

THE HARROVIAN

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HA SONGS

Old Harrovians, 1975–80, Speech Room, 7 October

Never have the Shells or Removes experienced Harrow Association Songs. Consequently, on Thursday, the air was fizzing with excitement. Naturally, traditions of shushing arose with grins and cheers as boys reconnected with the practice of Songs after a hard day of lessons and sports matches. Old Harrovians who started between 1975 to 1980 were invited back to the Hill to join the School in singing various Harrow songs. Throughout this period was great turbulence and change. Prime ministers Wilson, Callaghan, and Thatcher governed in the UK and the presidencies of Ford, Carter and Reagan did likewise in the US. There were threats of all-out global nuclear warfare throughout the Cold War and those Old Harrovians may have remembered a 'Protect and Survive' leaflet making its way through every letterbox in the kingdom. These years were also littered with great cultural pieces of cinematography through the first screening of the first *Star Wars* film. Politically, equality made great strides with the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts, and inflation ran at double digits for four successive years. More warfare occurred through deadly bombings and shootings that were a direct consequence of troubles relating to Northern Ireland, and the SAS conducted their famous siege of the Iranian Embassy. Scientifically, Richard Dawkins published *The Selfish Gene* and there was the inauguration of the London to New York Concorde air service. But before we get into the singing, we wanted to first give our thanks to CST and PJE for playing the piano and organ respectively, and DNW for conducting the whole School.



Our first song, *When Raleigh Rose*, reminded us of a golden age of England at the time of Harrow's foundation. 'She gave to us the hill' in line 4 is a reminder of the Royal Charter of Foundation that Queen Elizabeth gave to John Lyon. In verse three, Philip Sidney is held up as a particular paragon, being a favourite of Queen Elizabeth. Sidney was the author of *Arcadia* and he was fighting for Dutch insurgents in Holland against the Spanish empire. When mortally wounded, he was offered water but foreswore the refreshment to allow it to go to a humble soldier lying next to him.

As some boys start Long Ducker training, we are still able to think back to the summer, a time of warmth and sun. In

particular, there is a special joy in being 'heroically slack'. The Ducker pool itself is today buried under overgrown plants and scrub next to Northwick Park Hospital, but its name still lives on as a means of philanthropic giving. Quickly, the boys started to sway – a newly found tradition but still a valued one.



Our next song, *October*, was written in 1879 as a way to mark the start of the footer season. With the hardships of exams thrown off the shoulders of the boys and the easiness of the cricket season having come to the end, we celebrate the two and twenty throats and forty and four feet 'march to the dull and sober', as the cold and wet activate nerve and muscle.

Max Morgan, *Lyon's*, then gave a reading on the opening of the Shepherd Churchill Hall as the School moved to central dining instead of staying in the House. Appropriately, the Shepherd Churchill is now undergoing construction to be able to accommodate and function under a greater stress of boys. Morgan captured the underlying emotions of fellowship that ran through the SCH as boys would come together for every meal.

Upon singing *John Lyon's Road*, we were delightfully taken on a gentle journey painting the evolution of Harrow from the idyllic rural backwater and fledgling school to the significant growth of London and its modernity all around us. The road itself, now the A404 Harrow Road, and more importantly the properties either side of it, provide the basis of John Lyon's Charity, which has donated £165 million since 1991 to promote the life chances of young people in the boroughs that lie along John Lyon's road.

The School then exercised its classical skills in singing *Io Triumphe*. This was the shout of soldiers to salute victorious generals in glorious procession. *Io Triumphe* was written by Brooke Foss Westcott, who early in his career was a Harrow beak. He was also a classical scholar, a prominent theologian as Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, and a Christian Socialist. In his last appointment as Bishop of Durham, he was amongst other things instrumental in resolving a miners' strike. According to BJDS, the lyrics roughly translate to:

Hail, victory! Let good fortune stand, o hail!

The fortune of our noble house prevail!

Of Harrow men

Both now and then

Glory be unconquerable!

All hail, all hail, all hail.

A school on a longish north-south hill inevitably has east-

and west-facing slopes; *East is East*, sung by the School XII, enjoined a light-hearted debate as to which sports and therefore which sides of the Hill are superior, West for cricket only, east for everything else. Cyril Norwood, Head Master from 1926 to 1934, wrote the words. He put down the first line of verse three 'Autumn brings tackling and hard-fighting scrimmages', with particular force as it was at his insistence that rugby was introduced to Harrow. This was a bold move, especially considering that, at the time, the opposition was large enough to be reported in the national press. Norwood went on to be President of St John's College, Oxford, was knighted and authored the Norwood Report, which was enshrined in law through the 1944 Education Act.

We then returned to a delightful fantasia of our founding with the usual cast of Queen Elizabeth, Shakespeare, Francis Drake and John Lyon. In this song, Spenser refers to Edmund Spenser who published in 1590 *The Faerie Queen*. Thought to be one of the longest poems in the English language, it allegorically examines chivalric virtues and makes an only just veiled praise of the monarch of the day. *Queen Elizabeth Sat One Day* was first sung at the opening of John Lyon School in 1875.



Harrovians look forward into the future with great aspirations and continuously are told of the great giants that have come out of the School. The next song was *Giants*. In the second verse, we are told of cricketing heroes: Walker was a member of the XI and Middlesex. Isaac captained the XI for two consecutive years. There was also Wenn, who never played cricket and Lang, who took ten wickets against Eton in 1859. The third verse is mirrored, however, with a studious twist. Blyads is the greatest classicist of his generation and he won all the medals for Latin at Oxford. After having been expelled for what we can call a form of boxing, he went to Cambridge where we won all the Latin medals there as well. The final verse brings it all together, that the rivalry between scholarship and athleticism is unnecessary and, while the fortunes of the School may ebb and flow, we stand in fellowship with each other and we will by being together match up to our forebears.

Remi Jokosenumi, *Lyon's*, then performed a reading on School dress and monitorial fining. He captured the attention of the room with his comical and charismatic performance portraying each character from the eager monitor to the tough rugby player with confidence and clarity.

The penultimate song, *The Silver Arrow*, is acknowledged as one the greats in the Harrow canon due to the hair-raising power of the third verse. It is a 20th-century composition, but the roots go further back than most other songs. When national security depended on archery commitment, Harrow placed obvious emphasis on 'cugdel and quaterstaff'.

Last was *Forty years on*, which was sung with usual gusto and patriotic chorus. Many thanks should go to WMAL, who re-established a sense of camaraderie in the School after a long two-year wait. I am sure all the members of the School look forward to Churchill Songs, which is coming soon.

WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION

*Re-dedication of the War Memorial Building upon
its centenary*

On Saturday evening, a contingent of the Harrow Rifle Corps formed a ceremonial Guard of Honour for the Assistant Chaplain General, Colonel Feltham-White. The occasion was as exciting as it was solemn and the awesome aura of history, tradition and sacrifice was almost tangible in the cool October air. After an afternoon of boot polishing, the Guard of Honour paraded at 6.15pm. The Colonel was announced by the drones of the pipes of Harvey Douglas, *Elmfield*. After the General Salute, the Assistant Chaplain General inspected the Guard of Honour and proceeded into the World War One Memorial. There, an extract was read by Archie Powell, *The Grove*, from a speech by General Lord Horne OH, which was originally given to mark dedication of the War Memorial in 1921. It details the significance of our chosen month in relation to the founding of the School, the War Memorial and also to the Great War itself. (note Founder's Day used to fall in October).

For obvious reasons, Founder's Day is a suitable date for this ceremony, and the fact that Founder's Day falls in the month of October renders that anniversary still more appropriate. There were five Octobers in the Great War, and each and all were marked by very heavy fighting in France and Belgium.

October 1914 – The original Expeditionary Force with its back to the wall of Ypres holding against overwhelming odds.

October 1915 – The aftermath of the Battle of Loos where the troops of our new army were engaged in a general action for the first time.

October 1916 – The Somme. The fourth month of hard and continuous fighting.

October 1917 – Ypres and all the hardships and sufferings of the advance on Passchendaele.

October 1918 – The glorious victories of the Hindenburg Line and Canal du Nord.



Each and all of these battles took toll of Harrow men and added to the roll of lives nobly given for King, country and cause, and to the tale of sad hearts at home, hearts, sad no doubt, but full of pride and admiration. And there is justification for pride and admiration, both on the part of the individual and on the part of the community, for these men accomplished much.

From there The Colour Party, consisting of Will Tate, *The Knoll*, Charlie De Labilliere, *The Grove*, Jack O'Connor, *Druries*, Jake Ramus, *Lyon's* and Nathan Shepard, *The Park*, marched into the World War Two Memorial. James Ward, *West Acre*, delivered the second reading. Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, then played the Last Post and Reveille beautifully, after which the Headmaster and Colonel Feltham-White addressed the OH servicemen and parents who had gathered to mark the Old Harrovians who, having made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of their country, are remembered forever on the walls of the

memorial. Following the National Anthem, God Save The Queen, the colour party reversed arms to mark sunset and the whole Guard of Honour marched out together.

The rededication of the War Memorial was an unforgettable occasion of gratitude and remembrance, possessing a significance that can only be granted by an anniversary of such rare antiquity and consequence. Without the aid of those already mentioned, the events of the evening would not have been possible. There must also be special recognition for the extraordinary efforts of; the Head Master, JEP, Major Davies, PSL, DNW, SM, the Guard of Honour and the musicians, who came together to bring out the best of Harrow, for those who were the best of Harrow.

TAKK

Exhibition of work by Jake Attree

TAKK is currently being exhibited in the Pasmore Gallery. The collection presents a variety of oil and pastel artworks, as well as ink-pen sketches.

The journey towards the display began in 2020, when Attree started a series of oil pastel artworks that examined *The Procession to Calvary* by Pieter Bruegel. Attree was fascinated by the multifariety of the work and compared it to a “New-Testament tapestry”. Attree met Andrew Moorhouse, the founder and editor of Fine Press Poetry, who proposed a collaboration with the poet Michael Symmons Roberts. Through the deciphering of Bruegel’s work and a creation of a poetic response, TAKK was born. The word ‘TAKK’ itself means ‘thank you’ in various Scandinavian languages.



