calming influence, paired with a deep sense of respect for the certain multitude of hours and concentration Smith must have invested in it. Alex was inspired to research Morse Code having seen the work and realised the pattern of dot/dashes were on the whole V for Victory. Touché. The rolling waves and folding lines were emblematic of the famous Starry Night.

In a similar fashion, Max Gu, *Rendalls*, also submitted a strong and satisfying-to-look-at piece of work, combining a range of media and techniques on the canvas. Alex spoke highly of its spectacularly luminescent qualities and commented specifically

on the tremendous execution of the barcode, which juxtaposed with the free-flowing brush work with unparalleled finesse. The complementary colours used were thoroughly successful.

Evoking Aboriginal art, Otto Seymour, *Bradlys*, presented an expressive collection of human heads in energetic bright colours. The rich blue wash and background shone through the gaps majestically, adding an ethereal dimension to the work.

Alex also remarked that he very much enjoyed John Koutalides', *West Acre*, excitingly decorated canvas, combing mathematical shapes, nature and dash of cubism. The bold scale was brave and paid off in healthy dividends. Ricky White's, *The Knoll*, piece again had a championing and distinctive colour palette with noteworthy overlays. White's creative instinct was clearly apparent and exciting to see. Leo Sun's, *Bradlys*, architectural masterpiece was particularly intriguing, seeming to unravel before the viewer. Alex noted he wanted to see more of this.

Showcasing his colossal and awe-inspiring installation, Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, generously bequeathed his immersive reflection on our times. With the wall-to-wall collages, projected film and chosen soundtrack, one could quite easily have been in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, or perhaps the Pompidou in Paris. The selection, positioning and curation of the articles, shadows and lights came together in powerful force of imagination.

In conclusion, many thanks again to all those who entered, the Art beaks and Technicians. We look forward to coming back to the Pasmore as soon as possible!

INTER-HOUSE DT COMPETITION

DT Studios, 10 June

The DT Department hosted the annual inter-House DT competition in June. Due to Covid-19 regulations, the usual teams of four to six from each House were not possible. This resulted in two-man teams stepping up to compete. This year's challenge was to carve out two identical miniature race cars in a 3x4x10 inch blocks of foam with nothing but a cutting knife, saw, pencil, wheels and axel.



There were a few miscellaneous red herrings: a motor that required soldering and a battery power case that bizarrely came with a battery of the wrong size and shape. I have no doubt this was the result of the DT Department's fine ingenuity and spontaneous personae. The foam blocks had pre-carved holes for canisters of compressed air which would be used to launch the robust models down a F1 one in Schools track at high speeds. Most of the models made it. The competitors were given one hour to prepare two cars to fit a design specification and be as identical as possible. Tactics used to achieve this varied from pair to pair. Some groups were made up of valiant Shells and Lower Sixth while others consisted of some more laid-back Removes who were just happy to be there.

Carving the foam block was trickier than you would initially think: too little pressure and you mildly dent the block, too much and you suddenly find you have two blocks. Some very meticulous designs were attempted alongside more cartoonish and daring ones. After this time, the adjudicating beaks scrutinised the cars and began the racing. Each team member was required to practise their reaction time on the start pad. Here, they had a green-light countdown, not dissimilar to that at the beginning of an F1 race, then had to react and press the button as soon as possible for a time. One by one the Houses worked through their cars, attaching the air canisters, practising their reaction times, and then racing. The cars travelled the 20m track in a variety of times. They could not veer off and crash into the walls. Finally, after the excitement of the afternoon with a dozen cars raced and two dozen boys waiting for the result, the points and scoring were controlled by the Right Honourable DMD. With some concoction of a score from "scrutineering" and the racing result itself, the final scores, although very close, were Moretons in third place, The Grove in second place, and Newlands taking the win. After the results were out there were many sudden thank-yous and goodbyes but notably also many who stayed behind to help tidy the workshop in good spirits.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

End of Summer Term, Nicklas Høst-Verbraak, The Head Master's, "Amino acids: how they shaped the world"

In May, Nicklas Høst-Verbraak, *The Head Master's*, addressed the Scientific Society with a lecture titled 'Amino acids: how they shaped the world'. As seems to be the recurring issue with the write-ups for Scientific Society lectures, some of the more complicated and/or involved topics, be it special relativity, or the quantum nature of light and colour, are less-than-simple to understand for those boys and beaks reading them in *The Harrovian* or the Scientific Society's own *Collectanea*. In order to address this, we'll try to give a quick summary of the topic in layman's terms in order to promote understanding of the topic. Amino acids are often known as the "building-blocks of life" and they are organic (carbon-containing) structures that have two main groups on them – an amine (NH_2 group) and a carboxylic acid (COOH group) – that are one carbon apart from each other. On this carbon, an R group is present, which is a side chain (which could be methyl, ethyl, phenyl etc.). The amino acids can react between individual molecules to form poly-amino acids, also known as proteins, which leads to cells and life.

Moving on to the actual lecture, which we're sure you are all much more invested in than the summary, Høst-Verbraak began with introducing amino acids, as the structural monomers of proteins (the individual molecules that make up proteins), and that we know of at least 500 naturally occurring amino acids. Of those 500, only 22 are proteinogenic (present in genetic code). After water, Høst-Verbraak explained, amino acids make up the second largest component of human tissue, as they make up proteins. The lecture then moved on to explain the general structure of the amino acid, where the side chain, R, could be one of many structures. The variance of the R group and, hence, the variance of the types of amino acids is classified in four groups: amino acids with electrically charged side chains; amino acids with polar, yet uncharged, side chains; amino acids with non-polar, hydroscopic side chains; and other special cases. Nicklas specified that, if the amino acid has an aliphatic side chain, then it is called a branched-chain amino acid (BCAA), and that a certain proteinogenic amino acid, proline, is the only proteinogenic amino acid that is bonded to the α -amino acid group (the α refers to the amine group directly bonded to a carbon which is, in turn, directly bonded to the carboxylic acid carbon).

For the astute chemists or, perhaps, physicists among the readers of this publication, you may have realised that there is a Brønsted-Lowry acid/base pair present in the amino acid structure. As you may have guessed, the proton from the carboxylic acid group forms a carboxylate and a hydronium ion with water, a proton from which is then transferred to the amine group, forming a so-called zwitterion (double ion). All aqueous amino acids can exist as either molecules or zwitterions. The ratio between the two is dependent on the local pH. Amino acids floating around in the blood, and the amphiprotic nature of amino acids, help them regulate blood pH levels.

Amino acids often react between themselves to form short chains (peptides) and longer chains (polypeptides) forming, as none could have guessed, amide/peptide bonds (the latter of which term a certain Dr Lockett despises the use of, so be cautious). Each amino acid bonds to two others, and the order of the chain is determined by DNA codons. Twenty of the amino acids are encoded by the universal genetic code, whereas the other two are added by unique synthetic mechanisms. Høst-Verbraak moved on to the non-proteinogenic amino acids which, he defined, are not found in proteins or by cellular mechanisms. A caveat to this is that these amino acids can be found in proteins if these amino acids are formed by post-translational modification. This aforementioned modification would be essential for the functioning of the protein. Others are not found in proteins at all, like γ -aminobutyric acid, which is used as a neurotransmitter.

As to the question of where we, as humans, get amino acids from, Høst-Verbraak explained that 20 amino acids are taken up into cells or are oxidised into urea and carbon dioxide, and, in food, nine of these 20 are essential, since the body cannot synthesise them. Without these nine essential amino acids, certain chemical pathways would cease functionality and death would be on the agenda in the not-too-distant future. Regarding how amino acids are synthesised on a commercial level, mutant bacteria (not quite Hulk-level) that will over-produce certain individual amino acids can be used as one option, or enzymes can convert intermediates into amino acids, or nitrogen can be assimilated into other organic compounds as glutamate.

Finally, Høst-Verbraak described how amino acids changed the world: by making up proteins and enzymes (the structures by which life can exist); by stabilising pH in complicated systems, such as the vascular system, and by helping transport and muscular systems. Fairly obviously, as Høst-Verbraak pointed out, without amino acids and without their formation in the original soups of atoms, life as we know it wouldn't exist and humanity would be but a thought.

Høst-Verbraak's talk concluded with a barrage of questions from the audience, which concluded a very well-prepared and well-given lecture.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Edward Cleeve, Lyon's, "Carbenes", 16 June

On Wednesday 16 June, the Scientific Society heard a lecture from Edward Cleeve, *Lyon's*, on the topic of 'Carbenes', a functional group in organic molecules.

A carbene is a neutral species with two bonds and two spare electrons, following the general formula $R\text{:}C\text{:}R$. This means that there are six electrons in total in the outer shell. As a result, carbenes are highly reactive as they can be modelled as having both a positive and negative charge at the same time. Interestingly, they also require a sp^2 hybridisation.

There are two different types of carbene. The first type, which the talk largely focused on, contained both available electrons in the sp^2 orbital and was known as a singlet. Singlets contain bonding angles of around 102 degrees. The second type is a triplet, which is more energetically stable as a result of having

1 electron in the sp^2 orbital and 1 in the leftover p orbital. Triplets contain a bond angle of 120-140 degrees.

One major reaction involving carbenes is cyclopropanation, which involves using diazomethane to form methylene and nitrogen under light or heat. Cleeve then showed the difference in mechanism between singlets and triplets. Singlet reactions are stereospecific and thus involve the transfer of a pair of electrons. The triplet mechanism however involves only the movement of a single electron, rendering it as stereospecific because the C-C sigma bonds can rotate.

Another key reaction is intramolecular cyclisation, which eases the creation of cyclopentane. This is a task that would ordinarily be difficult because there is a 60 degree bond angle. Carbenes can also react through C-H insertion when one of the starting reactants is a haloalkane. They are also reactions which reduce a ketone to an alkene via Bamford Stevens reactions using an aromatic catalyst. For this to work successfully, neighbouring carbons must have an alpha hydrogen.

Cleeve then went on to show the existence of persistent carbenes, which are stable carbenes. One example is N-Heterocyclic carbenes. They are stabilised by steric hinderance and involve an orbital overlap with a nitrogen atom. While singlet carbenes can be stored indefinitely because of their high relative stability, triplets have half-lives of only seconds.

Carbenes are primarily used to generate cyclopropane, which is used in general anaesthetics. However, they are also involved in making a group of antibiotics known as fluoroquinolones, which contain cyclopropane. Finally, persistent carbenes can be used as catalysts in other reactions.

Thanks must go to Edward Cleeve for giving an insightful lecture during trials week.

PEEL SOCIETY

Munachi Nnatuanya, "International Espionage in the Spanish Civil War", OS 5, 8 June

Over the course of the term, the Peel Society heard talks around the subject of espionage. The concluding meeting welcomed Munachi Nnatuanya to speak about 'International espionage in the Spanish Civil War'.

The lecture was concise and yet packed with interesting facts and stories. First, the Spanish Civil War was set in its context. It was suggested that this was of pivotal importance among the origins of the Second World War, and that it is sometimes overlooked when the focus is exclusively on Hitler and the actions of Germany under the Nazis.

The talk then took us back to the declaration of the Spanish Republic in April 1931 and the ongoing rivalry between the first, left-wing government and the conservatives who subsequently overthrew it. Against this background, the talk covered the wider geopolitical clash between the communist Soviets and the West, and looked at the roles played by some British figures in the conflict.

The actions of the Cambridge Five – Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt, Kim Philby and John Cairncross, all British spies educated at Cambridge University – was explored. In particular, we learned about Philby's mission, under cover as a reporter for *The Times* newspaper, to assassinate the Spanish right-wing leader, General Franco, probably on the orders of Josef Stalin. The plot, of course, failed and Franco went on to win the Spanish Civil War and to rule Spain until he died in 1975.

Another famous British protagonist in the Spanish Civil War was George Orwell, who reported from the front line and had loose connections to the Spanish Marxist party, the POUM, who were caught and imprisoned.

The talk concluded that espionage did not play a major role in the result of the Spanish Civil War. However, after the war,

conservative rule continued in Spain and eventually, on Franco's death, the monarch was restored. In many respects, therefore, Spain's politics came full circle, and Europe's wider history played out elsewhere, in the battles against Hitler and then against Soviet communism, in both of which fights espionage was a central and effective weapon.

METROPOLITAN

SUDOKU

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“EGRESS”

by Rishaad Bhushan, The Grove

He looks at the clock - Seventeen minutes. A flash of faces followed by a flash of lightning. Must I go? Yes. His hands desperately attempting to mask the tears that threaten to break free at any moment. The clock - sixteen now. Snatches of conversation like whispering willows. The velvety red doublet scraping against his knees. The clock strikes twelve. A toll. Another. Another. It barely registers in the boy's head. To him, it sounds like he is underwater, trapped under his unwillingness. Suddenly, it stops. The absence of noise funnels him back to a hazy state of reality. Fifteen minutes.

A sense of urgency blankets the house. Assortments of clothing are being stuffed into assortments of bags. His quivering hands are steadied. The pale, cool hands take his. He thinks they belong to the woman kneeling in front of him, who seems to vaguely resemble his mother. She speaks to him, but he cannot hear the words; they wash over him like a wave. He does not want to talk right now, so he nods and hopes she will go away. At last, she stands up, ruffles his blond curls, and walks towards one of the many ghosts in the room.

It is quiet now. Good. He likes quiet. The ba-tup noise that snow makes on dirt. The dexterous footfalls of a robin. Even the swish that the stream in his favourite spot made. Now he thinks

of his woods. His sanctuary. In the spring, countless vividly green leaves lining the woodlands. The familiar crunch his boots made last autumn, when he had walked in the maelstrom of red and yellow for the better part of a day. Then, in the winter, the silent beauty of the snowy white trees as they waited to be reborn, like great oak phoenixes. He distantly wondered if he would ever be back to see them.