The inspiration from the original artwork is clearly evident in the Attree’s oil-pastel drawings replicating its composition, motifs and colours. However, Attree’s works themselves are much more focused. There is a definite emphasis on the details within *The Procession to Calvary*, zooming into scenes of the vast artwork and replicating them. The individual artworks blur the epic depth and seemingly endless forms of the original painting. As for style, Attree rewrought the painting with lines of precise oil pastel, which, woven together, formed each individual artwork. This approach is analogous to that of ‘shading’ but is uncommon with oil pastels. The use of linework is also evident in the ink drawings displayed in the collection. The ink drawings present extreme detail, representing scenes from all walks of life: food markets, isolated settlements, cityscapes and the like. All the artworks, both oil and ink, are arranged in sets, giving multiple perspectives of the same scene or location and opening them up for the viewer to piece together and complete. When comparing Attree’s works to the original painting, you can match scenes, with each segment providing a more detailed insight into the nature of the work itself, while also allowing you to view the artwork from a different technical standpoint constructed at the hands of a different medium. Attree built upon the story

depicted in the painting so as to reflect upon the distressingly current situation of people fleeing from persecution, wherever it may be. This gave the old painting a new life, modernising its meaning. As Moorhouse points out: “What dominated the Bruegel is still there in the Attree but it is obscured, uncertain.”

I would personally recommend this exhibition to everybody, but certainly to all the artists, as well as to those who study English literature or history; Attree’s work is a stark reminder of the painful realities of life, and the privileges of safety and freedom that we should be thankful for.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Chris Liu, The Head Master’s, ‘Aerogel: the stuff of miracles’, 29 September

On Wednesday, Chris Liu, *The Head Master’s*, addressed the Scientific Society on ‘Aerogel: the stuff of miracles’, a fascinating talk about the world’s lightest material – aerogel – and its unique properties. To begin his talk, Liu first invited the audience to play a game with him, called “guess the density”: the first few were quite straightforward, with aluminium (2.7g/cm^3), a feather (1.3g/cm^3), and Styrofoam (1.05g/cm^3). Finally, he asked us to guess the density of aerogel, which many were surprised to find was only 0.1g/cm^3 !

Next, Liu went on to explain what exactly aerogel is. The most common form of aerogel is silica aerogel, with a density only three times that of air; however, you can make aerogel out of almost anything, even eggs! To create an aerogel, you first need a gel. A gel is a semi-liquid consisting of a liquid and a solid “mesh” structure that keeps it together by using surface-tension effects. For example, in jelly, the liquid is water and the mesh is formed by the long gelatine molecules. Once you have this gel, all you need to do is remove the water to create an aerogel.

Unfortunately, making an aerogel isn’t that straightforward, as removing the liquid by evaporation does not work, since the structure simply collapses due because the surface tension of the liquid tears the mesh apart as it is removed. Instead, to create aerogel, the water in the gel is replaced with a solvent, making it easier to handle. A device called an autoclave is used to heat the gel while increasing the pressure to prevent the liquid from evaporating. Once a critical temperature is reached, the solvent becomes a supercritical fluid, and the liquid can be slowly removed as a gas while maintaining the gel’s structure to form an aerogel.

This method of production was first discovered by Samuel Kistler, probably as part of a bet with Charles Learned in 1931 (but with many conflicting ideas online about whether this bet really took place). This new material was ultra light, since it was 99.8% air; this also meant that it was an excellent insulator as the tiny air bubbles slow down conduction and convection throughout the material. Aerogel also appears to be a translucent light-blue colour due to Rayleigh scattering, where shorter wavelengths, such as blue, are scattered more than longer wavelengths, causing it to appear slightly blue. The same phenomenon appears in our atmosphere: one reason why aerogel is sometimes called “solid sky”.

Aerogel was patented by Kistler and sold to the Monsanto Corporation, which used it as an additive in inks and paints to give them a matte finish, as well as a thickening agent in veterinary medicines and napalm bombs. Due to the high cost of production, as well as the availability of cheaper substitute materials that performed the same function, Monsanto gave up manufacturing it in the 1970s. Today, aerogel is mainly used in labs and research projects with high budgets, such as in CERN, to study Cherenkov radiation, and as an insulator in the 1997 Mars Pathfinder mission.

Liu also outlined the Stardust space mission (1999–2006), which used a “racquet” to hold blocks of aerogel that caught dust from a comet travelling at 18,000 km/h. The billions of air pockets in the aerogel brought the dust particles to a stop mostly intact. Also in development are many different aerogels, from carbon aerogels that could be able to conduct electricity to “x-aerogels”, which are combined with polymers to make them flexible. Proposed applications include creating ultralight blankets and sports shoes, or for absorbing toxic waste and gases.

Liu filled the room with a huge amount of excitement for the future of this new material, as could be observed from the number of questions he fielded at the end. Many thanks to Liu for such an engaging and well-presented lecture; it was clear how much effort had gone into it.

COP 22 September

On Wednesday 22 September, Alexander Newman, *Druries*, Jake Ramus, *Lyon's*, and Daniel Chang, *Lyon's*, represented Harrow at the UKSSN Mock Cop26 hosted by St Paul's Girls' School and the London Eco-Schools Network. Each Harrovian was allocated a different country and had to work with a team of students from other schools across London to propose policies and solutions to combat climate change. The boys had to use a range of skills including public speaking, building policy, teamwork and compromise.

Ramus was representing Brazil, the large developing nation in South America, famous for the great Amazon rainforest that is located in it. As the seventh-largest economy in the world, Brazil produces the sixth-highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This is predominantly down to deforestation, which is Brazil's largest issue, accounting for almost 75% of total GHG emissions. Bearing this in mind, Ramus and his compatriots were under a lot of pressure from the other nations to do something about the problem for which they were responsible. However, following a long history of poverty, and a currently developing economy, sufficient funds are not available for Brazil to spend on solving this problem without compromising the status of the economy and the wellbeing of the population. Therefore, they were put in a tricky spot, eventually settling on eliminating all illegal activities regarding deforestation in order to mitigate Brazil's climate impact and keep the economy on the rise.

After facing unforeseen challenges in his opening speech, Ramus soon found his stride, making Brazil a (surprisingly) collaborative force for good despite clashes with other delegations. If his future career aspirations do not work out, this writer may suggest he ask President Bolsonaro for an internship.

Chang was representing Indonesia, both a victim and perpetrator of the climate-change crisis. Chang handled the duality with fantastic stoicism and ensured Indonesia acted within its best interests.

Newman represented Bangladesh, which is a country of high vulnerability to climate change impacts due to a host of geographical factors, including its topography and high population density, levels of poverty and dependence on agriculture. Newman was forced to collaborate with other delegates and attempted to lead the herd on the floor with gripping and impassioned floor speeches that would put real COP delegates to shame while representing a country with a GDP that was dwarfed in contrast to its partners and simultaneously working in the back room with tough negotiations and deals being struck.

Many thanks to DMM for arranging the trip and escorting the boys, and SPGS for hosting such a fantastic and important event.

Any boys looking to get involved with the sustainability group or wishing to find out more should contact DMM or one of the School's sustainability leads.

DEBATING SOCIETY

*Ioanna Marakis, Policy and Programme Lead, NHS
England, 'Debating medical ethics', New Schools,
28 September*

On Tuesday, the Debating Society was pleased to welcome guest speaker Ioanna Maraki to address the society on 'Debating medical ethics'. Ms Maraki has been involved in debating since 2006, as part of the University of Edinburgh Debating Union. She has competed in a variety of competitions in the UK and notably competed in the European Debating Championships in 2008; has served as the Head of Operations for the Medical Licencing Assessment at the General Medical Council, which is the UK healthcare regulator; and has even co-hosted the podcast series *Dare to Disagree* on Constructive Disagreement. She is currently undertaking a secondment at NHS England as a policy and programming lead. It was a privilege to have her at the School.

Her lecture covered the pillars of medical ethics, the ethical rules that doctors must follow, how to debate in medical ethics, and some case studies.

Ms Maraki began her lecture by stating the four pillars of medical ethics. The first of these four moral commandments is Beneficence, the moral obligation to do good and to act for the benefit of others. The second pillar is Non-Maleficence, meaning to do no harm. This may seem similar to beneficence, but they are two different things. Beneficence is doing a positive action, whilst non-maleficence is not doing a negative one. In many ways, the latter is more important. It is the obligation of a physician not to harm the patient: they cannot not kill, cause pain, incapacitate, cause offence, or deprive others of the goods of life. The third pillar is upholding justice. When weighing up if something is ethical or not, we must think about whether it's compatible with the law, the patient's rights, and if it's fair and balanced.

Ms Maraki went on to speak about the next set of guidelines for decisions around medical ethics: the duties of being a doctor. Doctors must be knowledgeable, with the care of their patient being of the highest importance. The standard for practice and care must be impeccably high and doctors must recognise and work within the limits of their competence. They should not accept a patient that they do not have the skills to help. The second great rule with regard to the duties of a doctor is the safety of a patient. Doctors must take prompt action if they think that patient safety, dignity or comfort is being compromised. They must protect and promote the health of patients and the public. The third is communication, partnership and dignity. Doctors need to treat patients with respect and dignity, give them the information they need in a way that they can understand it, treat them politely, work with them, listen to them, respond to them and support them in caring for themselves and their families, and help them to improve and maintain their health. Finally, through all these duties, doctors need to maintain trust with their patients. They should be honest and open, never discriminate, act with integrity and never abuse a patient's trust. They should be prepared to justify their actions, and should be held accountable by themselves and society for their decisions. It is important to remember these critical ethical rules before debating medical ethics.