The boy glances up at his unforgiving timekeeper. I see him note his last ten minutes have begun. As he looks up, I see his once-shimmering, yet still startlingly blue eyes filled with pain. A feeling of immense sadness courses through me, sending a shiver down my spine despite the fire that flickered not more than two elne away. It looks as if an unseen, divine hand had plucked a sage's eyes and replaced with them. Anciently wistful, yet with so much sorrow. I am supposed to be there for him, yet why do I not go to his side? I yearn for him, yet I do not. I sympathise with him, yet I do not feel any relatability. I care for him, yet I still find myself frustratingly coming back to the same question; Do I?

‘Fetch him.’

Irena walks down the shadowy hallway towards the sitting room. She glances down at the yellowing stone tiles – she really must sweep them at some point. She approaches the polished wooden door, and gently eases it open. There, in the centre of the room, he sat. Head down in his lap, hands pressing his temple and eyes screwed tightly shut. It takes a few tries for him to look up at her. He lifts his chin up almost imperceptibly, asking the unseen question that he already knows the answer to. She feels a pang in her heart from the deep knot of emotion that she kept locked away for the last four years. Eyes brimming with tears and clutching her heart so to not let it break free, she nodded. She watched him push himself out of his stool with sallow hands, catching the look of silent resignation upon his doll-like features. Suddenly, she felt tiny arms envelope her. His final words to her were so quiet she barely heard them.

‘Thank you.’

The back of the carriage. I sit upon my plush seat which now feels like a stone slab. Suddenly, the world starts tilting to the left, and then to the right. To the left again. No. Not now. I want to see my trees before I go. It still comes, and my sense of nausea grows. Then, like so many times before, piercing pain streaks through my head like a stray bolt of lightning. I clutch my head in my hands, pressing my temples harder and harder, willing it to go away, scared of what comes next. Then they come. The voices that have always been locked into some deep, dark, corner of my head that I never willingly set free. They hiss words which seem to seep into my soul, serpentine whispers that drip with black blood. Go away. Look at your home for the last time. No, I will see it again. Your woods – gone. No, mother said I will be back. Do you really believe her? She has done nothing for you. Of course, she has! She has... Listen to yourself. You are never coming back here, and you know it. NO! I will come back here. Heads turn towards me, but their faces are missing, they are but shimmering outlines. Yet I know they will have that look on their face, the look that you would give an injured sparrow laying on the side of the road. Worthless fool. You were nothing but a waste of – Screaming, I push the black words out of my mind, yet their dark curse still lingers, sending a jolt of stabbing pain throughout my body. I hate it. I hate it all. I hate being looked at like an exotic animal. I hate doing what everyone tells me to do. It was then that I made up my mind. As a sense of calm fell upon me, I pushed open the carriage door and dropped down onto the rough floor, welcoming the pressure the impact sent through me. I straighten my back and walk away from the carriage. Unsurprisingly, no one stops me. I walk till I feel the breeze on my face and find myself in the woods. My woods. I carry on walking until the last black glimpse of the prison I called a home recedes behind the thick foliage. And then, for the first time since I can remember, I smile.

ARMY SCHOLARHIPS

Luke Simpson, *Druries*, Jack O'Connor, *Druries*, and Greg Morgan, *Lyon's*, attended a rigorous long-duration selection process with the Army leadership board and have been awarded the status of Army Scholar, which, while it is a financial award, is more importantly a national recognition of their developing military skills and significant leadership potential – very well done to those boys.

CERN BEAMLIN

International Physics Competition

In a first for Harrow, two teams of boys entered the CERN Beamline for Schools International Competition. Team Positronly Beaming, comprising Fifth Formers Aum Amin, *Elmfield*, Nurali Bibolat, *Rendalls*, Dante Doros, *Elmfield*, Christopher Liu, *The Head Master's*, Jonathan Riddell-Webster, *The Grove*, and Henry Webster, *Druries*, proposed an experiment 'Detecting Lorentz Symmetry violations using synchrotron radiation'. Team Heinz Beamline, consisting of Lower Sixth boys Jonathan Barley, *The Grove*, Brandon Chang, *Druries*, Edward Cleeve, *Lyon's*, Edos Herwegh Vonk, *Newlands*, David Xu, *The Grove*, and Remove Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*, proposed 'Investigating the absorption of electrons and positrons by different metals'. Both teams reached the final stage of the evaluation process therefore placing them in the top 10% of the 289 teams from across the globe who submitted entries.

IN MEMORIAM

George Williams, *Moretons*, died on Sunday 30 August, peacefully following a long battle with cancer. Many boys and beaks knew him well. George showed us in his illness and before it his unbridled courage, care for others and cheerfulness in the face of the greatest of adversity. His is a bright and inextinguishable light for all time. He was elected a Monitor last term and, while he could not collect his key from the Head Master at Speech Room at the start of term, although having earned it three times over and more, all boys and beaks stood for him in remembrance and respect.

A full memorial service will take place in the School Chapel in October with George's family, friends and Harrovians.

CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

At the end of the Summer term, the cohort of Lower Sixth chemists voluntarily entered into the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This is an extremely challenging, but fun, exam paper that is taken nationally. This year, eight boys achieved a Gold award, which ranked them in the top 10% of all students taking the exam. While this is a significant achievement in itself, particular mention must go Henry Webster, *Druries*, and Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, who secured their Gold awards as a Remove and Fifth Former respectively – a very rare achievement. The most prestigious prize, the Roentgenium award, is given to the top 0.5% of students. This year Brandon Chang, *Druries*, was successful in achieving this coveted award. Chang was subsequently invited to a residential workshop and natural sciences immersion weekend at Cambridge University.

THE TOP OF THE BENCH

Royal Society of Chemistry's National Champions

In the Summer term, a team of Harrovians in the Lower School took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench final. Competing against the other winning schools from around the UK, the Harrow team managed to come out on top as the National Champions after answering all of their questions correctly. The Harrow team consisted of Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, Penn Behagg, *Elmfield*, Henry Webster, *Druries*, and team captain Aum Amin, *Elmfield*.

BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Junior Physics Challenge

Last term, all Remove physicists entered the British Physics Olympiad's Junior Physics Challenge, where 34 boys achieved a gold award, 58 a silver and 52 a bronze. Special mention goes to the top scorers Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*, Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, Henry Webster, *Druries*, Michel Quist, *The Grove*, and June Hyun, *West Acre*.

SPORT

ATHLETICS

One of last year's leavers, Jack Gosden, *Lyon's*, while still competing for Harrow in July at the English Schools Championships, broke his own School record in 400m, it stands now at 49.71s

Four boys participated in the English Schools' Athletics Championships held in July and achieved the following results:

Cameron Knight, <i>Newlands</i>	11th in the U15 long jump
Leonardo Lord, <i>Lyon's</i>	11th in the U15 discus
Iyanu Ademuwagun, <i>Druries</i>	8th in the U17 shot put
Jack Gosden, <i>Lyon's</i>	6th in the U19 400m, lowering his own school record to 49.71s.

CRICKET

End of Summer Term, 22 June

Junior Colts A v Hampton School – Middlesex County Cup semi-final

Harrow 134 for 9, Hampton 92 all out, won by 42 runs

Harrow show courage and determination to recover from 78 for 8 to post an excellent 134 for 9 off their 20 overs. The gutsy batting performance was complemented by a clinical bowling and fielding display to run out eventual winners.

Ben Taylor, *The Knoll*, 37* and 2 for 17, Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, 2 for 18,

Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, 4 for 7.

Yearlings C v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Boys-Under-14B, lost by 5 wickets

Harrow batted first but were only able to muster 93 runs in a disappointing innings in which early wickets were lost through skilful catches from Habs. Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, was able to notch 35 runs, however, Harrow struggled to establish themselves at the crease. Harrow bowled well putting their batsman under pressure early on. However, there number 3 was

able to build a formidable innings of 40 off 38 balls which meant that Harrow were caught comfortably with 23 overs to spare.

Yearlings D v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Boys-Under-14C, lost by 7 wickets

Harrow batted well, if a little conservatively, to post 80-4 in 20 overs, with Sam Howes, *The Grove*, scoring 17 (second only to Extras, the omnipresent Yearling). After a swift innings break, the run chase was on. Despite some early breakthroughs by Julian Gudgeon, *Druries*, and Zoro Paintal, *West Acre*, Harrow struggled to keep the run rate low against a strong batting lineup, who made the chase in 13 overs. While not the result we hoped for, the Yearlings D know they have focus on hitting more boundaries.

Yearlings E v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Boys-Under-14D, lost by 13 runs

Colts A v Eton College, 23 June

Lost by 11 runs

Eton scored 213 off their 50 overs as Harrow let them off the hook after being 108-6. Kit Keey, *Druries*, scored an excellent 50 in reply for Harrow but it was just a few runs to many to chase in the end.

1st XI v I Zingari Harrow 318 for 3, I Zingari 78 all out, Harrow won by 240 runs

The School, 1st XI

	B	R
J Connell c E Grimston b F Fox	115	96
C Ellis c F Richardson b H Thomson	51	40
T Sheopuri c P Eckersley b W Dobson	2	10
V Patel not out	69	72
M Ferreira not out	66	41
Extras		15
Total	318	for 3

	O	M	R	W
Ned Greville Williams	9.0	0	73	0
Harry Thomson	14.0	0	86	1
William Dobson	10.0	0	50	1
Freddie Fox	7.0	0	71	1
Charles Pelham	3.0	0	29	0

	B	R
P Eckersley c J Richardson b H Smith	25	5
S Crawley c C Ellis b H Smith	24	28
N Wiggin c T Sheopuri b J Richardson	30	5
H Richardson † c T Sheopuri b J Richardson	30	6
W Dobson c J Connell b C Ellis	8	0
E Grimston b J Richardson	5	0
C Pelham lbw b J Richardson	36	0
F Fox b C Ellis	4	0
F Richardson b C Ellis	4	0
H Thomson c J Koutalides b P Ashworth	58	19
Ned Greville Williams not out	15	2
Extras		13
Total	78	for 10

	O	M	R	W
H Smith	7.0	2	28	2
J Koutalides	6.0	2	14	0
C Ellis	7.0	3	8	3
J Richardson	13.0	7	6	4
P Ashworth	6.2	1	12	1

Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, 115, Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, 69*, Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, 66*, Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, 51 & 3 for 8, John Richardson, *Elmfield*, 4 for 6.

Harrow batted first with Johnny Connell, and Cameron Ellis, both *Rendalls*, ensuring that the XI got off to a bludgeoning start by punishing the bad ball explicitly, preventing any attempts from the I Zingari bowlers to settle. The opening stand was, in the end, broken for 92, when Ellis was removed for a punishing 51, before Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, was taken at slip just overs later leaving Harrow 122/2 after 19 overs. With Harrow's bright start slightly curtailed by the I Zingari double, Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, batted in a proactive but measured and robust manner, as Connell continued to play fluently and brought up his third century of the season; a sublime knock which included 20 fearsomely elegant boundaries. He was eventually caught for a classy 115, ending the 76-run partnership for the third wicket, which had put Harrow firmly in the driving seat. Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, with instruction to continue Harrow's impressive scoring rate, gave himself time to adjust to conditions before hitting four sixes on his way to an aggressive 66* off 41 with Patel ensuring that the backbone of Harrow's innings was to remain firm after Connell's dismissal as he eased to a near run a ball 69*. Harrow's free-flowing run-fest finished after just 43 overs, with 318 runs on the board, when captain Sheopuri called time on the innings, the run rate having never dropped below six after the second over.

The declaration, at around 3.15pm, meant that Harrow's bowlers had the dual blessing of runs to play with and time in hand. Herbie Smith, *Newlands*, and John Koutalides, *West Acre*, took the new ball. The former bowled quickly and with intimidating line and length to pick up both I Zingari openers, while the latter was miserly from the other end to ensure that the pressure remained firmly on the visiting side. Smith finished his fiery spell with 2 for 28, allowing Ellis and John Richardson, *Elmfield*, to take the reins in Harrow's search for ten wickets and a win. The pair combined to take six wickets in a freak eight-over spell where I Zingari added just four runs to their total, falling from 46 for 2 to 50 for 8. When Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, came on to replace Ellis, Harrow were setting very aggressive fields, with men under lids and round the bat, in an attempt to wrap up what would be a comprehensive victory. The spinning pair bowled threateningly, challenging the edges and front pad of the visitors' remaining batsmen, who had an uphill battle to steal a draw; and, after Richardson took his fourth wicket, there was, in the end, some resistance from the visitors, whose final stand amassed ten overs before Ashworth wrapped up a convincing Harrow victory, I Zingari being bowled out for a measly 78.

2nd XI v Hampton School, Harrow 172 all out, Hampton 131 all out, Harrow won by 41 runs

Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*, 42, Henry Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, 33

There are few teams I have coached whose individual members have enjoyed each other's company as much as this year's 2nd XI, and the journey from the Hill through Hayes and Hounslow and onwards to Hampton consisted of cheerful and constant chatter about Finds dinners, School appointments and plans for the summer in prospect. Of course, the 2nd XI had much to prove this week after their disastrous defeat to Radley last Saturday, and as glimpses of the River Thames hailed our imminent arrival at Hampton, it was to my relief that conversation finally took a cricketing turn. George Hamblin, *Moretons*, and James Nelson, *Bradlys*, who play their club cricket at Teddington and Richmond respectively and are established figures in the borough of Richmond's cricketing circles, were able to provide some useful intelligence on the Hampton side lying in wait.