Ms Maraki then presented a few relevant case studies before closing. Her first case was the story of Henrietta Lacks, a black woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line. This was the first immortalised human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research. Lacks was a cancer patient who was given poor treatment as a black woman in the 1940s American South, and died in 1951. However, her cancer was so violent that it survived until after her death and her cells are still alive today. These cells have been used to develop many of the most recent scientific breakthroughs,

including the polio vaccine. Her cells have undoubtedly saved millions of lives, but Lacks never gave consent for her cells to be used, and her children didn't know about the use of these cells until 1975. The developments made with HeLa cells have generated billions of dollars. However, not a penny has been given to the family. Is this ethical? Does this situation align with the pillars? What should be done? Food for thought.

Another example of conflict in medical ethics can be found in the Italian COVID-19 crisis, where ventilators were in short supply and doctors had to decide which patient got a ventilator. This meant that they were effectively deciding who lived and who died. This raises the question of who gets to make the criteria for survival. The room discussed this issue, giving everyone an opportunity to practice debating medical ethics, and suggestions from the mob ranged from "whoever is most likely to survive," to "the people with families should get the ventilator". One Harrovian even posited that "everyone must die, it's only fair."

The final example of a medical ethics debate was a plane which crashed in the French Alps on 24 March 2015. Before crashing the plane, and killing 150 people, Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was urged by a doctor to attend psychiatric hospital after he confessed to having thoughts about crashing the plane and killing everyone on board. His doctor kept this secret and no-one was notified. This raises the question of when confidentiality should break. When should a doctor break that sacred trust and alert authorities? In UK law, it was once stated that doctors had to report to the appropriate authorities when their patient was at a risk to themselves or a risk to others. However, the law has now changed. A doctor should no longer break confidence if their patient is a risk to themselves, meaning that everyone has both a right to treatment and a right to do whatever they want to themselves as long as it doesn't affect other people. However, if they are a threat to others, they must break confidentiality. This example shows how in some situations, doctors must break their ethical rules, in favour of saving the lives of many.

Through these examples, Ms Maraki showed us that these pillars of medical ethics can be challenged, debated, and even broken for the sake of the public good. She ended her lecture by answering a series of questions. I am sure that every boy present learned something of medical ethics, and the complexities that surround it.

PERCEVAL SOCIETY

Baba Obatoyinbo, The Knoll, 'Neo-colonialism: how Europe still maintains power and influence in Africa', OH Room, 30 September

On Thursday afternoon, Baba Obatoyinbo, *The Knoll*, gave a talk to the Perceval Society on neo-colonialism and how Europe maintains control over Africa.

Obatoyinbo began by defining neo-colonialism. It is the use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control and/or influence other countries, especially foreign dependencies. In 1884, the Scramble for Africa took place. Thirteen European countries and the United States met in Berlin to agree on the rules of African colonisation. From 1884 to 1914, the continent experienced significant conflict as these countries took territory and power from existing African states.

In the middle of the 20th century, decolonisation became popular among African countries. People were tired of being controlled by countries that were not their own and so they decided to fight for independence, causing empires to dismantle.

However, the countries which were formerly in control did not want to go from having power over many African states to having

no authority after granting independence, so they tried several ways of maintaining control over Africa. Large-scale investment through foreign companies was the most popular strategy. Two of the main companies that use this method are Shell and Anglo-American. Shell is an Anglo-Dutch multinational oil and gas company headquartered in the Netherlands. It is incorporated in the UK as a public limited company. Anglo-American is a British multinational mining company with headquarters in London. Companies like this appear to be benefiting countries in Africa; they bring new investment into a country's economy, provide jobs, often at higher wage levels than the average local economy, and help form international links that bring access to world markets. However, they take profits out of the country to pay shareholders or to invest elsewhere. Obatoyinbo mentioned that oil companies such as Shell drill for oil in Nigeria but do not build refineries. Crude oil is thus refined elsewhere and then sold back to Nigeria. These companies can also withdraw their investment from a country as they wish, which could lead to fearful situations for the African countries. Companies like Shell and Anglo-American are powerful organisations and can exert political influence over the government in a country. Obatoyinbo stated that 101 companies, of which 77 are based in the UK, control 1.05 trillion dollars of oil, gold, diamond, coal and platinum in Africa.

This is all very alarming, and it sets a dangerous precedent. Other countries are exploiting Africa and ridding it of its natural resources. Countries in Africa are unable to successfully develop as the profits from their resources are being used to improve other countries; this is making life worse for their citizens.

At the end of the talk, Obatoyinbo shared his ideas on how to stop this problem. The plans for the new currency, the Eco, in ECOWAS are promising and should hopefully provide West Africa with a common currency. The common currency will lead to the removal of trade barriers, reduce transaction costs, boost economic activities, and raise the living standards of the member nations. Obatoyinbo also suggested African countries should sometimes reject foreign aid. Although, at first, aid from other countries seems to be beneficial, many hidden disadvantages come with it. African countries should take more control over their own resources rather than allowing foreign countries and companies to control them.

Many thanks to Obatoyinbo for such an informative lecture.

JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

Inter-House Competition (Elmfield & Newlands v West Acre & The Knoll), OH Room, 5 October

On 5 October, swathes of boys gathered in the OH Room for the third and final round of the group stage in the Junior Inter-House Debating Competition. The motion that evening was 'This house wants an independent Scotland.' It was proposed by Elmfield and Newlands, with West Acre and The Knoll for the opposition. This debate was set to be a spectacle from the offset. After LAM had initiated the proceedings, the prime minister took his stand in front of a virtual Father Stuart. Charlie Ni, *Elmfield*, seemingly nervous, began his speech. Via his flustered approach of shaking his head at his points, he argued for democracy, that the people of Scotland want to leave the UK. However, as shown later in the debate, there are so many facts and figures about what the Scottish people desire that it is almost impossible to know which to believe.

Up next was Cameron Elliot, *West Acre*, the Leader of the Opposition. Elliot began his oration with knowledgeable rebuttal directed at the prime minister, subsequently signposting his and his partner's points. His main arguments were economic

ones: declaring that a split from Britain would be catastrophic for the Scottish economy, citing the Barnett Formula – which states that the UK gave Scotland £32 billion last year – to testify. Scotland's inability to replace this lost income, or so the speaker claimed, would only be one of the many factors that would lead to a major economic recession in Scotland. To further his point on economic disaster, Elliot made a rather more questionable case involving a lack of currency, with the bold assumption that England would seize Scotland's right to use the pound if it parted from it, despite Scotland having used it as a main form of currency for over 300 years since King James VI. However, this speech was particularly captivating due to Elliot's engaging speaking style.

As the deputy prime minister, Penn Behagg, *Elmfield*, commenced his speech, the Elmfield-dominated audience was electric. His very strong rebuttals to Elliot's speech and a well-educated response to a difficult point of information allowed for Behagg to shine as one of the most prepared speakers of the evening. His belief was that Scotland's economy would not weaken with a split from the union, but instead do just the opposite. This was supported by a case study of Ireland, which now has a higher GDP than before it left the UK. To further his case, he stated that Scotland has the correct infrastructure for this to be repeated. Overall, this was a very enjoyable speech with strong arguments and responses.

The role of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition fell to Luca Cox, *West Acre*. Cox's principal points also revolved around the financial hardship in Scotland following a potential split. He gave a very similar speech to his predecessor in terms of arguments, but his rhetoric lacked the same flair. He argued that this split would put even more pressure on an already fledgling government, and that Scotland would face a large loss of investment. However, the evidence for this was somewhat lacking. Nevertheless, he did appear to be passionate about the topic, but sadly that was not quite enough for it to be particularly memorable.

Opening the second half of the debate was St John Smith, *Newlands*, who delivered the shortest speech of the debate, while maintaining the focus on the how the motion would affect the economy. Furthering a previous speaker's point, he discussed Scotland's oil and how they could benefit greatly from no-one taking their resources. While this may be true, it was lucky that no-one from the opposition argued that the current aim of reducing fossil fuels and the switch into green energy would make this much more insignificant than made out in the debate, especially in the future.

First for *The Knoll* was Aaron Patel. He offered solid arguments about the difficulties of forming a hard border, and the unnecessary hardships for the government that Scottish independence would bring, when there are much more pressing matters in the world. To extend this point, he discussed the effect that this would have on Scottish tourism, which would damage the economy even more. He then brought out a 2014 referendum of Scottish independence, providing evidence that the democratic decision is against the motion. However, as might be expected, this was met with points of information and rebuttals later on due to its outdated nature, and a change in circumstances since the referendum – like Brexit and COVID-19. Overall, however, a strong speech to open *The Knoll*'s debate.

We then watched as Zac Banton, *Newlands*, strode up to the spot, dead in front of Father Stuart, to deliver the most exciting speech of the evening. The speaker furthered the cases which had been argued already, and attempted to prove why the proposition had undoubtedly won the debate. A stand-out moment of the evening was when Cox asked him a P.O.I regarding Scotland's difficulty in attempting to join the EU. Banton responded with an interrogation of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, repeatedly asking the same question about whether Scotland would still be allowed to enter the EU. Through this intense and quite unorthodox grilling, Cox folded and was

forced to agree with Banton. He was visibly well read on the subject, and his responses to the questions from the floor later on were excellent.

Finishing the debate was Andrew Arthur, *The Knoll*, with a great deal of rebuttal and a good summary of his side's arguments. His main points were that England accounted for 60% of Scotland's exports, and so a hit like this could be the final straw before a true crisis occurs. Moreover, even Nicola Sturgeon believes that the 'economic blueprint for independence' is 'completely out of order', and that Scotland would lose its voice in global politics, since it would lose access to the UN, G7 and NATO. Offering so much information, he had by far the longest speech. Arthur successfully argued his case before concluding the debate with a generous 'I yield my time'.

The debate was then opened to the floor. The questioning from the audience was good, allowing for a clear line to be made, which divided the debaters who knew what they were talking about from those who didn't. Subsequently the vote occurred and the motion was carried.