Having talked Hampton into a 35-over game, the ever-dependable Henry Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, won the toss and elected to bat. Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, fresh from ten days of self-isolation, struggled to get bat on ball on a pitch with some variable bounce, and his frustration was growing until he was bowled on 1 in the sixth over by a ball that kept very low indeed. The giant Ferneyhough strode to the middle and immediately started to punish anything remotely wayward, and at 30-1 off 10 overs, supported by Jack Hedley, *The Head Master's*, he had laid a foundation on which Harrow could build. However, a dropped catch at mid-off led to complete confusion between the two batsmen in the 11th over, and Hedley was run out on 8. Just as he was getting going, Ferneyhough was bowled on 33 by a good ball, catching his pad with his bat as he looked to defend, making the score 70-3 off 15. Hamblin batted with better intent than we have seen from him so far this season, running aggressively and decisively between the wickets until he was trapped lbw just after drinks to another ball that kept low. Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*, played much as usual, providing a bit of oomph in the middle order, making 42 in total. He hit two sixes in his innings, his first ever in a School match, and one was a serious shot straight over mid-on. Thank goodness he provided some resistance because there was a succession of wickets in quick order at the other end. Harvey Douglas, *Elmfield*, did little on debut, spooning the ball to mid-off, Alex Morrison, *Newlands*, was caught as he looked to hit a ball square on the leg side, the fielder diving to take a good catch to his left, and Sachin Vyas, *Elmfield*, tried to cut a straight ball and played the ball on to his stumps in the process. Breeze was eventually bowled by a good ball that moved off the pitch and found its way past his bat as he looked to play the single shot in his armoury, but there were still some competent batsmen to come at the bottom of the order. Oli Newall, *Druries*, Nelson and Archie Powell, *The Grove* batted sensibly, not least by rotating the strike, making 13, 15* and 10 respectively towards the end of the innings. After the failure of most of the middle order, they were crucial in ensuring that Harrow survived almost the full allotment of overs and posted a total that would require Hampton to score at a rate of almost five an over.

The Harrow bowlers were much encouraged by the way the pitch played in the first innings, and the mood in the camp at tea was that 172 was a defendable total. And so it proved. Newall and Powell started economically, both taking 1-17 in 5 overs and 4 overs respectively. Newall's wicket was just about as good a ball as I have seen at this level, an inswinging yorker that left the batsmen with very few options. Newall will certainly be contending for a place in the 1st XI next season, and Powell's caught and bowled put his name firmly in the minds of the 2nd XI selectors. Bowling aside, it was Newall's direct-hit run out of the Hampton number 4 who looked well set on 40 that probably changed the game because there proved to be very little batting in the rest of the Hampton side, which slumped from 78-3 to 87-7 in the space of five overs. Nelson had done the lion's share of the bowling against the Hampton number 4, and although it was a good contest between bat and ball, unusually Nelson proved unable to make a breakthrough in his six overs. Hamblin (3-11) and Vyas (2-17) were the pick of the Harrow bowlers, Hamblin consistently pitching the ball on a good length, and Vyas giving the ball plenty of flight to tempt the Hampton batsmen. Hope also picked up two wickets at the end, even if his bowling was a little more erratic. Spectators were treated to the rarest of sights in the middle of the innings: Morrison hurtling in as a 2nd XI bowler. He bowled one over and took 0-8 in what proved to be his final game for the 2nd XI. Ferneyhough set aggressive fields designed to take wickets and rallied his troops to the end, determined to bowl Hampton out. As the light and temperature began to drop, the final batsman succumbed to Hope in the 31st over with the score on 131, giving Harrow a 41-run victory.

Colts A v Harrow Town CC (Centenary Celebration), Harrow 137 all out, Harrow Town CC 124 all out, won by 13 runs

Harrow Town CC's first ever game in 1921 was against Harrow School. In their 100th-year anniversary, we replayed the match, and it was a superb match. The boys struggled batting, reaching only 137 all out after four run outs. However, in reply, they bowled brilliantly restricting Harrow Town and taking a tight victory.

Junior Colts B v Bedford School Boys Under-15A, Harrow 101 for 7, Bedford 102 for 6, lost by 4 wickets

Junior Colts D v Bedford School Boys Under-15C, won by 82 runs

Yearlings A v Bedford School, Harrow 54 all out, Bedford 55 for 6, lost by 4 wickets

Once again this season Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, pulled off a masterclass with the coin and won the toss and elected to bat. On came the opening batsman ready to put a massive score on the board. Unfortunately, wickets started to fall as heads of Harrow started to drop. In came Barnett who started to put a lovely partnership together with Harry Owens, *Rendalls*. As the game went on, it seemed that the ship had been steadied between the two batsman until the two Rendallians couldn't communicate with each other and ran each other out. After some great batting from Barnett, his innings came to end. After a batting collapse from the top order, Harrow got bowled out for 54. This score was going to be tough to defend for the Yearlings but it was possible.

On came the opening bowler Henry Porter, *Moretons*. On his first ball, he rattled the middle stump out the ground but he had marked his run up wrong and it was a no ball. Nearly the perfect start for Yearlings in a difficult game. The fielding was energetic as there were two run outs from Barnett and Henry Snow, *Rendalls*. Completing the impossible was starting to look possible as Bedford were 26-3. After some continuously good line and length bowling from Snow and Barnett wickets started to fall. Even though Harrow put up a great fight with some excellent bowling the Bedford batters' determination brought them over the line in 20 overs. Harrow's bowling was near perfect but the batting was far from it.

Off to the next game where Harrow are looking to bounce back from their loss when they play against Rugby.

Yearlings B v Bedford School, Harrow 117 all out, Bedford 117 all out, draw

Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, 34, Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, 3 for 20

Yearlings C v Bedford School, Harrow 136 for 5, Bedford 65 all out, won by 71 runs

Yearlings D v Bedford School, Bedford 60 all out, Harrow 61 for 1, won by 9 wickets

A confident victory for the Yearlings Ds, helped by some outstanding fielding that kept the run rate low and the wickets tumbling.

Colts A v Tonbridge School National Cup quarter-final, 25 June 21

Tonbridge 190 for 4, Harrow 93 all out, Harrow lost by 97 runs

In the National Cup quarter-final, this was a disappointing result. After having Tonbridge at 14-3, a super century from their opener allowed a recovery all the way to 190-4. Harrow were unlucky in their response but never really fired and fell all out for under 100.

*Junior Colts A v Merchant Taylors' School,
Northwood Middlesex County Cup Final
Merchant Taylors' 97 all out, Harrow 99 for 2
Won by 8 wickets*

The JCAs bowled and fielded beautifully to restrict the visitors to 97 runs. The JCAs went out to bat and, despite losing an early wicket, the young men at the crease batted maturely and sensibly running excellently between the wickets and thrashing the bad balls to the fence.

Gabriel Harrington-Myers, *Bradlys*, 3 for 13, Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, 2 for 13 and Freddy Dinan, *Rendalls*, 2 for 24, Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, 56*

On a slightly dreary day, the skips knew it was a bowl day first and with a Middlesex opener they had an especially good batting line-up. Edwards made it look like child's play, dismissing him first over with his doblers and a good catch by Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, at deep square leg. In came a good bat who has played a couple of games for Middlesex Under-18s and he looked the part. With wickets falling at the other end the run rate never really got above 's. Freddy Dinan, *Rendalls*, with his right arm optimistic, picked up the big wicket and their main man went for 40. Nelson then came on with his part-time off breaks turning it around corners and he took two quick wickets in partnership with Gabriel Harrington-Myers, *Bradlys*, who claimed the other three wickets leaving Merchant Taylor's 100 all out after their 20.

Unfortunately, Stanhope had to go early but Nelson and Baker steadied the ship superbly. Baker, *Moretons*, was actually using Nick Compton's bat and it was reassuring to see it got more action than it had in the past couple of years. Baker looked seriously composed for his 50 and, although Nelson had to go, Macdonald came in and saw us across the line. The nationals don't quite know what's going to hit them next week. Solidity in a nutshell and a good eight-wicket win against a good side.

Charlie Hope, *Rendalls* (Captain)

2nd XI v Rugby School 1st XI, Saturday, 26 June

Harrow 93 all out, Rugby 95 for 5, lost by 5 wickets

Ben Hope, *Rendalls* – 22 and Olly Wills, *Elmfield*, – 3 for 17

Harrow won the toss and elected to bat first on what looked like an excellent Jackson wicket. George Hamblin, *Moretons*, and Jack Hedley, *The Head Master's*, started well, rotating the strike nicely and taking the score to 20 without loss after 8 overs. However, after Hamblin was disappointingly run out, the wheels suddenly came off; with wickets tumbling at an alarming rate. Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, played a few nice strokes and there was some late resistance from Sachin Vyas, *Elmfield*, and Herbie Smith, *Newlands*, but a total of 93 all out was never going to be enough.

A loose start from the opening bowlers appeared to ease the pressure of the run chase from the outset and despite a tidy spell from Oli Newall, *Druries*, Rugby appeared to be cruising towards the nominal target. However, a fine spell from Olly Wills, *Elmfield*, appeared to give Harrow a glimmer of hope; only for this to be quickly dashed by the Rugby number 5; who played some fine shots to get his team home.

Although ultimately this proved to be a disappointing result, JPM and RP would like to thank the boys for their efforts over the course of this term. It has been a very enjoyable term of cricket overall.

Colts A v Butterflies, Harrow 288 for 7, Butterflies 207 all out, won by 81 runs

A lovely way to end the official season, Harrow batted first hitting a whopping 288-7 off their 40 overs with Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, scoring 72, Caspar Stone, *The Park*, on 64 and Victor Grant, *Moretons*, with a magnificent 93.

In reply, the Butterflies batted very well with two batsman pushing past 50, However, the spin kings Artis (3-30) and debutant Hills (3-11) did enough to stem the chase and bring a win to the Harrow.

Junior Colts A v Rugby School, Harrow 180 for 5, Rugby 110 for 7, won by 71 runs

Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, 100*, Henry Macdonald, *The Park*, 28, Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, 29, Freddy Dinan, *Rendalls*, 2 for 9.

Junior Colts B v Rugby School, Harrow 128 for 5, Rugby 56 all out, won by 72 runs

Stratton, *Newlands*, 53, St John Smith, *Newlands*, 26, Ballingal, *Moretons*, 2 for 9, Sohal, *Moretons*, 2 for 0

Junior Colts C v Rugby School, Rugby 33 all out, Harrow 36/1, won by 9 wickets

Yearlings A v Rugby School, Harrow lost by 5 wickets

Yearlings B v Rugby School, Rugby 25 all out, Harrow 27 for 3, won by 7 wickets

Bernard Dreesmann, *The Park*, 4 for 2, Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, 2 for 3

Yearlings D v Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, Harrow lost by 6 wickets

GOLF

*Gerald Micklem Trophy 2021,
21 & 22 June, School won*

The Gerald Micklem Trophy is the blue riband event on the golfing calendar and the one that everyone wants. The tournament has been running since 1954 and is named after the Walker Cup legend and Old Wykehamist Gerald Micklem, who was also president of Sunningdale Golf Club, where this year's tournament was being held. Every year Harrow, Eton, Winchester, Rugby, Stowe, Bradfield, Wellington and Charterhouse pitch up for the two-day match-play event. This is what our whole year builds towards. A chance to go down in history and join a very exclusive group of Harrovians, with Harrow only having won four times in the 67-year history.

Now, reader, hold on tight, we have quite some golf to get through and I have been known to get carried away with things...



Round 1 v Eton – Win 3.5-1.5

Things teed off on Monday 21st June against the old foes, Eton (who were a late drop out from our fixture earlier on in the term). There is history here – SNP had some nasty tussles over the years with some questionable orders sent out from

Eton (one is meant to send one's team out in handicap/ability order...) and many close matches. "We shall fight in the bunkers, we shall fight on the greens, we shall fight on the fairways and in the rough, we shall fight in the heather, and we will never surrender!" boomed WJC in his pre-match speech. The boys were buoyed and ready to make a real mess of Eton.

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, led the team out down the monstrous par 4 first on the New at Sunningdale, one of the most daunting opening holes in golf with bunkers, heather and big old trees everywhere. Max has been in fine form coming off an 8&7 victory at Stowe just two weeks ago. Sadly though, this was not to be his day. But, let me put this into context – a Max Shirvell bad day is better than most people's very very good days! He was up against a very tidy Etonian, but he just struggled to find his feet in the match and ultimately lost 5&4. Not to worry, we would be needing some Max magic in the rounds to come...

Up stepped captain elect for the 2021/2022 season, Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*. Conversely, Toby has been struggling somewhat for form of late and sometimes this can be a good place to be – you're not expecting to play well and so the pressure is off (I am still waiting to play well, just once in my life!). Free-swinging Toby was fast out of the blocks and got himself an early lead. He muscled his way around the New course and was 3 under by the time he dispatched his opponent 8&7. When asked in the post-match press conference "How were you striking it out there today, Toby?", he replied "I'm not playing well"... Right, 3 under and not playing well... great mind games from our Toby!

Third out was Sunningdale member, cool-as-a-cold-cucumber-in-Colorado Aidan Wong, *The Park*. Wearing his trusty stealth-blue shades, "Wongers" was ready to cash in on the 300 practice rounds he has managed to fit in over the past month. Wong found himself 1 up through three holes before his partner found the heather on the fourth and he capitalised to go 2 up. Things would not remain quite so plain sailing though and the match see-sawed between the two of them. After a huge drive on the 11th, Wong sunk the birdie putt to get back to 2 up and with a solid par on the 13th he was 3 up with only 5 to play (an anxious position to be in, but one I cannot relate to). Eton was not ready to give up. Two scrambling pars and an unlucky break for Wong meant that it was back to just 1 up with three to go. Never fear, Wong would birdie the 16th as his partner found the woods and he was dormy 2 up. An interesting (frustrating at times) rule at the Micklem is that no game can be tied (unless the overall match result has been decided) and so there was no guarantee of the half. On both 17 and 18, the oppo sunk putts outside of 15 feet and Wong found himself heading off down the first in a playoff...