Upon reviewing the debate, however, it was evident that the speakers had only touched on the economics of the debate, but nothing on preservation of culture or the Scottish people (credit to Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, for pointing this out in his question from the floor). It was an interesting evening, but a lack of new ideas and the sole focus on the economy made multiple speeches fall into a dull and repetitive loop.

TREVELYAN SOCIETY

*Dr Kate Fleet, Cambridge University, 'Ottoman naval power and the Battle of Lepanto',
OH Room, 7 October*

On Thursday 7 October, the Trevelyan Society was delighted to host Dr Kate Fleet for a talk on the ascendancy of the Ottoman Empire in the Mediterranean. Dr Fleet is a fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge, and she is currently serving as the Director of the Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies after having served as the Newton Trust Lecturer in Ottoman History.

Unfortunately, the day didn't start perfectly, with Dr Fleet testing positive in a lateral flow test for COVID-19. However, with thanks to the hard work of our IT team at Peel House and JPM, we managed to get her presentation delivered via Microsoft Teams to an audience in the Old Harrovian Room. Therefore, after a brief introduction from the secretaries, we were underway.

Dr Fleet began by emphasising the role Mehmed II played in the ascendancy of the Ottoman empire as a major naval power in the Eastern Mediterranean. Coupling his island-hopping strategy of conquest and the nullifying of Genoese and Venetian aggression through trade deals, the Ottomans were able to establish a foothold. Conquering islands and shipping routes had both strategic and economic aims. Influencing the islands would stop pirate corsairs who had been able to operate with impunity, close target locations for runaway slaves and secure communication around his ever-growing empire. Moreover, controlling the states would allow Mehmed to tax shipping to the Black Sea and give him to access fertile land through the Aegean. Through drawing Lesbos and the Peloponnesian Morea into the "chains of subjugation" in 1462, Mehmed was able to further his empire defensively and offensively.

There was then the question of what to do after conquest. Often, there were two different ways in which the Ottomans would maintain control of a region. The first was vassalage, a system in which the local government would pay a small fee, or tribute, to the Sultan in exchange for their protection and

continued governance. One example of this was Athens, who submitted to the Sultan and gave him many gifts. The second was direct conquest, after which the Sultan would attempt to retain the territory and develop the economy. This was the fate that the Hospitallers faced on Rhodes. This manifested itself through a series of tax breaks, which led to large scale migration from existing territories in Anatolia and Rumelia. This “soft rather than hard” rule, was owed to the “Ottoman pragmatic approach to shifting legacies”, preserving the “fluidity of the Eastern Mediterranean Zone”.

Dr Fleet then discussed events after the death of Mehmed II and the accession of Beyezid II. In the short term, this led to Otranto being abandoned and the Mediterranean being deprioritised. This was because Beyezid was distracted by the ongoing war with the Mamluk's over Syria and the escape of his half-brother, Cem. While the conventional historiography portrays Beyezid's shipbuilding as the major catalyst for the transformation of the Ottomans into a naval power, Dr Fleet argued that there was actually a reduction in naval presence during the reign of the second classical era sultan.

During the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, it became possible for the Ottomans to refocus on the Mediterranean. Because of the defeat of the Mamluks at Marj Dabiq and the Safavids at Chaldiran, Suleiman was able to look at Catholic Europe undistracted. Through the defection of Barbarossa in 1533, the Ottomans were able to get a presence in North Africa, propagate their rivalry with the Habsburgs and strike fear into the hearts of Catholic Europe. At the height of their power, the Ottomans attacked Sicily and took Tripoli using highly sophisticated tactics and skilled leaders.

Malta was the next obvious target. Here, the Ottomans were dealt their first major defeat. Infighting between Piri Pasha and Mustafa Pasha was compounded by poor communication to serve as the key turning point for the Ottomans. Before Malta, the Ottomans had the appearance of invincibility. Afterwards, it was shattered. This was followed by the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. At that battle, Don John's fleet met the Ottomans and Ali Pasha decided to give battle in a way that showed contempt for the Christians. In terms of the conventional historiographical narrative, Lepanto is seen as a major turning point. However, in terms of material, Dr Fleet seemed to agree with Colin Imber's view that Lepanto was a turning point that failed to turn. After Lepanto and Malta, Venice lost Cyprus in 1573. The Ottomans rebuilt their fleet. Although the myth of invincibility was shattered, there certainly wasn't a major decline. However, it did mark a realignment from aggressive to defensive tactics.

Thanks must go to Dr Fleet for her fantastic talk, along with RP and the Trevelyan Society leadership team for organising it.

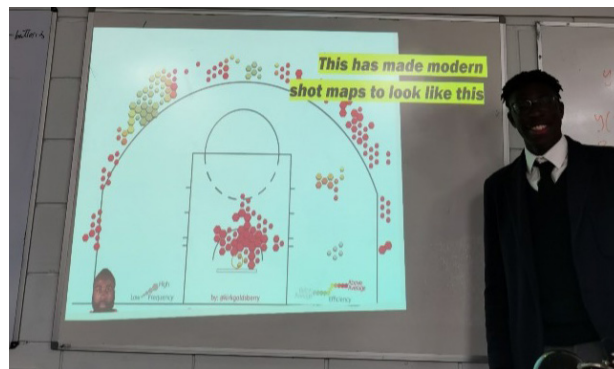
MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Joshua Soyemi, The Head Master's, 'The maths of basketball: how statistics have changed the modern NBA', MS 2, 28 September

On a Tuesday night, fuelled by their passion for maths and/or basketball, around 20 boys scammedered through the rain to MS2 to attend Joshua Soyemi's, *The Head Master's*, talk on 'The maths of basketball: how statistics have changed the modern NBA'. The audience would not be disappointed, as it soon turned out to be one of the most captivating lectures of the term thus far.

Soyemi started by outlining a brief history of basketball. It was invented in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891 by James Naismith; since then, it has grown massively in popularity with millions of players around the world and multi-billion-dollar sports leagues such as the NBA.

Then Soyemi dived deep into the main part of the talk. How have statistics changed the NBA? Three ways: play style, personnel and play type. At the advent of the NBA, before the 3-point line was introduced, the game was dominated by tall, athletic players who were able to get under the basket and score. This was because shooting technique was still not fully developed, and shooting percentage dropped significantly outside 3 feet. After the introduction of the 3-point line in 1979, players began to take longer and longer shots, and now the league is dominated by 3-point shooters such as Stephen Curry and Damian Lillard.



But why? Just because three is more than two? Well, nominally it is, but we need to consider that shot efficiency decreases as the distance from the basket increases. Therefore, a better picture is painted if we adjust for the average shot efficiency of each shot, using the points per shot.

Points per shot (PPS) = value of the shot (VAS) (2 or 3 points) * average shot efficiency (%)

In 1980, the average efficiency of a 3-pointer was 25%, resulting in a points per shot of 0.75. However, nowadays the average efficiency is 36%, resulting in a PPS of 1.08. Therefore, the PPS has increased dramatically for 3-pointers, while it has remained relatively stable for the 2-pointer at just below 1. This increase in PPS for 3-pointers has meant that it is used more and more often in the NBA.

Subsequently, Soyemi introduced Second Spectrum, which is the official tracking and analytics provider for the NBA, the Premier League and the MLS. It was first founded in 2013, and one of the best services it provides is shot probability analysis. It uses multiple factors such as shot distance, distance of nearest defender, direction of the shooter, and shooter factor to build a model to predict shot accuracy across the league, which can then be compared to a single player. For example, if a player makes a shot 49% of the time while the league only makes 47% on average, he is +2% shooter.

Before Second Spectrum, teams only had shooting percentage as a benchmark of a player's shooting ability. However, players with the same shooting percentage can either be a comparatively bad shooter taking high percentage shots (>50%), or a comparative good shooter taking lower percentage shots (<50%). Thus, Second Spectrum allows teams to identify players' potential and weaknesses and help them improve. In fact, in the first few years of its introduction, teams that incorporated Second Spectrum data into their training did much better than teams that did not. Nowadays, thanks to this data, players only take shots with the highest PPS, as exemplified through James Harden. Most of Harden's shots are around the perimeter of the three-point line, or are lay ups and dunks inside the paint.

Lastly, Second Spectrum has also influenced the type of plays in the NBA, especially the pick and roll, the most common play in the NBA. However, the pick and roll has many variations: the dribbler can take or reject the screen; the player setting the screen can either roll or pop; the primary defender can go over or under and so on. Second spectrum analyses these plays against specific defences, and calculates which plays are most likely to result in a point.

The talk obviously captured the minds of all attending, as questions were flowing after the lecture ended. One of the most interesting was if the advent of data analysis had made the NBA more interesting. Soyemi's own opinion was that it has made the NBA more interesting, as teams are now willing to take in different types of players, not just big and athletic men. This has made more youngsters dream about one day playing in the NBA, making itself and the sport more popular.

PEEL SOCIETY

Hector Rogberg, Druries, 'The rationing of truth in the USSR: how successful were Soviet leaders in persuading ordinary people to believe in the communist experiment?', OS 5, 5 October

On a calm Tuesday evening, the Peel Society was treated to a lecture entitled 'The rationing of truth in the USSR: how successful were Soviet leaders in persuading ordinary people to believe in the communist experiment?' It was delivered ably by Hector Rogberg, *Druries* – one of the heads of the society. Rogberg began the proceedings by discussing the rationing of the truth, which those attending were told could be applied to all things. Two people who did this with great success were Lenin and Hitler.

Early on, in the USSR, the newspaper was the main way of getting the word around, with journalists being taken to lush areas in Ukraine where there was no famine, selling the idea of the USSR being perfect and a so called 'communist utopia'. They didn't stop there. History was re-written. For example, it people were told that the Czars were not successful and World War One wasn't really covered or taught; the history of the Russian revolution was also rewritten. Mass book burnings also took place, similar to those in Germany, and were replaced with Soviet journals and books. Stalin's history book was mass produced, and he also removed figures from photos once he began disliking them, reinforcing the idea that communism was the only thing that worked. Rock 'n roll music wasn't allowed right up until the dissolution of the USSR, and types of jazz were banned by Khrushchev because they sounded too sad. There were plenty of cases of slow and passive brainwashing, like constant radio chatter about how great communism was, and hearing Stalin's voice everyday so that he almost became ingrained into everyone's mind, promoting affection for their 'great' leader.

Once television arrived, it spread fast. Those in power realised how powerful the television was, as people could see instead of just hear. We were told how quickly things developed: at the start television was only available in Moscow and Leningrad, but it grew from nine to 84 stations between 1955 and 1960.

Youth organisations were also used. Many young people would join the Little Octoberists, who were given badge of a baby Lenin, but the organisation was quite basic and was just a bit of fun. Young Pioneers, however, was hard to enter and you could join from the ages of 9 to 15. If you managed to join, it promoted a feeling of 'eliteness', and once accepted, you would receive a badge of young Lenin. They would also play Capture the Flag, which may sound innocent, until you realise that one team would be Germans and one team would be Russians.

KOMSOMOL was the final youth group, and stood for the Communist Union of Youth. You could join from the ages of 14 to 28 and to enter a major university students had to have been a member. The military also required you to have been part of KOMSOMOL, helping it gain popularity; at the time soldiers were well respected, and it was a very popular career option.

If these more subtle methods did not work, Rogberg told us that the other option that the USSR had up its sleeve, particularly during Stalin's reign of terror, was fear. Children were encouraged to report their parents if they were doing anything that they shouldn't be doing (don't get any ideas Shells!). Stalin could point at anyone and they would be killed. If 100 people were killed in a village and five of those 100 were actually doing the wrong thing, then that would be seen as a success. At one point, Stalin was even told to stop killing so many, since the USSR were running out of people to take jobs!

To conclude, Rogberg told us how the propaganda began to fail. For instance, people got frustrated at queuing for hours for their food allowance, while radio chatter was telling those in the queue how great communism was and that there was plenty of everything. In reality, of course, it was almost the complete opposite, thus leading to greater frustration among the people and a realisation that things needed to change.

Many thanks must go to Rogberg who delivered a fantastic lecture, without the aid of a script. This added to what has already been a fantastic program of Peel Society lectures.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

Part 4, WJC, 'How to begin a symphony: symphonic openings through the ages', OSRG, 4 October

On Monday 4 October, WJC presented the fourth part of the Cross-Curricular Lecture Series, titled 'How to begin a symphony: symphonic openings through the ages'.

He began by briefly explaining the origin of the symphony. The first symphonies came into being around the early 1700s in Italy. Symphonies found their origin in operatic overtures from Alessandro Scarlatti's Neapolitan school. Early symphonies were divided into three movements, but they grew to four movements from the late classical period, in which the first movements follow the sonata form. The sonata form is divided into three main sections: exposition, development and conclusion.

He moved on to the evening's first piece of music, Mozart's *Symphony 25*. This piece, known affectionately as 'Little G minor', was composed by Mozart when he was just 17 years old in 1773, and is noteworthy for being one of the seminal works of the *Sturm und Drang* movement. The phrase, translating as 'storm and impulse', represents the growing presence of subjectivity and emotional range in German art and literature in the 1760–80s.

Afterwards, there were three symphonies by the man himself, Ludwig "Betty" Van Beethoven. Beethoven was bold and adventurous in his music. His symphony No 1, composed between 1795 and 1800, begins with a slow introduction and refuses to start in the established tonic key of C major. Beethoven was about 25 when he finished his first symphony, and was already showing evidence of the Beethoven we all know. Quick volume changes and explosive energy define the anthemic experiences we have come to expect.

Beethoven's symphony No 5 has become one of few works to be defined by its opening phrase. The motif can be heard throughout the whole symphony. These eight notes are an example of Beethoven's genius and expertise; he could take the simplest building blocks of the classical musical style and construct an entirely new piece, engraved in our minds forever. The symphony takes listeners on a journey from dark to light, partially achieved by starting the final movement in C major instead of the original key of C minor, giving the piece a sense of brightness and chivalrous power. Beethoven, later in his life, wrote about this innovation in one of his conversation books: 'Many assert that every minor piece must end in the minor. Nego! On the contrary, I find that ... the major has a glorious effect. Joy follows sorrow, sunshine—rain.'

Beethoven continues to surprise us with his final symphony. The first movement begins with raw orchestral tuning and introduces the human voice, being one of the first choral symphonies. This symphony ultimately celebrates the triumphant union of mankind through Beethoven's trademark skittering, ebullient fluidity.

WJC concluded with why we should or should not compose our own symphony. Composing a symphony enables us to learn how to handle different instruments and gives us a huge sense of achievement. On the other hand, composing a symphony is a mammoth task; there are too many dimensions to it, and it is extremely unlikely to be played in real life.

Having enlightened us of the art of symphonic openings, WJC ended the lecture with a short session of questions to close the tempo on what was a melodic and harmonious evening.

OPINION

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

5			1	4				
						9		
			5					
			7				4	
	9							
	8				3	2		
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CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs,

It was an absolute pleasure to be in Speech Room last night to attend Songs along with my fellow members of the 1975³-1980² cohort. This occasion is usually something eagerly anticipated, but this time even more so as we come out of the pandemic with the urge to gather with a feeling of camaraderie with old friends, acquaintances (and even old enemies!) in the historic fabric of our alma mater was palpable.

It was wonderful to see so many of my contemporaries, this time some accompanied by their OH sons (an inspired idea from the HA!). Many had not visited the Hill since the day

they packed up their rooms and left following their A Levels. Some had taken up the opportunity of a tour of the School and remarked both how similar and how different it felt. There are many new buildings, some old ones have been repurposed, and even a new House has appeared! The impressive building works that are underway that will further enhance the facilities available to boys and the School community demonstrate that Harrow continues to look towards the future with confidence. It was clear is that everyone attending had been able to rekindle memories, long dormant, that were shared with relish! I even got to hear who had painted graffiti below the clock tower on Old Schools, the night before Speech Day in my penultimate year! Entering Speech Room, with the School filling their seats, some even having to sit on the steps to allow space for the OH guests, a sense of excitement was felt both from the boys, who were gathering for Songs for the first time in almost two years, and from the OHs, for many of whom it was the first time in Speech Room in 40 years. We were not disappointed. The choice of Songs included all of the old favourites and the singing was with gusto and even joy! The well-deserved spontaneous and long-lasting applause when the event concluded sent a shiver down my spine. Smiles abounded!

After an excellent dinner in the Shepherd Churchill Hall, which will always be known as the Trough to me (was this just a West Acre thing?), we all left the Hill brimming with renewed Harrow spirit. I suspect that I was not the only husband to be regaling his wife with a reprise of song after song in the car on the way home. My wife might even have mentioned that she should have saved some of her bread roll to use as ear plugs! Well done the School and well done the HA! If last night was anything to go by, the 450th celebrations next year will be magnificent too!

Yours aye!

ADAM HART, *WEST ACRE*, 1977¹

DEAR SIRs,

I was in Speech Room in a uniquely Harrow School weekday haze when the inspiration for this article struck, on the matter of *Harrovian* articles read out during School Songs, in particular, the notion of a *Harrovian* letter being read out during Songs maybe 40 years on.

I find it amusing for some reason that someday in the distant future there will be some poor sods, maybe 500 faces or so, in the newer equivalent of Speech Room listening to this drivel that I am writing, while waiting for supper in this month of October, not the month of the dull and sober. I wonder what will be different then. What will be the same? Do they still eat chicken in the Shepard Churchill or do they now eat some futuristic protein substitute or do they eat the food which the food eats (leaves/vegetables). Do they still sing the same Songs? Do they still sing the praise of the olden days? Does less than half the School know the full lyrics to *Forty Years On*, but upon reflection, I think all this a lie you know, I think all this is a lie. For much will be the same; there will still be a friend to the lazy boy, there will still be a Harrovian acting as a monkey boy, and there will still be Queen Elizabeth's charter, firm and free.

Knowing School Songs as I do, having experienced a few, I know the value of brevity. So fear not, this is the end of the letter, *Io Triumpha!*

Respectfully,

ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

DEAR SIRs,

I would like to begin this piece of correspondence by thanking the Heads of Sport for getting back to me with regard to the issue of compulsory rugby. While I don't agree with them about this issue, I appreciate that they have had the decency to engage

with my points. I also agree with them in commending all the work Harrow is already doing to make sport so great already.

In their letter, the Heads of Sport argue that compulsive rugby should be preserved simply because it is the 'main team game'. However, we clearly hold rugby to a standard that is different from other sports. Football is a main team game. Cricket is a main team game. Yet neither are compulsory for all Shell boys. When rugby was introduced more than half-way through our School history, it had to be promoted with School propaganda, including the commissioning of a Harrow song. Although it is the current *status quo*, there is nothing about rugby that is unique. I would argue that the same sense of camaraderie can be achieved in football or any other game. Given that the streamlining system means that not all Shells will be playing with all other Shells, how would splitting boys off to different sports split them into different teams, each of which will also contain a new and diverse range of friends from different Houses? Surely, they would still be interacting and making friends in different groups, just somewhere else? If we acknowledge that rugby has no inherent benefit as a sport, why hold it above all others?

I must also acknowledge that I totally understand why total 'free sport choice for Shells' is not only undesirable but impossible. Some sports cannot accommodate as many boys. However, this is not at all what I am advocating. Rather than allowing boys to always get their first choice sport, can we not allow them to vote 'not rugby'? This would allow those who really feel passionately about the issue to end up doing something else which can accommodate them. Surely we, as the best boys boarding school, with a 300-acre leafy estate, can find the space for a few more boys to do cross country or football or another such sport? As for staffing, if fewer boys played rugby, fewer rugby beaks would be required and more could be placed into those alternative-option sports. From having spoken to rugby beaks around the School on this issue, it seems there would be no shortage of volunteers.

Both the Heads of Sport, and Brandon Chang in his letter last week, addressed the issue of non-contact rugby. However, one does wonder if it is really that simple? For starters, one has to imagine there are certain social pressures to play contact rugby. Every House needs its team. Older rugby boys, the members of this "mafia" are also likely to be part of enforcing this. Essentially, this is us institutionally endorsing the peer pressuring of our most vulnerable boys into something that could have adverse health effects and could put mental strain on them as they join the School. Secondly, given that the School has an obligation to fill its teams in order to fulfil the expectations of block fixtures against schools that are larger than we are, one would have to imagine that there are certain pressures to play contact rugby. Finally, given that there are so many Shells complaining that they feel forced to play contact rugby, can it really be that prominent an option?

While many boys vote with their feet towards rugby, others do not. The most important issue in this debate is a pastoral one. We have heard a lot in defence of rugby about how boys will make lasting friendships and love the social connections. What about the others? What about the boy for whom rugby makes it that bit more difficult to settle in? What about the boy for whom rugby has made their first term at Harrow a miserable memory? Don't we owe it to them to not thrust this on them during their most difficult time at the School? These Shell boys exist. I should know. I've spoken to them over the last couple of weeks.

If rugby contributes to even one boy leaving the School or having a serious mental health issue, no amount of pride in our sporting success can make that sit right with me. If rugby contributes to a boy not liking or buying into sport, that doesn't sit right with me. If rugby is held to a different standard simply because of a relatively newfound tradition (the philosophy for sport in 2017 said that no boy will be made to play a single

prescribed sport), that doesn't sit right with me. Let us do the compassionate thing.

Kind regards,
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S

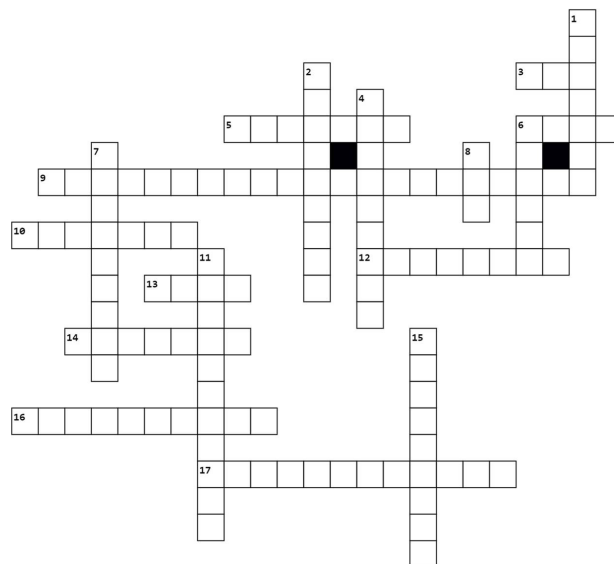
DEAR SIRs,

As an Editor, one of my core duties is to encourage boys and beaks to write for *The Harrovian*. Despite my best efforts, I often find this an impossible task. However, I have recently found a new line of argument that is sure to galvanise the Harrow masses towards journalism: appealing to their basic human decency. While enjoying my final Harrow Association Songs, I wondered what *Harrovian* extract would be read out when I return to the Hill. Imagine my horror when I realised that the letter would almost certainly have been written by Dylan Winward!

I implore all readers today, whether they be boy or beak, to write letters on any subject and of any quality; if we all pull together, we can stop him.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM WAUCHOPE, THE KNOLL

CROSSWORD



Across

3. Party of Angela Merkel
5. The state of the first woman to serve in the United States Senate
6. Fictional pirate
9. Orson Welles' final movie
10. French filmmaking brothers
12. First Winter Olympic Games
13. Operatic solo
14. The Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ
16. Number of pleats in a chef's hat
17. Architect of Chapel

Down

1. First Black astronaut
2. First historian
4. 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 ...
6. Rooster in Disney's *Moana*
7. Writer of *Hills Like White Elephants*
8. Number of Wes Anderson films
11. Italian dry wine
15. Last opera of Richard Strauss

METROPOLITAN



TEA SOCIETY
Harrow School

Weekly Tea Review

Pamplermousse Vert by Lupicia Teas, Paris

In large part, I inherited my love of tea from my mother, which makes this tea rather special. When I was much younger, she and I would often take trips to Paris, and on one such occasion, we happened to stumble upon Lupicia's store. We were both quickly seduced by the beautiful Japanese interiors and the charismatic staff. Lupicia teas are now an afternoon staple at our house. The teas themselves are extremely innovative, and, without a doubt, all delicious. Flavours like lavender; cherry; mango; raspberry and chocolate; melon; rhubarb and strawberry; apricot; strawberry and vanilla, and pink pepper are all favourites. It staggers me to think that each of these remarkable flavours stem from a base of just one plant (camellia sinensis). This tea, green grapefruit is made from Taiwanese Oolong tea scented with amanatsu, yellow-citrus orange fruit. The delicate balance of sweet and sour flavours makes this tea well suited for drinking as iced-tea in summer, and also a fragrant, warming winter tea. I would thoroughly recommend buying tea from Lupicia. They will not disappoint.



The Tea Society meets regularly on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Join our mailing list to receive information about upcoming events.

2oSavilleMascionA@harrowschool.org.uk

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

This year's National Poetry Day competition was on the theme of choice. The challenge was to write a poem in exactly 12 words that explored the theme in any way the writer wished. Staff and boys were invited to submit entries, with midnight as the deadline for this one-day competition. With 112 entries, there was an excellent variety in approach, with poems about the choices we make to protect the planet, choices about how to treat others, choices about how we behave, and choices about simple every day decisions such as what to eat for dinner.

Bode Kolawole, *Newlands*, won the competition. LSA, who was judge, enjoyed the simplicity and clarity of the message, as well the way he used rhyme to connect choice with using our voice.

Our choices
Will make changes.
Eat organically,
Shop locally, use
Our voices.

Bode Kolawole, *Newlands*

The following entries were highly commended:

Flat-tyred bicycle
Longs for the slapping wet road –
I'm looking for fuel.

ERPB

grass
imperfect decking
rotted wood
not built to last
I abandoned summer

Mick Chapman

dazzling morning and
afternoon light
blinds us to history
chosen by night

Tony Keating

Haters cloud an infinite rainbow sky
Give it all
Prove them wrong

CMC

Make a choice, take a bet
Roll the dice, what d'you get?

Katie Dalton aged 10

Friend, that's not the question.
How to be, however,
Helps Ophelia more

SWB

Our or oar?
Aurora, or a roar, or hour?
Ah, raw awe!

FSW

Forty years on
and the hairs grow greyer.
The song repeats regardless.

Jude Esposito, *Newlands*

Thin wings flail, aimless.
Warmed skies' corral drifting doves.
Choice – heated mirage.

Brian Donohugh, *Newlands*

Here it comes,
the rushing river,
ambushing you from port and starboard.

Freddie Williams, *Moretons*

A*
Life is a multiple-choice test
With infinite choices.
Not very easy.

Indi Abrams, *The Grove*

"To be a bee or to not be a bee
Free honey."

Max Ding, *The Park*

Blue or red?
Old or now?
A ballot. A pencil.
Our power.

Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*

Through the haze
Hecate waits; She beckons forward
with cold, outstretched arms.

James Nelson, *Bradlys*

"Goodbye" – a word not spoken
Rather their family mantra
"Make wise choices"

Estelle Marshall

As the hunter chooses to kill
Mankind can always choose to save

Sheila Price

Choice is
How
One's
Instincts
Change our
Existing
Souls, Society and Surroundings.

Enhe Hu, *The Knoll*

'Black and white. Black and white. Viridian? Vermillion?
Verdigris? How about Purple?'

Patrick Lehtell, *Moretons*

The worst choice to make
is to not do anything at all.

Adiran Inpan, *Bradlys*

On. Off.
With wind blowing
against the poplars,
the Light-
goes out.

Matt Travis, *The Head Master's*

Confinement surrounds me!
All of the power's within thee,
Ensnared within patriarchy.

Jake Posner Kane, *Moretons*

Skew or sleep?

SKEW OR SLEEP?

Prep calls. Prep lingers.
I sleep.

Ben Leonard, *The Grove*

The creaking of floorboards,
Hand buried in her pocket,
a dagger drawn.

Freddie Sloss, *Rendalls*

Uprising,
Leaders,
Actions,
Violence,

Rebellion,
Territory,
Unlike animals, only we have choice

Tobias Adetula, *West Acre*

I pass them,
We don't speak,
Something wrong – but I don't ask

Tom Emery, *Moretons*

Scorn choice.
Mind-forged manacles.
Don't vote.
Keep drinking that kool-aid.

Que Akhavan Zanjani, *Druries*

SLACK SLACKS.

by Anne Hall

Like most of the boys in the school
I try very hard to look cool,
But a man in the street
Saw my trouser clad feet,
And he said to my face "silly fool."

"Are you trying to follow a trend,
Or is gravity no more your friend?
Do you think it is hip
To wear trousers that slip
Over legs that appear not to end?"

I felt cross but knew he was right.
My trousers are really a blight.
I wear them so long
That my body looks wrong
And my feet have quite vanished from sight.

Some chaps do wear trousers that fit,
And they look rather nice I admit.
More like men about town
Then a dirt spattered clown.
It's not clever to look like a twit!

So perhaps the next trousers I choose
Will fit, for I've nothing to loose.
I have had quite enough
Of appearing a scruff,
And I may even polish my shoes!

HARROW HAIKUS

These haikus describe places around the School. Can you identify them all? If you think you know where they all are, email SMK, and you could win a book token!

Bustling tables
Steps surrounding water flow
Rush of hungry boys

Bats crack on the fields
Down the hill of odd houses
As cars chug on by

The white blocks of stone
Connecting Bill yard, high street
Prominent pathway

Presence of grand dark stage
As the bright lone light turns on
Prepare for the scenes

SPORT

GOLF

Friendly match v Eton, Won 2-1, 30 September

The path to Moor Park was a treacherous one, aided little by a faltering Google Maps; while our golfers can navigate 18 holes with ease, they seem to struggle more with North London. JRP's valiant efforts ensured the boys' safe delivery to the first tee; the Other Place in our sights, the match had begun.

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, lit up the grounds from the outset. At the fifth hole, Shirvell stepped up and Brysoned (new verb) a drive down the middle, scoring a birdie 3 and winning the hole. Seven holes in, we were 3 up, with Williams corking a fine 2-putt for par and the Slough Wanderers seeming headless; yet, as it is wont to do, tragedy struck: misfortune on the 8th and 9th tee led to a narrowed lead. Spirits intact, the boys fought hard on the back nine with a combined five birdies and an eagle, seeing the Old Enemy off with a 4-2 victory.

Second out were captain Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and unproven talent Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*. Despite a blazing start, the inclement weather got the better of them, leading to a narrow loss on the 18th hole.

The match was set, the game tied: it all came down to Parkites Aidan Wong and Fred Hewer, who sprang out of the gates with a blistering two-point lead over the first three holes. Against a challenging opposing pair, the lead was tenuous, yet remained resolute, as did the boys – it was our game to win. A nifty up and down to force a half on the 8th was followed by a clinical birdie on the 9th at Wong's able hands; on the 13th, Hewer sliced a cheeky par putt for yet another hole victory. Similar displays of prowess defined the 14th–16th holes; tactical errors were made on the 17th, but soon rectified by a heroic effort from Hewer. As the 18th hole drew near, we had one point on the Et*nians, and who else but the nascent Micklem hero “Wongers” to seal the game? A solid pitching wedge and two putts for par were sufficient to dispatch our ambitious (yet fallen) adversaries, and maintain a fantastic start to the season.

FIVES

The School v Highgate, 7 October

Thursday 7 October saw a storming win by all four senior players. Jonathan Barley, *The Grove*, and Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, totally outplayed their opponents to win comfortably. A new pairing at second pair of John Richardson, *Elmfield*, and Fred Prickett, *The Park*, also won in straight sets. The third pairing of Caspar Stone, *The Park*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, also won 3-0 with some strong returns of cuts and intelligent rally play. Edred Clutton and Will Tate, both *The Knoll*, easily beat their opponents and will no doubt look forward to getting back to a higher position soon.

The juniors had some good results also, with the highlights being strong performances from Jake Turner, *Druries*, and Dominic Hopkins, *Elmfield*, at Under-14 first pair.

SWIMMING

The School v Charterhouse and Abingdon, 7 October

A very strong performance against Charterhouse and Abingdon, hosted by the former. Harrow took first and second places in all but two of the events held at the gala, with the swimmer of the event being Marcus Pang, *Rendalls*.

SOCCER

Development B XI v Eton Under-18B, Won 5-0, 5 October

Scorers: Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, x3, Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, Max Baygual Nespatti, *Elmfield*,

‘Lads, it’s Eton’ was the pre-match teamtalk from DH and the Development B side knew exactly how to respond. With pressure from the off, Harrow executed exactly what they practised during training, pressing as a unit to steal the ball high up the field before an expert strike from Max Baygual-Nespatti, *Elmfield*, gave an early goal within two minutes of kick off. It is safe to say this set the tone for the rest of the game. With a dominant performance in the midfield, the Harrow team kept the game in Eton’s half for the first 20 minutes. This resulted in a second goal. After intercepting Eton’s route-one football, a well-placed pass set Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, through on goal, who took it round the keeper with composure. After establishing a 2-0 lead, it was plain sailing for Harrow. Just before half-time, the onlooking spectators were treated to some of the best, cohesive team-play witnessed on the Phil Grounds. Some liquid football allowed Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*, to ping a beautiful crossfield ball, which released Ayomide Awolesi down the right flank. Looking up, he spotted his on-rushing brother, and Ayobami, *The Head Master's*, hit a first-time strike into the top corner: a cool finish to sum up the seamless passing produced.



The second half started with Harrow on the backfoot as Eton became even more direct than before, with balls flying overhead into the final third. The strong defensive line-up of Ezekiel Akinsanya, *Lyon's*, Nikolai Hanbury, *Rendalls*, and Zane Akbar-Khan, *Moretons*, adapted to this situation and the midfield switched to a three to overcome the Eton press in impressive style. With tight defending, it allowed the boys to express themselves in ways we didn't quite see coming. A stunning solo run by Zain Ayoub, *The Knoll*, combined with Ayomide Awolesi, who picked the ball up on the half way line and clinically finished into the bottom left corner. After struggling a little in the first ten minutes of the half, the goal released morale in the Harrow team and, with confidence booming, Harrow started to play some brilliant possession

football. The final goal was simply the icing on the cake, with a ball played back to the edge of the box and a stunning first-time effort from that man Ayomide Awolesi, saw the ball sail past the keeper's gloves and into the top corner, completing his hat-trick. At the time, DH said the strike was the best he'd seen at Harrow. From here on out, Harrow continued to control the game and began to rotate positions in the team to keep everyone engaged in the development process – our centre back went up top and our goalkeeper into a number 9 role. Everyone played well and each individual performance was truly astonishing. A clean sheet and five goals is precisely the standard that we are capable of when we play as a team. The afternoon was great and full of positivity despite the poor weather at certain points. All in all we set the pace and the tone for the game and saw out an impressive performance.

*Harrow Development Under-16 XI v Whitgift U16A,
Won 1-0*

Scorers Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*

The recently formed Development Under-16 XI travelled to Whitgift in anticipation of a tight, quality contest against one of the best footballing schools in the country...and they weren't disappointed. The weather was perfect for the occasion but the small size of the pitch was set to limit the Harrow team's style of play, and the strict time pressure (after our coach driver got a little lost around Heathrow) prevented our usually thorough warm up. However, it did not take long for the team to adjust to unfamiliar conditions with the back three of Eli Dewotor, *The Head Master's*, Cameron Childs, *Newlands*, and co-captain Zane Khan, *Moretons*, maintaining the team shape and defensive stability. This solid defensive set up provided the platform for the team to start playing their attacking-style, fast-flowing football; with wing-backs Zain Ay-oub, *The Knoll*, and Chinedu Orji, *The Park*, bombing forward as much as possible to try and make the most of what width we had, much to the pleasure of the team's coach DH. A few chances fell to us in the first half but were well dealt with by our opponents who opted for a back three as well. A few misplaced passes and questionable decisions from the referee saw us have some scares from decent crosses into the box and players being sucked out of position. The team saw the first half draw to a close early following a strong challenge from Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*, which left an opposition player in quite some agony on the floor. It turned out that a broken and dislocated ankle required the arrival of an ambulance, leading to a lengthy half-time and an opportunity for the Harrow team to catch their breath after a hard-fought first half.

After a motivational half-time team-talk from DH, the team began their rondos, which helped to prevent any stiffness during the long break. The second half was started with an abundance of energy and a lovely team press led by the front three of Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, Chinedu Orji, *The Park*, and Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*. Pinpoint distribution from co-captain goalkeeper Tom Haworth, *The Knoll*, accelerated movement up the pitch while the midfield pairing of Max Baygual, *Elmfield*, and Sam Amissah, *Druries*, started to enable Harrow to dominate the exchanges and push further forwards in search of the opening goal, making several openings in and around the box while also breaking up the opposition attacks readily. It was just a shame the Whitgift goalkeeper was having an outstanding day to repel everything that came his way. An unfortunate injury to Orji saw the introduction of Inigo Doyle, *The Park*, who provided a surge of energy for the team as they continued their search for a winner. The final ten minutes saw the team grow in confidence, moving closer and closer to the winner. With time running out, the moment of brilliance arrived in what DH described as the best goal he has seen at Harrow after the game. Good defensive positioning saw Harrow play out a defensive

corner with Zane Akbar-Khan, *Moretons*, incisively switching the play forwards to counter-attack. Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, picked up the ball in the centre of the pitch on the half-turn before laying it into the imperious Sam Amissah, *Druries*, who pulled in a defender before releasing it to the left-wing where Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, was waiting. Producing a Salah-esque slaloming run that had three opposition defenders twisted inside out, Collier-Wright then had the vision and execution to smash the ball into the top corner, despite the best efforts of the outstanding Whitgift goalkeeper. Good defensive shape and ball retention allowed for the Harrow team to close out the victory in their first match together. The young team looks to develop on their impressive performance through hard work on the training ground, but the signs are very positive for their remaining fixtures together and beyond.

RUGBY

The XV away v St Paul's School, Won 19-0

A comprehensive 19-0 victory for The XV with a score line not quite reflecting how dominant Harrow were overall both with and without the ball. Buster Wilkins, *West Acre*, Oli Newall, *Druries*, and Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, were the try scorers, with Ellis kicking two conversions.

The Whitgift match felt like an eternity ago and it was time for this group to right some of the wrongs from Croydon. Things had been a little tetchy in the build up to this one; the 2s had given us a great drilling in Thursday training and our response had not been one of calm heads. Added to this, Edstrom, *Bradlys*, the newly minted Lion, somehow ran into Walker's knee at the end of Friday training, leaving Walker, *Bradlys*, with a big old swelling and out for the fixture. Yet, there was lots of good preparation too; cumulatively, the boys had spent over 25 hours watching the Whitgift video, clipping moments and working out what need fixing and JLM had spent a similar amount of time watching St Paul's lineouts from the last five years, ready to spring the trap. Friday's session was crisp and so it was down to Barnes.

Things looked promising from the get go on Saturday morning as the 1st XV bus arrived, a beautiful Ferrari red, and a clean journey into Chiswick meant we arrived with ample warm up time. The sun was shining and the scene was set for a great afternoon of rugby. The game plan, fresh from playing far too much rugby against Whitgift in the wrong areas, was to control the game from the off with territory, effective kicking and our dominant defence. Immediately, the boys got this right – early on exchanging kicks, winning the territory battle, aided by Ellis' best performance with the boot all year and the first Harrow 50:22 bringing a smile to JAA's face.

After a slight wobble against Whitgift, the Harrow lineout was back to its efficient best – Ferreira, *The Grove*, calling brilliantly to imbalance the tricky the St Paul's defensive set up and Wilkins hitting his targets consistently. The outcome was a strong maul set and 15m out, Harrow drove brilliantly and Wilkins bundled over for a 7-0 lead. Harrow kept the pressure on and, although there were some inaccuracies at the breakdown, began to rise into the ascendancy. Yet...worryingly once again...points were not going on the board. After a series of drives for the line sucked in the St Paul's defence, Ellis chucked one wide to Newall for a walk-in but he dropped it and the chance was gone; JLM was stomping his feet and strutting around like a petulant child (although there was no notebook throwing this week) as JAA remained calm. Newall, however, quickly made up for this as Harrow scored their best try of the season; consistent phase play, an effective minus call to hit the edge and then a superbly run ball off 10 with the forwards slipping

it out the back, Hamblin gave a short pass and Newall, with lots of work to do, finished powerfully.

The first half was lots of the same; Harrow dominance, a failure to convert into points but once again empathic defence and turnover work at the breakdown. There could have been more points (particularly 3 more if Chatwin's ill-fated 40m drop kick sailed over) but it was all Harrow and it was pleasing to see such control asserted.

The second half was similar. Harrow scored early with Ellis dotting down after a very well-worked ball out the back from Stirling and classy offload from Wilkins. St Paul's had little in response; they visited Harrow's 22 very infrequently and Douglas, *Newlands*, (followed by Gabriel Black, *West Acre*, who made an excellent 1st XV debut after Harvey had to leave to go piping) controlled the game well, Ellis and centres Phillips and Miall, both *Newlands*, were well in control and as ever Edstrom, Stirling, *Lyon's*, Tuipulotu, *Durries*, et al were outstanding in defence. As the little 'uns arrived to watch the last ten minutes, Harrow played some of their best rugby but St Paul's were stout in their defence. A final set of phases on the SPS goal line should've rewarded the large crowd with a try, but after working hard to create a huge overlap, Neal followed Newall's first half lead to drop the sitter for an easy score. It happens.

Just as 7-0 at Whitgift was not really a fair reflection of the game, 19-0 on Saturday doesn't do justice to the control and dominance Harrow asserted on the game. Four matches in and the group has only conceded three tries – a staggering defensive record, especially when considering that all three of those tries have been breakaway scores. The plan to play in the right areas was brilliantly executed and, with better finishing, this should have been several scores more in our favour; however, with a big game versus Berkhamsted looming (at home!) we must be more clinical, more effective in the attacking breakdown and continue our hot defensive streak if we're to challenge one of the country's most in-form teams. It will be great to be back at home and the boys will relish The Sunley opportunity.

2nd XV v St Paul's School, Won 58-0

3rd XV v St Paul's School, Won 61-0

Colts A v St Paul's School, Won 29-11

Harrow came out the blocks and dominated almost all aspects of the game in the first ten minutes with Jasper Smallwood, *The Knoll*, and Seb Brindley, *The Park*, both showing impressive finishing to round off well worked team tries. Errors began to seep into Harrow's play however, with dropped balls and poor discipline allowing St Paul's number 10 to knock over two penalties, before the opposition made a number of incisive breaks leading to an eventual successful thrust to the line. Harrow were to have the last say in the half though as Sam Phillips showed impressive power to bundle over in the corner.

The scores remained at 15-11 for much of the second half with Harrow unable to string together enough phases or maintain field position to sufficiently pressurise St Paul's who, to their credit, repeatedly counter attacked well and were unlucky not to score a try to go in front. Despite a cagey second half up until that point, the final ten minutes were possibly some of Harrow's finest of the season. Aggressive defence and slick handling were too much for St Paul's to deal with and late scores by Netanel Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*, and Henry Emerson, *Newlands*, both of which were well converted by Fil Edstrom, *Bradlys*, saw Harrow close out the match in style and take home what was on balance a deserved win.

Colts B v St Paul's School, Won 24-7

Colts C v St Paul's School, Won 43-3

Junior Colts A v St Paul's School, Won 26-0

The sun was shining down on the Junior Colts A as they faced

a committed St Paul's team. From the get go the Harrow boys displayed a strong attack gaining ground through repeated carries and good support. From set pieces the backs pushed into St Paul's territory. Mistakes pinned Harrow in their 22, which showed strong defending and perseverance to prevent St Paul's from taking the lead. Good Harrow hand skills were demonstrated throughout the game with Harrow breaking into the St Paul's half and enabling Henry Dargan, *Druries*, to score the first try. The leading position motivated a continued Harrow attack. The forwards lines drove St. Paul's back. A penalty kick to touch gave Harrow a line out on the five-yard line resulting in a strong drive from Sammy Clayton-Bennett, *Newlands*, to put the ball down for Harrow's second try. At half-time Harrow had delivered a strong game with two tries and two conversions. The second half saw a determined St Paul's team resulting in the need for a strong Harrow defence. Harrow's hunger for the ball led to penalties being conceded and pushed back into our 22 for the majority of the second half. Immense line speed and tackling from Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, and the flankers gave Harrow the opportunity to take possession and Adam Sameen's, *The Knoll*, incredible speed and determination to score in the right corner. More excellent play led to a break from Sam Winters, *Elmfild*, who offloaded to Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, who placed our fourth try under the posts. This match showed the boy's commitment and high intensity which will be vital in future games.

Junior Colts B v St Paul's School, Draw 21-21

Junior Colts C v St Paul's School, Won 31-29

Yearlings A v St Paul's School, Won 60-5

On Saturday the Yearlings A travelled to their first away game against St Paul's. The match started quickly with successive tries from Harrow, but a response did come from St Paul's, with them quickly snatching a try and keeping the pressure on. We went into half-time with a comfortable lead and looking forward to the second half. In the second half, Harrow dominated and started to show some of their skill. The game ended as a comfortable win for Harrow with many new lessons learnt. Two tries each for Jeffrey Arthur, *The Knoll*, Rocco Addati, *The Knoll*, Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, and Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*. Overall a good performance from the team and an enjoyable experience.

Yearlings B v St Paul's School, Draw 20-20

Yearlings C v St Paul's School, Won 45-20

Yearlings D v St Paul's School, Lost 25-40

Yearlings E v St Paul's School, Draw 35-35

Yearlings F v St Paul's School, Won 60-15

BADMINTON

1st v Abingdon School, The School Won, 9 October

On Saturday, the First VIII were faced with their toughest challenge yet, with a clash against Abingdon School, who are usually among the best teams on the circuit. However, they emerged with flying colours to win 5-3.

In a difficult clash, the opening pair of Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and JB Yang, *The Grove*, faced off against a second Abingdon pair who were difficult to contain. In spite of a strong victory against a bus-weary away side after a series of long rallies, they conceded the first game after facing considerably more difficulty. Although they lost the final game, it was admirable to see how they faced a loudly grunting set of Abingdon smashes with courage and honour, exhibiting the Harrow values perfectly on the court. Unfortunately, this loss

of momentum also led to a loss against the Abingdon first pair, who had warmed up considerably.

However, there was far more success from the Harrow second pair. In a strong performance, Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, put away a series of strong smashes. Even more impressively, John Kwong, *Lyon's*, demonstrated some extremely mature defensive play, which enabled Harrow to win through against the Abingdon second pair. It is rare that an exceptional talent walks into the team so quickly after joining the Shells, but this performance is promising for the future.

The Harrow third pair, which contained captain Alex Locke, *West Acre*, also had their work cut out. In their opening game against the fourth Abingdon pair, Harrow waltzed to an initial victory. However, things got more difficult as the match ran on. In the second game, the boys stood face to face with a 20-17 deficit. Usually, it takes a miracle to come back from that, but if there was anyone up to the task it was Marcus Tung, *West Acre*, who showed not only resilience and skill but markedly good gamesmanship to bring the game back to a 22-20 victory. Their second match, against the third Abingdon pair, involved a close victory in the first game before they pulled away 21-6.

The final Harrow pair, which consisted of Jarvis Lam, *The Park*, and Sunny Ye, *Rendalls*, won both games against the Abingdon third pair in their characteristically decisive way. In a demonstration of the kind of badminton that has made Harrow so famously formidable at competitions, both Lam and Ye managed to put the final knife in the back of Goliath to bring home a memorable victory for the home side.

In particular, thanks must also go to Alex Anikin, *The Park* and Aarav Tribhuvan, *Moretons* for helping facilitate the long warm up. After our opposition were caught up significantly in traffic, they had to work particularly hard to keep our team in a state of readiness ahead of the game. Wilfred Leung, *The Park*, Edward Seppala, *Lyon's*, and Jackie Guo, *The Grove*, should also be credited for supporting the team and helping turn the Sports Centre into a fortress.

RACKETS

1st v St Paul's School Lost

The best first pair match since the revamp of the Prens Hue Williams court ended in a heartbreaking 2-3 defeat at the hands of St Paul's. Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, held match point in the final game but were just unable to close out the win. Both boys displayed real prowess and character in their approach to the game. This bodes well for the future.

Under-18B v St Paul's School Won

A convincing 3-0 victory for Federico Gherzi, *The Head Master's*, and Veer Patel, *The Knoll*. After a tight first game, Harrow shifted into a higher gear to win the next two games comfortably.

Under-16A v St Paul's School Lost

Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, were unlucky to lose a tight 1-3 match against a Sixth-Form pair. Both boys played with spirit and determination.

Under-16B v St Paul's School, Draw

Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Jack Scott, *The Park*, were resolute in service box and spirit, yielding, 1-1 draw.

Under-15A v St Paul's School Lost

Regardless of a lack of match practice, Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, showed commendable spirit and integrity despite an 0-3 loss.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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