Out fourth was Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, the stalwart in the team, playing in his final event for the School at the end of an incredible season. Emotions were running high for Matheson and one got the feeling that his five years at Harrow had been building towards these two days (A levels were a mere distraction!). Matheson stuck to the trusty 3-wood throughout the opening few holes, using his course knowledge and experience to his advantage. Things were steady, and although some poor putting meant that he missed out on several key opportunities to continue strengthening his lead on the Eton opposition, Matheson maintained a lead throughout the round. He had a 2 up lead with two holes to go but a poor finish meant that he too would head into a playoff...

The final place in the team went to young Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, fresh from one of the worst range sessions Moor Park has seen in its long history. The good news for the Harrow fan club was that Williams clearly got all of his bad shots out of the way the week before and he played some scintillating stuff. He made a remarkable par on the first after finding himself in one of the fairway bunkers off the tee and this immediately got his confidence up. He found three birdies on the front 9 to

impose himself on the match and see him 6 up at the turn. He kept up the relentless pace and powered through to an awesome 8&7 victory. Harrow were 2-1 up but with two matches going to play-offs it was very much in the balance.

Wong and Matheson both headed off down the first hole, the rain abating but a persistent breeze was making the going tough. Wong managed to tie the first playoff hole in bogeys before finding the middle of the green on the par 3 second. Meanwhile, his opponent found the greenside bunker and was going to have a tricky time trying to make par. Wong managed to 2-putt for par and his opponent, despite a good shot out of the sand, could not hole the putt to take the match any further. Matheson subsequently tied his match after Wong's heroics and Harrow were through to the semi-finals on the Tuesday.

Semi-final v Charterhouse

Day two was upon us and after a fore-gun salute from George Webster, *Druries*, and outgoing captain Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, we were off on our way back to Sunningdale in search of glory. The nervous anticipation was alleviated by the generous helpings at the breakfast bar thanks to number one fan and assistant coach, Mr Arnold Wong (OH, *The Park*).

Max Shirvell was first out again, looking to get Harrow off to a hot start. He was up against a short hitting but very accurate opponent and playing off the yellow tees suited his game. Our man Max is more of a long-hitting Bryson type and was frustrated not to get the advantage from playing off the whites. Still, after holing a bunker shot on the first, Max found himself 1 up through one and then continued to play consistently well. His opponent however just kept battling away in his own quiet yet determined manner to come out on top 2&1.

Toby Shirvell was next out against an impressive young man from Charterhouse – another very steady player with a mature temperament. One got the impression that this young man was not thinking about the McDonald's on the way home. He was focused on the game and even Toby could not break through, ultimately losing this one.

Third out and feeling spirited from his heroics the previous day was Wong. He duly pulled his driver into the trees on the left on the first hole, taking three off the tee but somehow managed to stay all square after one hole. After bombing a drive down the middle on the sixth, he was bewildered as to how he couldn't find his ball! Wong was 1 down... things were not looking good for Harrow... never fear, after some inspirational words, Wong won 8 holes in a row to demolish his opponent!

We needed just two more points to make it through to the final. Jonty Williams was out at 5 and feeling confident after his win on day one. He was up against an experienced opponent from Charterhouse who had beaten Harrow just a few weeks earlier. Williams was determined to have none of it and swiftly found the bunker again on the first. After a super approach, he engineered a par to go 1 up early on. His opponent looked confident over his irons and certainly posed a threat, but Williams kept finding birdies and found himself 3 up at the halfway house. The match was clawed back to 1 before Williams put on the after burners and scorched his opponent 3&1.

I know what you're thinking, "What about Matheson?". Well, in order to build tension (but really losing the will to live now 1,500 words into this report) I have left the pivotal match until the end. Matheson was up against a familiar face – this was the young man who cruelly knocked us out last year and Matheson was not going to let the same thing happen again. Matheson had put his faith in a heavier putter (thanks must go to Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*) and after two warm-up holes, he got used to it and managed to establish a strong 3 up lead through 5 holes. His Charterhouse opponent managed to birdie the picturesque par 5 sixth from the heather and this certainly started a charge with the match reaching all square by hole 10. However, Matheson managed to restore his lead by holing a 30-footer for birdie and he was once again 2 up with two holes

to play. He missed the green on 17, which was a costly enough error that resulted in the lead reducing to 1 up. Then on 18, following some drama where Matheson was told by the rules official that he could tell his opponent to replay his shot since he had played out of turn (he didn't request such a thing in the end), Matheson had 150 yards for his third shot. A chunk followed by another chunk meant 20 yards still remained and by now JRP had been brought to his knees with nerves at a potential capitulation. The Charterhouse opponent won the hole and ensured the match would go to a playoff, with the match deciding which team would proceed to the final. Matheson, angered by the way in which he weakly squandered the lead, pumped a 3 wood down the first fairway and hit a decent iron shot onto the fringe. A sturdy 2 putt par from the fringe ensured the win of the hole, the match and the school tie 3-2, much to the delight of the Harrow team!

Final v Stowe

This is it. The final. We have not been here for quite some time and we were certainly not favourites on the day. Stowe had had a leisurely break after winning their semi-final with no playoff holes needed, and so were feeling fresh on the first tee. To be quite honest, much of the final is a blur as the nerves were just far too much for me!

Max was up against the same chap he had played two weeks earlier and mown over 8&7 – surely this was going to be an easy win... famous last words. Max played nicely throughout the front 9 but was just struggling to hole anything. After a check on the myspace group, he could see we were going to need his point, and so he changed into gear 5. After birdying both par 3s on the back 9, he was 1 up going down 18. He found the thick stuff on the left and could only advance it a further 40 yards into more rough. He then played one of the shots of the day to hit his 8 iron 180 yards onto the green and two-putt for par to halve the hole and secure the first match in Harrow's favour.

At this stage, we were 6 up in one match, 4 up in another and only 1 or 2 down in the remaining matches. Things were all looking good... of course the fairy-tale ending had to take a dramatic turn.

Wong was playing in a match of the highest quality against an awesome player from Stowe. The pair of them traded drained 15-footers and long straight drives but Wong found himself 3 up at the turn after only hitting 12 putts! He refused to let his foot off the gas and birdied the 11th and 12th to get to 1 under par for the round and 4 shots up.

Meanwhile, Matheson was playing havoc with the temper of his opponent (a young chap who faced Webster a few weeks earlier) by hitting fairway after fairway, green after green and getting himself to level par through 12 holes and dormy 6 up. He was so quick out of the blocks that the Stowe fan club could barely keep up (they had an incredible support group of 12 parents and four members of staff – not that JRP and Mr Wong were to be intimidated by such tactics!). Matheson held his nerve to finish the match after just 13 holes with a wonderful winning margin of 7&5 over his opponent who seemed more focused on damaging his clubs by the end. Matheson then quickly ditched his clubs and went to support the key groups who would decide Harrow's Micklem fate!

Williams was up against it in the final game. His opponent was off 3 and this looked a very challenging match. However, Williams got off to a fast start with a birdie at the first to take the lead but a poor 3-putt for bogey on the second resulted in the match being all square. Stowe birdied the 3rd hole as well as the 5th to put him in a commanding position at 2 up before a tap in birdie on the 6th from Williams pulled the lead back to only 1. Stowe's long putt on 8 for birdie started the momentum swing for him and the match continued to the sway the way of the Stoic and despite a brilliant tee-shot and approach on 16, it was just not enough and his opponent, shooting 1 under

through 16, would take the match.

Meanwhile Wong had started to leak shots in his final few holes. Before he knew it he was back to just 2 up and after his opponent sank a long putt for par on 16 he was now just 1 up going down 17. This was a huge moment in the competition. Both players found the dance floor, albeit Wong closer to the pin. His opponent duly 2-putted for par and Wong had a putt for the Micklem. His attempt edged desperately close to the hole, but he would have to settle for trying to win this on the last.

He stepped up over his drive down the long par 5 18th and ... he stepped away after some fly trouble. The hearts of everyone were beating fast. The sun was setting and the tension amongst the crowd could have been cut by a bladed lob wedge. Wong stepped up again and "smash!", he absolutely creamed his drive down the centre of the fairway. His opponent was just five yards behind him on the right-hand side of the fairway and pulled out a wood to come up just short of the green. Wong picked out his trusty 4-iron. Silence fell around Sunningdale and Wong played the shot of the tournament. A high draw, 225 yards into the centre of the green to leave him 20 feet for birdie. Stowe would chip on but still have 15 feet to make par. This was the moment the boys have been working for all year. This was Wong's time to take them into the annals of history, to elevate them to a position known only to a handful of Old Harrovians. He lined up the putt, uphill and breaking from the right. He trickled it towards the hole, and it came up just two feet short. One more putt, and it is yours boys... Again, the routine, the precision, the care and the calm... HE'S GOT IT! And with that, the Harrow golf team of 2021 are Micklem champions! This was an occasion which will certainly live with me forever and I could not be prouder of this incredible group of boys. Join the giants of old in legend boys!

TENNIS

End of Summer Term

1st Team v Charterhouse Eton College, Won 5-4

The Junior Colts A team managed their first win against Eton. Fulford and Maclean managed to finally win a set against the Eton first pair and Jones and Scott finished with a 100% record. With the scores tied at 4-4, the final set went to a tie-break. Porter and Stockmeier (who had already won three sets for the B team) triumphed after a late rally from Eton to give us the win.

JCBs v Eton College, Harrow Won 5-4

The Junior Colts B team managed their first win against Eton. Stockmeier and Chambers were the stars of the show, winning all three of their sets comfortably.

JCCs v Eton College, Lost 3-6

It was a tough afternoon for the JC C team, with David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, and Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, pair 1 putting in a sterling effort to secure two 6-4 wins, and Alexander Coventry, *The Knoll*, and Mark Liu, *Druries*, of pair 2 gaining the third win. In pair 3 Misha Newington and Harry Burt, both *Moretons*, faced two grueling tie breaks, and spent by far the most time on court, but sadly were unable to secure any victories this time.

JCDs v Eton College, Lost 4-5

The JC D team played well, only conceding the fixture by one match. Congratulations to pair 1, Leo Mazrani, *The Park*, and Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*, who won two of their three matches, with an impressive battle against Eton's pair 1 ending with an exciting 7-2 tie break victory. It was excellent to see Freddie Thompson, *Elmfield*, appearing in pair 3 to contest his

first sporting fixture since spring 2020! He and Tintin Hanbury, *Rendalls*, secured an emphatic 6-1 victory over Eton's pair 2, which bodes well.

Yearlings As v Eton College, Lost 3-6

Freddie Harrison, *Moretons*, and Adam Wong, *The Park*, played remarkably well to only lose two games in three matches. Unfortunately, Eton had real depth within their team and proved too strong in the end.

Yearlings Bs v Eton College, Lost 4-5

Yearlings Cs v Eton College, Won 6-3

Yearlings Ds v Eton College, Won 5-4

1st Team v Charterhouse, Won 8-1

An excellent all round team performance with a pair from three different year groups. The fifth form pair of Cameron Timlin, *Bradlys*, and Aidan Wong, *The Park*, were both forceful and composed in remaining unbeaten. Hugo Anderson, *Newlands*, and Federico Gheri, *The Head Master's*, also played some fine tennis in their 3 wins. Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, and Yannis Chatzigiannis, *The Park*, played two strong sets but were just pipped in their last match.

2nd Team v Charterhouse, Won 7-2

Harrow played well to get through some tight matches to win 7-2 overall. We had 2 unbeaten pairs, Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, and Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, came through a tie break before winning their next two sets decisively. Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, and Max Ding, *The Park*, showed plenty of potential in three clear cut wins.

JCA's v Charterhouse, Won 6-3

JCB's v Charterhouse, Won 6-3

JCC's v Charterhouse, Won 8-1

JCD's v Charterhouse, Match drawn 3-3

Yearlings As v Charterhouse, Won 5-4

The Yearlings A team had a good day, winning five matches to four. Freddie Harrison, *Moretons*, and Adam Wong, *The Park*, won all their matches by an impressive margin. The Charterhouse opposition noted their intimidating serves. William Riddick, *Druries*, and Jaden Lim, *The Head Master's*, also put on an impressive show, winning two out of their three matches, but making their opponents work very hard for every point.

Yearlings Bs v Charterhouse, Won 5-4

The Yearlings B side performed well winning by five matches to four. While all pairs played well Hugo Evans, *The Park*, and Oscar Bearman, *Moretons*, must be commended for their convincing wins.

Yearlings Cs v Charterhouse, Lost 1-8

Yearlings Ds v Charterhouse, Lost 1-8

Boys-Under-18A v Harrow Lawn Tennis Club, Lost 4-5

A wonderful way to end the season with a well-balanced match. In their final match Sasha Sebag-Montefiore, *The Knoll*, and Thomas Cheah, *The Head Master's*, formed a powerful partnership to win two of their three sets. Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, played three fine sets, winning two of them, with Fulford very impressive on his debut. Hugo Anderson, *Newlands*, and Federico Gheri, *The Head Master's*, have formed an excellent partnership this term but were unable to find their best form having lost a tie break to the Club's 1st pair. It was a match played in a fantastic spirit and a fitting end for a committed and talented group of players.

Boys-Under-18B v Harrow Lawn Tennis Club, Lost 1-8

A tough day for the boys against a strong line up from the Harrow Lawn Tennis Club. The stand out pair was Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, and Adam Chambers, *Rendalls*, who showed resilience and determination in all their sets and were unlucky to lose a final tie break in their last set, having won one of their previous two sets.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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CELEBRATING OUR PAST
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE