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COUTTS LECTURE

Dr Simon Singh MBE, science author and broadcaster,
Speech Room, 9 May

A large crowd of boys and visitors from off the Hill gathered in Speech Room on Monday 9 May to hear Dr Simon Singh deliver this year's Coutts Lecture.

Dr Simon Singh is an author, television producer, theoretical and particle physicist, known in particular for his 1996 BAFTA award-winning documentary, *Fermat's Last Theorem*, and his five books on a range of topics from the Big Bang to maths in *The Simpsons*. He was also awarded the inaugural Lilavati Award for outstanding contribution to public outreach in mathematics, and was zapped by a million-volt lightning bolt.

After the introduction, Mr Singh began his talk, which focused on his five books: *Fermat's Last Theorem* (1997), *The Code Book* (1999), *Big Bang* (2004), *Trick or Treatment?: Alternative Medicine on Trial* (2008, co-authored with Edzard Ernst), and *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets* (2013). Looking at these titles, there doesn't seem to be much in common, but Dr Singh turned to Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven' to point out their similarity.



After the song had been played forwards and backwards, Mr Singh asked if anyone had heard the word 'Satan' in the song. A few had, but what about 'Here's to my sweet Satan / The one whose little path would make me sad whose power is Satan / He'll give you, he'll give you 666 / There was a little tool shed where he made us suffer, sad Satan'? On a second listening, nearly everyone could hear the entire phrase when the lines were put up in time with the music.

While we were unbiased on the first listening (we perceived reality: that there was no hidden message and it was just random noises), when it was pointed out, and when we were told that we would hear the words, we heard the entire phrase. The brain is a pattern-spotter. If you tell your brain to look out for something, it will find it. This time, our brains tricked us into hearing something that wasn't said. Sometimes, we're tricked into seeing or thinking something that's not there.

His books, Dr Singh explained, are about how we can avoid being tricked. Instead of relying just on our senses and our subjective experience, we should rely on science: being objective, taking measurements and performing experiments. If you follow the scientific method, you have a much better

chance of understanding the world as it really is, and not how you would like it to be.

Dr Singh then turned to *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets*, which he admitted doesn't really fit with all that he'd just said. There is plenty of maths in *The Simpsons* (unsurprisingly, it's Dr Singh's favourite TV show), whether that be mathematical formulas on books in *MoneyBART* (2015), the name of the Springfield theatre (the *GOOGOLPLEX*, based on googolplex – 10100 in decimal notation), or formulas scrawled on the inside of Bender's head in *Simpsonorama* (2014). The reason for this is simple: many of the writers for *The Simpsons* are mathematicians; take Jeff Westbrook, a former Yale professor, or Ken Keller, who has a PhD in Maths from Harvard.



Dr Singh then moved on to *Fermat's Last Theorem*, showing a clip from the opening of his documentary on it (still accessible on BBC iPlayer) where Andrew Wiles, who discovered the proof for Fermat's Last Theorem, compared doing maths to exploring a dark room, stumbling around and slowly identifying objects until, eventually, you find the light switch and you can see the room in its entirety. Although maths at school always has an answer – whether that be provided by a teacher, the back of a book, or an online solution), in real maths no-one knows the answer; there is a sense of adventure in answering extraordinary questions. At the end of the clip, Wiles breaks down into tears, smiling, while trying to articulate how he felt and feels about solving Fermat's Last Theorem. To Dr Singh, this is a clear demonstration that there is passion and emotion in maths if you deeply care about it.

Turning the clock back from Wiles to the origin of Fermat's Last Theorem, we go to Pierre de Fermat, to whom mathematics was a hobby when he lived 250 years ago not far from Toulouse in France. He loved maths but there was no mathematical community near him – he couldn't go to salons or lectures to discuss maths, as he might have done had he lived in Paris. Instead, he just worked away on maths alone in the evenings, solving problems. Some of these came from Diophantus' *Arithmetica*, a collection of mathematical problems first compiled in Ancient Greece which was already 1,400 years old in Fermat's day.

Question 8 in the book was to do with Pythagorean triples: whole number solutions to the pythagorean equation ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$; where a, b, c are all positive integers). Fermat knew that there is an infinite number of such solutions, but he wanted to know how many solutions there were for higher-power variants of the equation ($a^n + b^n = c^n$; where a, b, c, n are all positive integers and $n > 2$). Considering that this is an infinite number of equations and that there are known to be infinite solutions

for the Pythagorean equation, one would expect it to be easy to find whole number solutions for higher powers, but Fermat couldn't find any. In the end, he wrote in the margin of his copy of *Arithmetica* that he had a truly marvellous proof that there were no solutions but that the margin of his book was simply too narrow to contain the proof: "demonstrationem mirabilem sane detexi. Hanc marginis exiguitas non caperet".

After Fermat died, his son found his book full of notes of this sort, and he published a new version of *Arithmetica* with his father's notes. Over time, everything that Fermat said was true was proved to be so by other mathematicians, except for this one: hence, Fermat's Last Theorem. Many great mathematicians made significant progress, among them Évariste Galois, Sophie Germain and Yutaka Taniyama, but it was Andrew Wiles who eventually proved it.



(Above: Question 8 of the re-published *Arithmetica*, with Pierre's note under 'Observatio Domini Petri de Fermat')

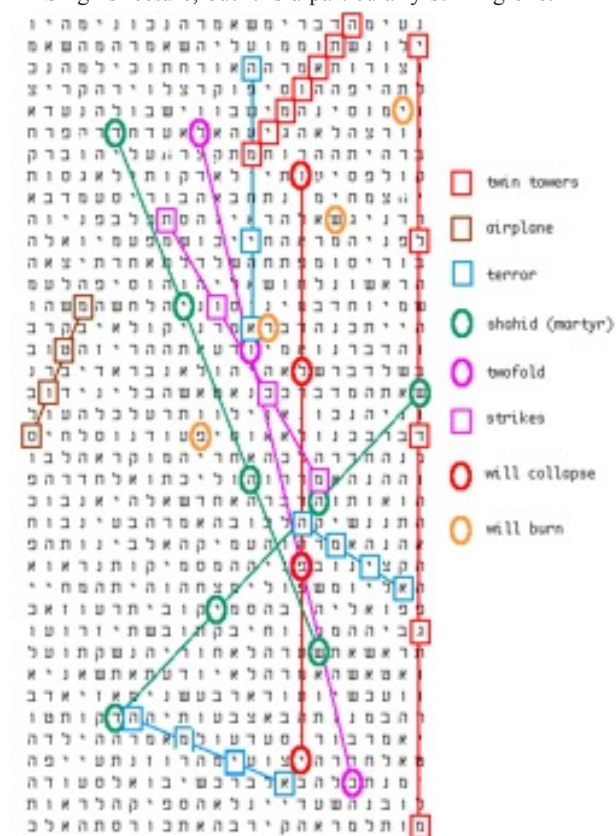
Dr Singh then moved on to another book, *Trick or Treatment? Alternative Medicine on Trial*. By alternative medicine, Singh refers to non-mainstream medicine, often traditional or ancient and based on things like chi or chakra. In the book, co-authored with medical practitioner Edzard Ernst, he looked at all the alternative therapies that he could, the relevant illnesses and conditions, and at all the evidence concerning the effect of the therapies. Although one or two therapies worked for one or two conditions, for most the evidence was very weak or negative; the book on the whole was damning about these alternative therapies.

Some accused Dr Singh and Dr Ernst of being blinkered or close-minded, but Dr Singh argued that scientists in general are very open-minded and often come up with all sorts of crazy ideas: black holes, dark matter and relativity are all odd. Scientists are naturally open-minded in that they consider new ideas, but they also test them. If an idea is rubbish, it is thrown away; if it is good, it is kept. An example would be Fritz Zwicky, who came up with the idea of dark matter, that the majority of the universe and 90% of the mass of our galaxy is dark or invisible. At first sight, the idea sounds ridiculous, but Zwicky and others were given a chance to find evidence. After they did so and built a convincing case, the scientific community began to accept his theory – a perfect example of scientists being open-minded.

Next was *The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography*, which is basically a history of codebreaking, looking at ancient forms of cryptography and how they were broken, better forms and how they were broken, and the encryption today on the internet which allows the information age to flourish. Instead of looking at codes already covered in the book, Dr Singh examined something he hadn't talked about in *The Code Book*: the Bible Code. The idea is that there are messages encrypted in the Bible (or in the ancient Hebrew texts which it is made up of), which appear if you take the ancient Hebrew text, remove any punctuation and line up the text in an array. In one section of the Bible for example, "Newton" and "Gravity" can be found spelled out – encoded according to some. Another message spells out 'President Kennedy to Die in Dallas'.

Below: Hidden messages in the Bible using the original Hebrew words. This particular example wasn't mentioned in

Dr Singh's lecture, but it is a particularly striking one.



Brendan McKay, an Australian mathematician, argued that a similar thing could be done with any other large text; he did the same thing with *Moby Dick* and found similar incredible predictions. The idea is that with millions of letters, and trillions of permutations of those letters, eventually these phrases can be found.

HAMMER WITH IN A FEW INCHES OF
OSTARTHER TASHMYBOYSTARTH
EDCRAWLBACKDUCKHIMAGAINA
ET SALONECOMPRISE THEWHOLE
STRANGEANOMALYTOUCHINGTH
GITALLSLIDHISSOLITARYTHI
WASHISORDERSWEREEXECUTED
THESTEELHEADOF THELANCERAN

Leon Trotsky was executed with an
ice-pick on Aug 20 1940

(Above: A prediction of Trotsky's death from *Moby Dick*, published in 1851, or perhaps just coincidence.)

Another example, Singh's favourite, is an anagram of part of Hamlet's soliloquy:

'To be or not to be: that is the question; whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' which becomes:

'In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.' Either this is a coincidence, or Shakespeare is an incredible puzzle maker as well as one of the greatest writers and dramatists in history.

Dr Singh then turned briefly to one final book, *Big Bang*, which covered the history and importance of the Big Bang theory. Continuing in the same subject, Singh finished on a light note about cosmology. While he was writing his book (spending three years thinking only about cosmology and the Big Bang theory), he listened to the radio one day and heard Katie Melua's song, *Nine Million Bicycles*. In it, she sings: "We are twelve billion light years from the edge / That's a guess / No-one can ever say it's true / But I know that I will always

be with you.” Dr Singh was angry with this description – we aren’t 12 billion light years from ‘the edge’, it’s not a guess, and we can speak on the truth of it – so he wrote an article for *The Guardian*, at the end of which he rewrote the lyrics slightly more accurately:

“We are 13.7 billion light-years from the edge of the observable universe,

That’s a good estimate with well-defined error bars,

Scientists say it’s true, but acknowledge that it may be refined,

And with the available information, I predict that I will always be with you.”

Soon, the phone rang with Katie Melua on the other end, and the next day she re-recorded her song with Singh-sanctioned lyrics.

After a hearty round of applause and an appreciative vote of thanks, the lecture was concluded. Many thanks to Dr Simon Singh for taking the time to come and speak to us.

DR SINGH AND FERMAT’S LAST THEOREM

In his first talk preceding the open lecture, Dr Singh talked about how he managed to turn a mathematical topic, something that many have a disdain for, into a popular documentary.

The story begins with a Frenchman called Pierre de Fermat. Back in the 17th century, Paris had a reputation for being the epicentre of maths, where mathematicians would gather and discuss ideas. However, since Fermat lived in Bordeaux, he did not have many opportunities to discuss maths – he was an amateur mathematician who simply did maths for fun. An ancient Greek text called *Arithmetica* was of particular interest to Fermat, and there was a problem relating to Pythagorean triples, namely the integers a , b and c that satisfy $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. This was too easy for Fermat, so he wondered whether there were any integers a , b , c that satisfied $a^n + b^n = c^n$ for any integer value of n greater than 2. He claimed that there wasn’t, and wrote in the margin of the book “I have discovered a truly marvellous proof of this, which this margin is too narrow to contain.” Fermat often did this for other problems as well.

When Fermat died, his son noticed these notes and decided to re-publish *Arithmetica*, complete with Fermat’s notes. One-by-one, the mathematicians at the time proved that all of Fermat’s claims were correct for other problems – apart from the theorem stated above. They simply could not solve it, and the theorem was given the name Fermat’s Last Theorem.

Over the year, countless mathematicians have attempted to solve Fermat’s Last Theorem. Euler and Gauss, two of the greatest mathematicians to ever live, attempted it with minimal success. German physician Paul Wolfskehl bequeathed 100,000 Gold Marks, equivalent to millions of pounds today, for whoever could solve Fermat’s Last Theorem. This further encouraged people to solve the problem; many universities received thousands of proofs every year but the proofs were always shown to be erroneous or incomplete.

Finally, we arrive at the hero of the story. When Andrew Wiles was ten years old, he stumbled across this problem in a maths textbook, and dreamt of solving the problem. While undertaking his A-levels, his undergraduate degree and his PhD, the problem was always at the back of his mind. However, even after he became an expert in the field, Fermat’s Last Theorem still loomed over him like a mountain.

The Taniyama-Shimura conjecture was a conjecture proposed in the 1950s about elliptical curves. While Wiles was studying this, he suddenly had an epiphany and realised that if he managed to prove the conjecture, then he would be able to solve Fermat’s Last Theorem. Wiles became obsessed with the problem and

worked on it in secrecy for seven years, often forgetting to go to meals. No one knew he was attempting to solve the problem, since many would think that he was mad and had lost his mind – such was the reputation of the problem.

Finally, Wiles had solved Fermat’s Last Theorem – or so he thought. He decided to announce this by giving a lecture at Cambridge entitled ‘Modular Forms, Elliptic Curves and Galois Representations’, with no mention of the theorem at all. At the end of his third lecture, he mentioned that since he had solved the conjecture, that meant that Fermat’s Last Theorem was true, and was greeted with thunderous applause.

There was one issue, however – someone noticed a mistake in the proof when proofreading his work, and Wiles couldn’t fix it. This would collapse the whole proof, and Wiles, along with his former PhD student Richard Taylor, spent one extra year desperately trying to mend the issue. Luckily, the problem was resolved in the end, and we now know for certain that Fermat’s Last Theorem is true.

In the Q&A session, an audience member asked Dr Singh whether he thought Fermat actually had a proof, since Wiles’ proof required contemporary techniques that were certainly not known to Fermat. Dr Singh’s best guess was that Fermat wasn’t lying, and genuinely thought he had an elegant proof; however, it is likely that his proof was flawed. Many mathematicians proposed proofs throughout the 300 years, but many of them were proven to be flawed. Fermat never had his work peer-reviewed. In spite of that, we cannot rule out the possibility that Fermat managed to use classical techniques to elegantly prove Fermat’s Last Theorem – we will probably never find out.

All in all, it was a fantastic lecture by Dr Simon Singh, and we are very grateful to him for speaking to us.

EVANS AND SUMMERSON SOCIETIES

Archie Tait, The Head Master’s, ‘Art of the Ancient World’, 12 May

On Thursday afternoon, Archie Tait, *The Head Master’s*, addressed both the Evans and Summerson Societies on the topic of Ancient art. Tait began by discussing cave paintings, a form of parietal art. He stated that there was much debate over what the oldest cave painting was but that he had chosen to begin with a depiction of a pig from a cave in Indonesia. This cave painting was at least 45,500 years old as Tait explained, and was found in 2017. He stated that it was dated using uranium series isotope dating in 2021.

Next Tait moved on to discuss Ancient Greek art. He began by talking of Ancient Greek sculpture and explaining the differences between the four styles. This began with the highly simplistic geometric, before moving on to look at the more naturalistic but stiff kouros and kore figures of the Archaic, next came the Classical, the period in which the greatest advancements took place. These allowed for much more naturalistic and animated works. The most important of these was, as Tait explained, contrapposto which literally means the countering of poses. The earliest example of this is the Kritios boy, an Ancient Greek sculpture from around 480 BC. Tait then discussed the last style of Greek sculpture, the Hellenistic. This style is very much like the Classical but contains an increased sense of drama. Greek architecture was next up, and Tait skilfully talked through the different architectural orders present throughout the trabeated architecture of the Greek world.

Then, travelling on through the passage of time, Tait moved onto the Romans. But not before he had made a point about the importance of the Roman author Vitruvius, from whom we have all our knowledge of ancient architectural theory.

The Pantheon was the first stopping point for Rome, as Tait argued it displayed excellently Roman architectural innovations. These were the invention of the arch, which developed into large domes and rotundas such as that of the Pantheon, but also the invention of concrete, 5,000 metric tons of which was used in the creation of the Pantheon. Then Tait talked of the four styles of Roman painting, before illustrating this with a picture from the villa of Publius Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale.



Finally, Tait discussed the Byzantines and their position as the successors of the Romans, following Constantine moving the capital of the empire to Constantinople in 330 AD. He introduced the Hagia Sophia, today a mosque, as the archetypal Byzantine church. It is a large church centred around a massive central dome that is supported by the key Byzantine architectural innovation of pendentives.

Tait then wrapped up by arguing that the end of Byzantium in 1453 could be considered the end of classical civilisation and that therefore his talk would end there. Overall, it was an excellent talk well delivered. For more information about the Evans Society please get in touch with Archie Tait, *The Head Master's*, or Jerry Qi, *The Park*, or the Master-in-Charge (JLM).

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

Bill Chen, Lyon's, and Harrison Zhao, West Acre, 'Enneagram of Personality'

The Psychology Society welcomed Bill Chen, *Lyon's*, and Harrison Zhao, *West Acre*, to enlighten the floor about the captivatingly complex topic of the 'Enneagram of Personality'. The aims of their talk were to increase our efficiency at managing our emotions and to gain a deeper recognition of ourselves – I believe they did a fantastic job at this.

They began with a brief introduction to the background of the enneagram's origins and uses in religion. The enneagram originated in 800 AD and was created by a religion called Sufism. It was used to analyse the connections between other personalities. I was rather surprised to find out that the idea was born so long ago. Nevertheless, after learning about the background of the enneagram, we began to explore the persona types found in it.

The first personality type was the perfectionist. The perfectionist is someone who strives, quite literally, for what the name says: perfection. This character is obsessed with always getting things done correctly, while still maintaining an ethical and conscientious mentality. Perfectionists make for fantastic teachers

and advocates due to these qualities. However, their strength is also their weakness. At worst, they can become excessively bothered by the imperfections and flaws in other people and can even be condemnatory at times. In some cases, this can result in depressive and obsessive-compulsive personality disorders. The best thing to do in these situations would be to attempt to withdraw oneself from these high internal standards. This can be achieved through meditation.

The next personality type was the giver (or the actor). The giver is someone whose motivation is to fit in and is great friends in multiple social groups. They always know how to make you happy and are fantastic at giving emotional support when in need. Sadly, however, the giver can also get lost in a pool of pretension, imprisoning themselves with the desire to please others. This can lead to a confusion of their true self and a fear of loss of individuality. To avoid this from happening, taking time out during the day to reflect is very important.

The third personality type was the performer. Performers always appear goal orientated, and they often have outstanding resumes and sometimes a distinct taste in fashion. Some defining traits of a performer include having jam-packed schedules, being well dressed, charismatic – good at presenting themselves, and so they often make a great first impression on strangers. However, despite their accomplishments, they often feel unsure of their innate self-worth. They end up looking for validation through these accomplishments, which they are constantly working for. A performer's biggest fear is becoming an insignificant, irrelevant failure, frowned upon by other people. However, at their worst, they can become vindictive, trying to ruin other people's happiness. To steer clear of this it is good to practise mindfulness in order to be more present.

The fourth personality type was the tragic romantic. Tragic romantics can commonly be identified as artists. This is because they despise being normal and are passionate about self-expression. They are creative and have a strong emotional connection with those who are suffering. They are attracted by unrealistically perfect things and are filled with melancholy. To avoid these states of mind, meditation can be used.

The fifth personality type was the observer. Observers are independent, perceptive, secretive and isolated. They have an intense ability to concentrate, which allows them to focus on developing complex ideas and skills. They want to deepen their understanding of the world and expand their intellect to be entirely self-sufficient while minimising their physical and emotional needs, because such things lead to unwanted social interactions. They are in some cases worried about being overwhelmed. Observers at their worst can become explosively self-destructive, with schizophrenic overtones. Avoiding the three Ss (secrecy, superiority and separateness) can help to stay clear of this behaviour. Practising hobbies like swimming, gardening or singing in social groups is greatly beneficial too.

The sixth personality type was the devil's advocate. The devil's advocate is someone who is always sceptical, especially of those in power. They normally leave work unfinished and always have conflicting thoughts of "Yes I should do this... but...but also...", which will eventually cause them to leave the work unfinished. The devil's advocate can be scared of success and they fear that jealousy comes with fame, bringing trouble. To avoid this, a devil's advocate should control their imagination and not let it interfere with their logic.

The seventh personality type was the epicure. Epicures are defined by their hedonistic nature, wanting to squeeze every last drop of excitement and thrill out of life. They are often extroverted, optimistic and spontaneous. However, such characteristics can make them appear to be scatterbrained and undisciplined. While they seek new and thrilling experiences, they are always prone to distraction and exhaustion. They don't hesitate to abandon their previous task to pursue a new, more exciting task. At their worst, epicures can become claustrophobic and panic-stricken, with deep self-hatred and depression. To

ensure this does not happen, epicures should be willing to persist and follow through with their passions.

The penultimate character type was the boss. The boss is someone who has always been competitive. They are protective of the weak, while at the same time having a desire to control others. Bosses would much rather resolve a problem through fighting than a peaceful negotiation. At their worst, bosses can be very stubborn. Things can go wrong if the justice in their mind is injustice. It is important for them to stop and think if what they are doing is morally correct and will produce the best outcome for everyone.

The final personality type was the mediator. These people can be spotted by their trustworthiness, stableness, and supportiveness. Mediators want to create harmony in the environment. They are pacifists that want everything to run smoothly while avoiding conflict and confrontations, but this also means that they tend to be complacent, oversimplifying problems and minimising anything negative or upsetting. They may often find themselves in situations when they are compromising too much for the sake of keeping peace and hence losing their value and identity. At their worst, they can become highly repressed, underdeveloped and severely disoriented. They can completely abandon themselves and become entirely depersonalised. To ensure this does not happen one must try to exert oneself – actively become more mentally and emotionally engaged, socialise and willing to put oneself on the spot, take risks, talk to strangers.

This was an exceptionally engaging talk on the enneagram of personalities, and Chen and Zhao certainly achieved the goal they set out at the beginning. The audience felt that we had a greater understanding of ourselves and how to manage our emotions.

BYRON CONSORT

9 May

A busy week for the Byron Consort began on Monday 9 May with the choir's first post-pandemic visit to sing Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. The choir normally sings there for the daily service at least once each year, but has sadly not been able to do so since November 2019 due to Covid restrictions. It was good to be back. The service was attended by the usual couple of hundred people, but was rather different from normal as the choir and clergy were all seated under the dome instead of in the beautiful choir stalls. This was because the whole area around the choir stalls was covered in scaffolding for important maintenance work ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service, which will be held there at the start of next month.



The choir sang Richard Ayleward's *Preces and Responses* and the psalm set for the day. *The Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* were sung to a fairly modern setting by Robin Orr (the Short Service), with a particularly distinctive setting of

the *Gloria* in 7/4 time. The anthem was a setting of words by Mother Julian of Norwich, 'As truly as God is our father', with music by the late 20th-century Welsh composer William Mathias. After the service, the Cathedral's Succentor wrote to PJE commenting that 'your choice of music was excellent and beautifully sung, particularly the anthem 'As truly as God is our Father' by Mathias'.

Four days later, the choir was performing in central London again, this time for a lunchtime concert at St Pancras Church as part of the annual London Festival of Contemporary Church Music. This programme was of music with a general theme of commemoration and featured works by various 20th- and 21st-century composers including Ola Gjeilo, Kenneth Leighton, Geraint Lewis, Arvo Pärt and John Tavener. Of particular interest was the second-ever performance of *Hal'lu Alleluia* by the contemporary composer Roxanna Panufnik. Roxanna attended the concert and gave a short introductory talk about her piece, which she had written for a memorial service for her uncle, the MP Toby Jessel, which had taken place at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. The piece is particularly interesting as it combines both text and a traditional melody from Judaism along with words from the Christian tradition. This exciting piece made a fitting conclusion to the concert.

PERCEVAL SOCIETY

Hans Patel, Newlands, 'Benin Bronzes'

Last Thursday, Hans Patel, *Newlands*, gave an insightful talk to the Perceval Society regarding the very controversial topic of the Benin Bronzes. His descriptive introduction set the scene for a pre-colonisation West Africa, gripping all in attendance. The Benin Bronzes were designed for the Benin civilisation, one that valued culture and the highest arts. These items were highly regarded and classed as an African treasure from the 16th century onwards. Contrastingly, the general opinion of Africa was that it was a "dark" continent having no culture, and the treasures were taken to Britain. This, in turn, brought cultural attraction to London in the last years of the 1800s, as thousands of people came to London to see 'one of the highest degree exhibits..

An important aspect of the Benin Bronzes is the Oba (the Benin King). Oba appears on many plaques and can often be seen on horseback accompanied by attendants. The importance of the king can also be seen from the corals he wore – which were traded from as far as the Mediterranean. Oba's importance was reinforced by the sculpting of his attendants. The figures appear frontal and have firmly planted feet. Due to colonisation and the southern Europe-West Africa trade links, Europeans were regarded very highly. In particular, the Portuguese were considered to have king's wealth and power as their trade contributed so much. Many of the items accompanying the Oba were traded from Portugal and embody deeper meanings. In some of the treasures, Oba can be seen with swinging tame leopards emerging from his sides. This is an important symbol as the leopards show the king to be the master of the tropical forests, the land which dominated much of Benin. Other animals were portrayed for more important reasons than simply decoration. Each different animal represents important human qualities, for example a Python is seen as a king of snakes and therefore represents a king in human terms.

Patel then moved away from the topic of the Bronzes themselves and delved more into the origins of the Kingdom of Benin. The Kingdom of Benin would now be in south-west Nigeria, with the then capital city Edo now commonly known as Benin City. The city was at least four miles wide, with diverse buildings and houses described as large and handsome. The people were friendly and there was little crime. Inside the

city was the king's court, which was a large square with many palaces, and galleries, pillars and plaques displaying the city's stature. The king would show himself once a year, beautifully dressed in garments and riding on horseback accompanied by sometimes as many as 400 noblemen.

Manillas were a type of West African bracelet that became a currency. These bracelets were traded throughout southern Europe and Africa and were much used during the early slave trade and colonisation. West African slaves were traded for between 12 and 15 manillas. After their use as currency, precious objects such as manillas were melted down and cast into beautiful works of art such as the Benin Bronzes.

The Kingdom of Benin was destroyed when 1,200 British marines were dispatched to take the city in the Benin expedition of 1897. Ten days after their arrival, the city lay in ruins with a staggering 10,000 objects removed from the city that day, including treasures like the Benin Bronzes. It was European imperialism that caused the Kingdom of Benin's downfall: in 1884, the European nations held a conference in Berlin to decide who would take control of which parts of Africa. Britain took control of Nigeria: an OH was, in fact, killed by locals defending the territory several years before the destruction of the Kingdom of Benin.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Nikolai Hanbury, Rendalls, 'Connecting the dots: are implants the solution to paralysis?'

Paralysis, perhaps one of the scariest conditions you can get, causing symptoms like losing the ability to control the bladder, bowel, temperature and sexual function. About 10% of the US non-disabled population is said to be moderately or severely depressed, but about 20–30% of people with long-term disabilities are living with depression. Studies reported that between 5.8% and 11% of deaths were a result of suicide. The thought of treatment for this seemingly incurable disease is revolutionary, with the title of Hanbury's talk, 'are implants the solution to paralysis', immediately capturing the attention of many fellow boys, completely filling up the room in Biology Schools 3 on a Monday night.

Hanbury skilfully began his talk with the reasons why paralysis is such a big problem, alongside his short and concise PowerPoint, ensuring boys of all ages could grasp the concept of what he was talking about. When encountering difficult vocabulary, he was able to quickly explain the definitions, including afferent nerves, which are nerves carrying information back into the central nervous system, and proprioceptors, which are receptors that receive stimuli from within the body, especially those relating to position and movement.

Hanbury went on to provide some context about how a nerve works, which is by creating a decrease in charge, also known as depolarisation, that exceeds a certain threshold, which then sends an impulse along the axon. This depolarisation is achieved by the movement of ions across the membrane through specific protein channels, namely sodium, potassium and calcium. Transmissions across neurons are achieved through synaptic cleft, in which the presynaptic neuron releases a neurotransmitter, which is then received by a receptor. Each neuron only has one or a few neurotransmitters, but dendrites have receptors for many.

Using powerful images, Hanbury was able to grab the audience's attention, showing the devastation when one suffers an injury that causes the loss of almost all the neurones in one's spine, leading to paralysis. With an introduction to the history of epidural electrical stimulation (ESS), we learnt that EES was designed to alleviate pain by targeting the dorsal column. But new EES technology targets the dorsal roots instead, and

is made possible by electrical paddles being made longer, thus allowing them to reach all the roots necessary to deliver treatment. Hanbury made this easy to understand by comparing it to Remi in *Ratatouille*, in which the main character's movements are controlled by the mouse.

There are definitely challenges to this, with the specificity required being one of those highlighted in his talk. As each person's spine is different, scientists created a computational design through CT scans and MRIs to create a model that pronounced the variability in the dorsal roots, discovering that the entry widths of dorsal-root entry zones were very consistent, showing its potential to come into global use. This precision is required, as the positioning of electrodes is highly specific, and movement of just 1mm can affect the treatment's effectiveness by 50%!

Another challenge mentioned by Hanbury was that the pulse generator providing electricity to the electrodes only accommodated 16 electrodes. Scientists therefore had to find an arrangement of 16 electrodes accessing 16 dorsal roots despite the varying topology of the spine. This required the creation of a highly realistic computational model of the interactions between the ESS and the spinal cord, confirming that this stimulation does prefer to run through large-diameter afferent fibres, rather than efferent fibres. Each patient required a specific model to be generated; doctors monitored blood-oxygenation-level dependent response in the spinal cord when activating proprioceptors.

Hanbury went on to describe the details of delivering such treatment. Results from this final stage of the study is phenomenal, with all three patient subjects being able to walk independently on treadmills, though requiring substantial amounts of body-weight support. All three patients went through a five-month neurorehabilitation programme, in which epidural electrical stimulation allowed them to perform activities five times a week. They were all able to walk with the assistance of a wheeled front pusher, and one was even able to climb stairs! What was most extraordinary was that two of the participants recovered the ability to activate proximal muscles voluntarily without ESS, meaning that these stimulations boosted signals through residual descending pathways. This shows the limitless potential it has, with use in early phases of spinal cord injury to promote natural recovery.

Hanbury was able to then explain clearly what happens in and after spinal injury. He revealed that neurons remain intact but regeneration in an adult spinal column is limited. Some spontaneous or actively dependent sensimotory recovery does occur, but only mediated by localised sprouting and plasticity of axon terminals. Substantial recovery is hard, as trauma reduces supraspinal axon regeneration and formation of functional networks, meaning it is hard to signal to neurons below the damage, reducing signalling of the neurons and limiting the amount of regeneration and mediation and patterning of motor outputs. Improvements in motor function can be achieved with locomotor training, rehabilitation and increased neuronal activity. Recently, it was also discovered that ESS further promoted axon plasticity and sprouting, but it was in search of pain mediation that the idea of artificially modulating neurons with these impulses was born.

CRAWLEY SOCIETY

Joseph Wragg, 'Understanding Social Justice: the Modern Civic Religion', 2 May

On Monday 2 May, the Crawley Society welcomed its stalwart member, Joseph Wragg, *The Grove*, for a fascinating and foreboding lecture on 'Understanding Social Justice: the Modern Civic Religion'. Joseph talked about the risks of the

‘social justice movement’ to Western culture. With trademark thoroughness and loquaciousness, Wragg began by defining social justice as “an ideology built around fighting perceived oppressive structures, both cultural and political”. He described how the West is currently entranced by the unique morality promoted by social justice: a strange morality full of hidden norms and rules. Anyone who deviates from that orthodoxy is to be mocked, criticised and confronted. This civic religion is performative, filled with public professions of faith, dogma, rites and rituals, all aiming to instil political values in an individual, group or society. Wragg noted the similarities social justice shares with other ideas such as the American Dream and the cult of the supreme being, stating that the combinations of pseudo-religious beliefs, civic virtue and impassioned rhetoric which characterise social justice are shared by other ideals.

Wragg explained why the social justice movement was so prevalent in the West. The main cause was the unimaginable atrocities and consequences of the World Wars. In the early 20th century, the moral and political pillars of the West were crushed. A vacuum of belief occurred, which was filled by the morally relativistic social justice movement. The visceral and totalistic reaction to 20th-century fascism also contributed to the movement. The West’s Christian culture also allowed the social justice movement to flourish. Wragg views social justice as a representation of the toxic elements of Christianity. He believes that, like Satan, social justice is veiled by an outward appearance of goodness while being the exact opposite in substance. Like medieval Christianity, social justice scapegoats others and treats them unfairly for things outside of their control, while portraying itself as an eternal fountain of goodness and morality. The ideology requires a religion it criticises so often to truly function.

This movement has gained significant influence in the modern world. The Biden administration has referred to women as “birthing people” for fears of being accused of transphobia. The Canadian government passed a bill making it illegal to not use someone’s preferred pronouns. Such actions would have been ridiculed in the early 2000s. Why has this new and radical ideology suddenly taken over the reins of society? The seeds of the social justice movement were sown after the failure of traditional Western leftism, with socialist ideas adapting into social justice. Its rapid spread was driven primarily by the 2008 financial crash, with globalisation serving as a vehicle to spread the movement. Social justice was the perfect political pathogen for modern society.

The critical flaw of social justice, in Wragg’s opinion, is the belief that human nature is inherently changeable and that various oppressive structures can be solved. The worst of these structures is hierarchy itself: the chief building block for society. Wragg remarked on the similarities to a conspiracy theory: social justice believes that if all oppressive structures were removed, then a truly utopian paradise would be achieved, with the movement failing to realise and appreciate the differences between individuals and general human nature. Another major flaw of the ideology, according to Wragg, is its promotion of many disparate theories, all attempting to overthrow the status quo of modern society. These include Queer Theory, which argues that human sexuality and gender are constructed by oppressive social structures, rather than Darwinist necessity, and Postcolonial Theory, which blames the failures of postcolonial countries on Europeans and external factors. This is especially destructive to the postcolonial countries themselves, as it allows political elites to justify corruption and unsuccessful policies. The strangest is the Body Positivity movement, which believes that unhealthy diets and bodies should be viewed as positive: something, according to Wragg, both laughable and concerning, with the serious health effects of obesity becoming an increasing problem. This is not to say that certain ideas espoused by these groups are not beneficial to society; yet, under the influence of the social justice movement, such theories develop various

flaws and irrationality. Wragg was also concerned by how it has unmercifully scrutinised every aspect of Western culture. The social justice movement, Wragg says, has deprived the West of heroes and figures for inspiration: a concerning ideological ‘Pandora’s box’.

Lastly, Wragg discussed the possible future and consequences of the social justice movement. Social justice may not survive for long, partly due to its radicality, partly due to its nature of attacking and criticising the majority of society. According to national surveys, only 13% of Americans believe in social justice and even less do in the United Kingdom. The bad news is that the collapse of the social justice movement may prompt even more radical movements.

The next Crawley Society meeting on 18 May will be a riveting talk by Dr Victoria McCloud: a Master of the Queen’s Bench at the High Courts. If you wish to be notified about this talk, be involved with the Crawley Society or give a talk to the Crawley Society, please contact either Henry Ridley, *The Park*, Sean Jarrett, *The Grove*, or the Master-in-Charge NCS.

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRS,

Over the past weeks and months I have become increasingly perturbed by a line of argument in Sunday Chapel services. Often when referring to the situation in Judaea, Christ’s death or the nature of love and forgiveness, the Chaplaincy has a knack of painting the Romans as an absolutely awful civilisation. This to me is either ignorant or simply for the purpose of a pro-Christian argument.

The Romans were the most advanced civilisation in the world in the early 1st century AD and Europe would not see a similarly sophisticated culture until at least the late 15th century (almost 1,500 years later). In addition, the regular claims of the Romans being warlike tyrants is also unfair. Conquest was the way of the world for most of human history: it was either kill or be killed for most of Rome’s antiquity. Although the classical world was a bloody one, that does not stop it from being advanced, cultured and powerful. Furthermore, the allegations of Romans simply persecuting Christians willy-nilly is almost always unfounded as well. There are only really two or three periods in history where the Romans ruthlessly persecuted the Christians, most notably under emperors Nero, Marcus Aurelius and Diocletian, so certainly not during Christ’s lifetime and, although it is perhaps harsh to say so, in a way they did deserve it.

A similarly dissident and seditious group that sought the downfall of power structures in any other society for the majority of human history would have also been similarly and even more severely treated. In an empire where stability was everything, if there was suddenly a Messianic figure roaming in an already very unstable province (Judaea) with the local people flocking to his side, from a Roman point of view why shouldn’t he have been executed? Yes, crucifixion is rather gruesome, but he was a seditious demagogue in the Rome’s eyes. Finally, I must disagree vehemently when in last Sunday’s service it was claimed that the Pax Romana was not a true peace. Between 31 BC and 68 AD, the Roman Empire experienced a near uninterrupted period of peace, stability and security throughout the provinces. Although Roman law was enacted upon the people with an iron fist, an example of Roman tolerance was that other polytheistic

religions were permitted to exist, even flourish, as shown by the Cult of Isis and Mithras (the reason why this wasn't the case for Christianity because it was monotheistic, and thus dangerous to the stability to the empire).

After the Year of the Four Emperors, a period of relative peace also existed from around 70 AD to 160 AD where the empire further advanced in culture, philosophy, art and power under emperors such as Vespasian, Trajan and Hadrian. Therefore, the Roman Empire was not usually an empire of persecution, destruction of faith and oppression. It was defined by conquest, but so was every other civilisation in human history until at least the mid-20th century. Instead, certainly when Jesus was supposedly alive, the Roman Empire was established as a state of near total tolerance, pragmatism and advancement. So, although the Bible certainly paints the picture of Rome being an intolerant nightmare-state, I would be careful about buying into this too much or judging historical civilisations by the morals of today. Instead read some Virgil, Livy, Pliny, Marcus Aurelius or Lucretius. You might learn a thing or two.

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPH WRAGG, THE GROVE

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from around the Hill

(in a conversation about adjustments to the PSHE program) "Why don't we just distribute cocaine to all parents? Then the boys wouldn't think it's cool anymore."

"The Careers Department is like Hogwarts: you know it's there but you can't see it unless you bang your head against a wall really hard at King's Cross Station."

"Do you enjoy reading our work, sir?" "No. I have to. I am not doing this for giggles."

SUDOKU

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METROPOLITAN

THE CURTIS FILM SOCIETY

Review of: 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'
directed by Alfonso Cuarón, 4.5 out of 5 stars,
by Rowland Eveleigh, The Grove



Loved it, but it doesn't match the first two entries of the series. Alfonso Cuarón takes Rowling's third book in the *Harry Potter* franchise as well as the groundwork laid by Chris Columbus' first two films, and delivers with a much darker and modern take on the story. Cinematically and on its own, it displays Cuarón's filmmaking ability and genius with all the intelligent blocking, composition, tones and design. However, the film feels more flashy while containing less substance, losing that childlike sense of wonder that I craved after watching the first two films in the series. The magic feels more mature, and the story is expertly crafted with various gasp-worthy moments at the impressive visual effects throughout the film. It is simply due to personal opinion that this does not match up to the first two films in the series. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* is an impressive feat nonetheless and the story remains incredibly immersive in transporting us into the magical journey at Hogwarts along with our three beloved protagonists. John Williams once again delivers with an exceptional score, and great new performances from David Thewlis as Professor Lupin, Gary Oldman as Sirius Black and Michael Gambon taking over as the new Professor Dumbledore.

WINSTON'S OH PRIVATE SECRETARY

by Mike Stone, Moretons 1957²

Though Europe was readying for war in 1938, life at the Foreign Office was not strenuous. Indeed, Jock Colville (*The Head Master's* 19282) found it relaxing. He had passed the FO entry exam of 12 three-hour papers and four interviews, and then his life was rather 'Cocktails and laughter, what comes after?' The Countess of Gainsborough thought Jock would make a good escort for her ultra-Catholic daughter, Lady Maureen Noel. And so Jock did escort the lovely Maureen, my future mother-in-law, towards society nightclubs and cocktail parties, and away from casinos and lesbians.

At the time of the Munich crisis, most of the FO were against appeasing Hitler. But Jock was in favour of it because he thought (rightly) that it would give Britain more time to re-arm. So when, a year later, Chamberlain declared war on Germany, he

appointed Jock as one of his private secretaries. The Countess of Gainsborough fled to America, taking the lovely Maureen with her. Into her nineties, Maureen would still reminisce about how she might have married Jock.

Much of the time, Jock was now Duty Officer at Number Ten Downing Street. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, used to drop in. One day, Winston waddled in and told Jock not to disturb Chamberlain, but “tell him we’ve sunk a Nazi sub this morning. Which makes four this week!” When Winston became PM, he gladly retained Jock as his Private Secretary.



Winston and Jock got along because they both liked singing Harrow and Gilbert & Sullivan songs, playing cards, spouting quotations, disputing military history, gossiping and watching German bombers from the roof of Number Ten.

Winston grew to regard Jock as a son, partly because his real son, Randolph, was so loud and disruptive that he was banned from Number Ten.

Now aged 25, Jock had a fab life in wartime London, right at the centre of world events. He dodged shrapnel in the Blitz, night-clubbed with debs, lunched with generals, appointed clergy, corrected Hansard errors, escorted VIPs to Gibraltar, interviewed the American Ambassador, tidied Winston's in-try, kept him company at all hours, chatted up his actress daughter Sarah, wrote letters on Winston's behalf, stayed at Chequers alone with Winston, prepared answers to his Parliamentary questions, attended the Quebec Conference with President Roosevelt, accompanied Winston to Carthage, played backgammon with Clemmie, and still found time to go riding in Richmond Park before breakfast.

But by 1942 Jock was tiring of this exotic life and pleaded to join the RAF as a fighter pilot. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, opposed this plan, arguing that Jock would be hard to replace and, if captured, a security risk. After months of dithering, Winston finally agreed to let him go. Winston's parting shot was

“How old are you Jock?”

“Twenty-six.”

“Napoleon conquered Italy at twenty-six.”

“And Pitt was prime minister at twenty-four, Sir.”

So off Jock shipped to South Africa for training on fighters. But because of the shortage of aircraft, the training took a year. In 1943 he returned to England and flew Mustangs. It was risky. He flew 16 missions against the Luftwaffe and nearly got shot down. One-third of his squadron was killed. Winston Churchill was horrified and demanded that Jock return to work as his Private Secretary, which Jock did.

In March 1945, Winston travelled to Europe with Jock to witness the allied crossing of the Rhine into Germany. Jock managed to wangle himself a driver and jeep, and motored right up to the eastern bank of the Rhine. A Nazi shell exploded nearby. Jock's driver suffered a severed artery, which drenched Jock in his blood.

On returning to 21st Army Group HQ, Jock all but collided with Winston and Field Marshal Montgomery, Ground Forces

commander. They asked “What happened to you with all that blood?” Jock poured out his exciting story, but Monty exploded.

“HOW DARE YOU, A CIVIL SERVANT, COLVILLE, GET IN THE WAY OF BATTLE! THIS IS AN INTOLERABLE ACT OF INSUBORDINATION IN MY AREA AND I SHALL –”

Churchill interrupted. “Pray remember, Field Marshall, that Mr Colville is my secretary, and it is for me, not you, to reprimand him.” But he did no such thing. When later he bade Jock goodnight, he said kindly, “Sleep soundly, Jock. You might have slept more soundly still.” (Sixteen years later, Monty had retired from the army and was busy globe-trotting and handing out political wisdom. In November 1961, in Speech Room, he eviscerated me just as he had Jock. See an account of this rumpus in *The Harrovian* 7 September 2019.)

In 1945, Winston lost the General Election, but the incoming prime minister, Clement Atlee, kept Jock on as his secretary. Yet so popular, friendly, tactful, charming, industrious and imaginative was Jock that he was soon recruited as Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth. Moreover, his office was adjacent to the rooms of the princess's ladies in waiting. In 1948, Jock married the bonniest of the bunch, Lady Margaret Edgerton. When their first child was christened in 1953, the godparents were the Queen and Winston, and London erupted with joy.

In 1955, Winston finally resigned from politics and Jock became a merchant banker. Jock wrote many books, the best being his 1939-45 Downing Street Diaries. He also founded Churchill College, Cambridge. He had had a golden life. I can only find two minuses about him. If you Google interview with John Wenzel, Sir John Rupert 'Jock' Colville, CB, CVO paints an intimate portrait of his life. You will both see and hear Jock and it will be apparent that 1) he has a posh accent so extreme that it would surely spifflicate the Cullinan diamond, and 2) he looks like me.

Jock dealt with all the captains of the age and everyone who called at Number Ten. Though small in stature, he was surely a Giant of Old. Sir John Colville died in 1987, aged 72.

HERE AND THERE

Nine boys represented Harrow at the Independent Schools' Climbing Competition. The competition was organised by Captain and Mrs Robson in the same format as the Olympics, with entrants from 14 schools. Captain Hugo Heffer, *Elmfield*, achieved individual Gold in Boulder, Lead and Combined. The teams gained Gold at Under-16 (Ed Latham, *Bradlys*, Pen Behagg, *Elmfield*, Rupert Lawless, *The Knoll*), and Under-18 (Hugo Heffer, George Ferguson, *Newlands*, James Ward, *West Acre*, Rafe Hogben, *Newlands*).

SPORT

RACKETS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles and Doubles

After a gap of two years, the National Schools Championships returned to Queen's Club. The focus that this gave to the boys was a real boost to their enthusiasm and standard of play. In all, we had 16 boys playing in the singles event, with several of our strong group of senior boys unavailable as they were out of the country.

The Foster Cup is a competition for the best 16 boys in the country at Under-18 level. Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, who was selected for the event, had a fine match in the first round and managed to hold off a spirited display from Macpherson (Tonbridge) to win a tight match 3-1. The next match pitched him against Kirkland (Tonbridge), who had beaten the first seed the day before. A classic match unfolded with a raucous gallery packed mostly with Tonbridge support. AGJ was doing his best to redress the balance in vocal support but this was a tough assignment. Sotir played some excellent rackets and fought through to a tense final game. He established an 11-6 lead before falling behind 13-12. Tarquin drew level at 13-13 but was just edged out 15-13 to lose 2-3 in games. Sotir had shown determination, skill and character. He has another year to go and will be a contender to challenge for this prestigious title in December. Sam Owston, *Moretons*, and Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, were our other senior representatives in the Renny Cup. Both boys underlined the improvements they had made in winning two matches apiece before losing in their third rounds. Patel showed a real calmness under pressure and Owston had improved his mental skills to go with an attacking game.

At Colts level we had two representatives. Jonny Codrington, *Rendalls*, was spirited but lost his match. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, won a match before losing to a seeded player. Stanhope is striking the ball more cleanly to complement his quick footwork. In the Under-15 event we had five Removes playing and six Shell boys. Though none of them progressed to the later stages, all played with passion and determination. Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, produced the strongest display by taking a game off a seeded player. Algy Royle, Harry Owens and Miles Herron, all *Rendalls*, along with Henry Porter, *Moretons*, should all be proud of their efforts as Remove boys. Six Yearlings gained valuable experience with Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, winning a round and Jack Nelson, Harry Lister, both *Bradlys*, Filip Wiszniewski, *Druries*, Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, all showing plenty of potential for the future.

The National Schools Doubles took place at the end of March and we travelled with a strength in depth, especially at senior level. In the First Pair Doubles Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, took on Wellington in the first round and were convincing in a 3-0 win. The next match was against the first seeds Eton. In a match full of twists and turns we overhauled a one game deficit to lead 2-1 and got 8-0 up in the fourth game. Eton turned the tide at this point and we were just unable to close out the match. Sotir built on his fine display in the singles. He was the best player on court for long periods of the match and his fluent attacking play will live long in the memory to those who were there. Shirvell served superbly, thriving in a high pressure environment. Given the limited number of games they played together in the year, this was an outstanding achievement. Many thanks to KOJA and the Upper Sixth boys from The Head Master's who created an electric atmosphere in the gallery.

We had three pairs in the Second Pair Doubles event. Federico Ghersi, *The Head Master's*, and Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, played well to beat pairs from Marlborough and Tonbridge and advance to the quarter-final, where they were eased out 1-3 by a Tonbridge pair. Ghersi has added more power to good footwork and Fontana volleyed well and showed a tenacious spirit. Sam Owston, *Moretons*, and Henry Oellhafen, *Lyon's*, also won two matches before playing the second seeds Eton. Both boys should be proud of their strong performance in a 1-3 loss where the result was in the balance for the majority of the match. Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Stephan Baranov, *Moretons*, became our third pair to reach the quarter-finals after two wins, the second of which was a gutsy effort against a strong Eton pair. In a nail-biting final, game they lost out to the first seeds Tonbridge. Patel built on his singles display to show great leadership and skill. Baranov made great strides to play

at such a high level in one year of play. As a group, all eight senior boys who played at Queen's have been a harmonious, talented group to work with and have shown great progression over the last year.

At Colts level we had two pairs. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, gave a seeded pair from Radley a tight encounter before losing 1-3. Both boys should be commended for the significant improvements they have made over the season. Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, performed very well but were edged out 1-3. Fulford enjoyed the big stage and played his best-ever match. Nelson has had an excellent year, taking up the game at the start of the year.

At Junior Colts level we had three pairs entered. Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, played well to create a chance to win but narrowly lost their opening encounter. Algy Royle, *Rendalls*, and Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, showed real potential to get through a round before giving the eventual winners a competitive contest in the next round. Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, were outgunned by stronger, older opponents but have both done well in their first year.

It was very heartening to see the efforts that all the boys made in preparation for the events held at Queen's Club. They are very ably backed by DAE as Master-in-Charge, Joey Snell as the new Assistant Rackets Professional and GBF for his ongoing help and support. Four of our eight senior boys who played at Queen's will return next year and with promising younger players we look forward to next season.

GOLF

HMC Foursomes Regional Semi-Final v Haileybury at Northwood Golf Club, 12 May

The Harrow VI were up against a competitive Haileybury side with the victor set to face Stowe in the Regional Finals. Foursomes is a difficult game where teamwork and dovetailing is absolutely essential. Essentially, in each pair, each player alternates shots – there is nothing more frustrating than hitting a stonking drive only for your partner to dolly it into the woods (well, nothing except perhaps OneNote).

First out were Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*. It took a few holes for Harrow to warm up, with Shirvell hitting one out of bounds (and into the car park!) on one and Cheuk losing one in the trees on two. Although Harrow were 2 down through two, strong halves from holes 3 to 5 and a hole won on 6 got Harrow back to 1 down. However, Haileybury didn't back down and won the eighth as well as the ninth with birdies, resulting in Harrow being 3 down through nine holes. Harrow kept fighting, with Shirvell sticking an approach to 7 feet on 10, and a good bunker shot on 11 from Cheuk got the match back to 1 down. Coming off a few hot holes, Harrow kept the momentum, and a conceded hole on 14 got the match back to all square. Drama on 16th with both teams losing a ball and Cheuk holing a clutch 5-footer made Harrow get to 1 up. Careless mistakes from Harrow on 17 had the match all square going to the last. Shirvell hit a fine wedge in between the trees to 15 feet, leaving Cheuk an easy two-putt to secure the victory as Haileybury struggled to a bogey.

Second out were Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*. This solid partnership got off to a good start and rarely let go of the honour on the tee. They would cruise home to a 4&3 victory.

The final pair consisted of Varick Rajayogan, *The Grove*, and Fred Hower, *The Park*. A disappointing first hole saw them go 1 down to the Haileybury pair; however, a quick response with some great iron play from Hower and great putting from

Rajayogan resulted in three pars in a row to go 2 up through four holes. They quickly gave a hole back after a few errors, but a great iron shot from Hewer on 7 around the trees set them up for another par to win the hole. Having lost the 8th after burning the edge, a well-earned par on 10 put them back to 3 up, but another hole was given back on 11 despite a brilliant driver off the deck by Hewer. Back to back holes on 13 and 14, a great bogey after hitting 3 off the tee put the match in their hands with 4 up with four to play, and it was quickly settled with Rajayogan holing a short putt on 15 to secure a brilliant 4&3 victory for Harrow.

Onwards to a familiar opponent next week...

ACHILLES RELAYS

Oxford, 5 May

The Harrow sprinters had a successful trip to Oxford for the historic Achilles Relays. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon at the grounds where Roger Bannister first broke the historic four-minute mile barrier.

The Junior 4x100 relay consisting of Jimi Aiyeola, *The Grove*, Jeffrey Arthur, *The Knoll*, Matthew Finnegan, *Druries*, and AJ Anenih, *Rendalls*, won their heat in convincing fashion to take nearly a second off their top time of the year with a 49.0s. In the next heat, two schools eclipsed their mark, which placed the team third overall. This young group demonstrated tremendous poise and did not let some pre-race nerves derail them. Special mention must be made of Finnegan who pulled double duty – also leading off the 4x200 relay later in the day.

The Senior 4x100 relay of Bradley Morrison, Greg Morgan, both *Lyon's*, Ehiada Garuba, *Newlands*, and Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, advanced to the finals despite some struggles with exchanges. After a short 40-minute turnover, the boys bounced back for the finals and ran a stellar season-best 44.3s to finish third overall against top competition.

The Junior 4x800m team ran a superb race, showing great courage to bring them into second place. The highlight performance was Ben Cutts, *Elmfield*, in the final leg, working hard to secure the position. The Senior 4x800m race was a thrilling performance, with the team running an outstanding overall time of 8 minutes and 3 seconds. They worked with determination to bring themselves into second place, just behind Abingdon who ran a course record. Both Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, and Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, ran times under two minutes, with impressive runs also from Tom Emery, *Moretons*, and Thomas Hobbs, *Newlands*.

ATHLETICS

School v St Albans School, 14 May

It was perfect day for competitive athletics against some of the strongest schools on our circuit. The Harrow teams worked hard in all age groups, managing to secure second in all categories, second overall only to Eton.

Some exceptional performances were seen from the Harrow boys. Worthy of mention were Tommy Mackay, *Newlands*, breaking the School intermediate discus record, throwing 42.05m. Tom Emery, *Moretons*, and Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, ran exceptional races in the senior 1500m, with Jodrell running a 4.02 and Emery running a 4.04, which is a new personal best by 10 seconds. The senior 4x100m team won their race convincingly as did the intermediate 4x400m team with Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, doing well to hold onto a convincing lead.

BOROUGH ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 5 May, 35 Harrow Junior and Intermediate athletes competed in the Borough Championships, aiming to secure a place in the County Championships in June. Early indications are that 31 of these are very likely to be invited to compete for the Borough at StoneX after half-term, with the further aim of being selected to go to the National Championships. Senior athletes need to compete for a club or at an Open meeting before they can be selected, which makes it very difficult for boys at boarding school. The athletes are to be congratulated on so many qualifying – there were some outstanding performances on the day.



The following achieved first or second place:

Juniors

J Arthur, <i>The Knoll</i> ,	1st	100m	12.3s
B Cutts, <i>Elmfield</i> ,	1st	800m	2m19.42s
H Barker, <i>The Park</i> ,	1st	1500m	4m45.57s
S Michael, <i>The Grove</i> ,	1st	80m hurdles	14.78s
AJ Anenih, <i>Rendalls</i> ,	1st	long jump	4.75m
A Akindele, <i>West Acre</i> ,	1st	high jump	1.50m
T Dargan, <i>Druries</i> ,	1st	shot put	11.35m
G Chukwuemeka, <i>Druries</i> ,	1st	discus	26.00m
	1st	javelin	29.33m
Jesse Eledan, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	triple jump	10.43m
	2nd	300m	42.09s
D Gibbs, <i>Druries</i> ,	2nd	javelin	25.00m
M Finnegan, <i>Druries</i> ,	2nd	100m	26.49s

Intermediates

M Nnatuanya, <i>The Knoll</i> ,	1st	100m	11.53s
A Ofurum, <i>The Head Master's</i> ,	1st	200m	24.54s
C Griffin (The Head master's)	1st	400m	54.6s
J Esposito, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	800m	2m10.87s
Henry Dargan, <i>Druries</i> ,	1st	javelin	35.16m
	2nd	800m	2m
J Abass, <i>Elmfield</i> ,	1st	1500m	4m33.34s
C Elliott, <i>West Acre</i> ,	2nd	3000m	9m33s
J Balogun, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	100m hurdles	16.09s
A Sameen, <i>The Knoll</i> ,	2nd	100m hurdles	16.45s
C Knight, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	long jump	5.85m
E Bai, <i>Elmfield</i> ,	2nd	long jump	5.68m
A Ajibade, <i>The Grove</i> ,	1st	triple jump	11.72m
T Olorode, <i>Elmfield</i> ,	2nd	triple jump	10.86m
T Orji, <i>The Park</i> ,	1st	high jump	1.65m
T Amusan, <i>Moretons</i> ,	2nd	high jump	1.65m
O Campbell, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	shot put	10.52m
T Mackay, <i>Newlands</i> ,	1st	discus	39.80m
L Lord, <i>Lyon's</i> ,	2nd	discus	27.14m
M Morgan, <i>Lyon's</i> ,	2nd	javelin	28.85m

DUCKER CUPS

The Ducker and Junior Ducker Cups are awarded to the fastest freestyle swimmers in the Upper and Lower School respectively. The Junior competition saw some of the fastest swimming ever to happen in the Harrow pool. The junior cup was won by Henry Gray, *Lyon's*, in a time of 23:54, with Nick Finch, *Newlands*, a mere one one-hundredth of a second behind. In the Senior competition, James Rates, *Newlands*, took the trophy in 54:24, with Henry Pearce, *Newlands*, in a close second. In the Shell competition, Max Stafford-Davies, *Lyon's*, was a clear winner in a time of 26:30, with Thomas Williams, *The Head Master's*, in second at 27:10.

The Ducker Cup

1. James Rates, *Newlands*, 54:24
2. Henry Pearce, *Newlands*, 55:28
3. Seb Moscoso, *The Knoll*, 55:57
4. Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*, 56:44
5. Jake Phillips, *Newlands*, 56:57
6. Data Photipat, *The Head Master's*, 57:83

The Junior Ducker Cup

1. Henry Gray, *Lyon's*, 23:54
2. Nick Finch, *Newlands*, 23:55
3. Joe Storey, *Newlands*, 24:58
4. Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, 24:79
5. Alex Moore, *Lyon's*, 25:01
6. Tom Pearce, *Newlands*, 25:37

CRICKET

10 May v Mill Hill and Belmont Schools Junior Colts B won by 7 wickets

Junior Colts B won by seven wickets after a tough contest against the Mill Hill Under-15A team. The team were inspired by Jenkyn Keigwin's, *The Knoll*, five wickets for 13 runs and Rory Grant's, *Moretons*, composed 54 off 53 balls.

On a blustery yet sunny spring day, the Junior Colts Bs were looking to get their season back on track after a tough loss to John Lyon. Once again, the boys were up against another school's A team. This is a fantastic learning curve for the boys and one that they are adapting to very well, proving themselves worthy of consideration for our own A team. With the pitch looking soggy after a morning of rain, skipper Rory Grant, *Moretons*, chose to put Mill Hill into bat upon winning the toss.

After six overs it seemed to be a decision that could backfire. Mill Hill were racing along with their batters conjuring up some aggressive stroke play as Harrow's fielding and bowling was somewhat below par. The innings was turned on its head as Keigwin came on and delivered an incredible spell of 5-13 as he ripped through Mill Hill's middle order, ably assisted by some now much improved catching, most notably by Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, and Eshan Firacke, *Newlands*. Despite a counter attack by their lower order, the boys restricted their opponents to 126 all out, with Williams claiming three good wickets at the end.

It was over to the batters to chase down the tricky total on a pitch that was sticky and offering plenty of spooned catching opportunities. Despite a good start to both innings Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, and Josh Ashley, *Moretons*, both fell to good catches early on. With the game in the balance and the required run rate creeping up, Aaron Patel, *The Knoll*, came to the crease alongside Grant and started dropping some bombs into some back gardens. For a diminutive figure, he packs a punch and the chase was turned on its head after his 26 from 15 balls.

With the total now within reach, Grant steadied the ship and accelerated from 10 off 30 balls to reach his 50 in as many balls, seeing the team home comfortable in the end with Harry Murton, *Newlands*, ably knocking around the singles from the other end.

A great win with some stand out performances!

Junior Colts C v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools Boys-Under-15B, won by 26 runs

JCC (117-9 off 25 overs) beat Mill Hill (91 all out) by 26 runs. Oliver Rezek, *Druries*, and Jamie Jevons, *Lyon's*, took three wickets apiece.

Junior Colts D v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools Boys-Under-15C, won by 10 wickets

Harrow's robust bowling held Mill Hill to 64, which Louis Byrne, *The Park*, and Samuel Howes, *The Grove*, chased in seven overs, the pair 15* and 26*, respectively.

School v Haberdashers' Boys', away 10 May

Yearlings A v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, won by 42 runs,

Harrow 215-7 off 35 overs, Haberdashers, 178-9 off 35 overs

A dominant Harrow batting display led by Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, and Ben Leinwand, *Moretons*, proved too much for a resilient Haberdashers' side who finished 37 runs shy after their 35 overs.

Yearlings B v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, won by six wickets

Harrow chased down 86 to win in just 17.4 overs to defeat Haberdashers' Aske's by six wickets. Special mention must go to Ben Stevens, *Newlands*, and William Martin-Jenkins, *The Park*, who took three wickets each, in addition to Bertie Bradley, *Druries*, who anchored the innings with his 28 (35).

Yearlings C v The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, won by six wickets

After a couple of close defeats, this was another great team effort to secure victory by six wickets.

Yearlings D v Haberdashers' Boys' School, won by 8 wickets

An emphatic win for the Yearlings D away against Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, with star bowling performances from Jerry Zhang, *The Knoll*, and Vice Captain Adam Yeung, *Elmfield*.

The 1st XI v Oxford University Cricket Club Blues, won by four wickets, 12 May, Sixth Form Ground

			R	B
J De Bhal ct Cameron Ellis b James Nelson			45	75
C Job st George Cutler b John Richardson			34	52
S Ali ct George Cutler b Phoenix Ashworth			16	43
R Hardwick ct j Blackwood b James Nelson			1	5
O Dunnell lbw b Phoenix Ashworth			6	7
J Rajendran st George Cutler b James Nelson			1	5
J Pyman ct Veer Patel b James Nelson			6	17
A Hassan st George Cutler b John Richardson			19	30
A Thomas lbw b Phoenix Ashworth			2	8
A Darnley-Jones b Phoenix Ashworth			2	8
G McCall not out			0	7
G Kocher did not bat				
Extras				18
Total			150 all out	
	O	M	R	W
L Griffiths	11	3	37	3
I Khan	9	1	51	0

J Postlewhite	11	0	45	1
F Orr	5	0	32	0
L Kher	11	0	54	1
L Leavett-Shenley	4	0	28	0
D Smith	4	0	25	0

The School

J Khert ct George Cutler b Shrey Rawal	R	B
L Kher b John Richardson	0	1
S Eaton lbw b Veer Patel	17	60
J Postlewhite• b Phoenix Ashworth	10	30
L Griffiths b John Richardson	32	32
F Orr b James Nelson	29	38
HWood ct Cameron Ellis b James Nelson	3	6
Harriot Baker lbw b Phoenix Ashworth	43	69
L Leavett-Shenley run out (John Richardson)t	30	58
D Smith ct Brij Sheopuri b Phoenix Ashworth	9	9
I Khan not out	0	3
Extras	12	7
Total	25	
	210	all out

	O	M	R	W
Shrey Rawal	7	0	17	1
Max Ferreira	4	1	17	0
Veer Patel	4	0	9	1
Connor O'Flaherty	7	0	42	0
John Richardson	11	0	42	2
James Nelson	11	2	37	2
Phoenix Ashworth	8	1	43	3

A bright warm morning greeted the players as they arrived on the Sixth Form Ground, but there had been some significant rain in the previous 48 hours, so while the pitch looked dry on top, there was always going to be some moisture under the surface. This is because the ground is at the bottom of the Hill, and it takes seven days for it to really dry out and play firm. The Oxford side had three players who have won their Blue (playing against Cambridge in the four-day Varsity match) in previous years, and a further two who had been selected to play against Cambridge in the 50-over match on Sunday; they were therefore a mixture of 1st and 2nd XI players. Oxford won the toss, elected to bat, and got off to a bright start against the three Harrow seamers, who generated pace but struggled for consistency. In such conditions, it is often easier to score when there is pace on the ball; what is required is consistent accuracy and bowling a good length, not necessarily pace. De Bhal, particularly, looked fluent and timed the ball well, and the opening pair put on 76 in 15 overs, which should have been a foundation for a large total. However, Richardson, *Elmfield*, had begun an important spell of off-spin, and soon had Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, bowling accurately from the other end. Job had played a sensible supporting role, and had just hit a towering six off the captain, when he advanced down the pitch and was palpably stumped (76-1: 34 runs: 14.5 overs). Bowled at a slower pace, the ball held up in the pitch, and Ali found it hard to score and de Bhal's strike rate significantly dropped. Although they added 33 runs, it took them 12 overs, and the pressure to score was beginning to build, backed up by aggressive fielding, as Harrow sensed a change in momentum. Nelson, *Bradlys*, (left-arm spin) and Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, (leg-spin) were now bowling well in tandem, and the deadlock was broken when de Bhal mistimed a drive to mid-wicket off the former, and Ali was caught behind cutting the latter (116-3: 45 & 16: 28.3). Both Hardwick and Dunnnett are attacking players, and the former is currently in very good form, having scored 84 in a T20 last week; with over half the overs gone, both felt the need to accelerate, but both perished almost immediately. In the game's key moment, Hardwick used his feet to Nelson and timed a lofted drive slightly further to the leg side than he intended. Blackwood, *Elmfield*, at long on, didn't pick the

ball up initially, but ended up moving quickly to get to the ball and hung on to a quite magnificent diving catch to his left, inches above the ground. In the next over, Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, trapped Dunnnett palpably lbw (120-5 in the 31st over). Nelson then had Rajendran stumped giving Nelson the charge, and Pyman caught at deep mid-wicket off a rank long-hop (125-7). Ashworth joined in the fun, bamboozling Thomas lbw and bowling Darmley-Jones (133-9 in the 40th over). Nelson (9-1-21-4) and Ashworth (8-2-13-4) bowled splendidly, but rarely will they have bowled at such complicit batmen. Hassan successfully got after Richardson's off-breaks, but the latter had his revenge when Cutler, *The Knoll*, completed a rare hat-trick of stumpings (150 all out in the 43rd over). The Harrow fielding improved to a high standard as they sensed the advantage shifting, and the total looked at least 50 below par.

The Oxford opening bowlers made the same mistake at the start of the Harrow innings, conceding 44 runs from the first five overs, and the game looked all but over. Zaveri, *Elmfield*, in particular, was severe on anything loose, driving and cutting with certainty and confidence. Just as in the first innings, however, Dunnnett and Hassan (both left-arm orthodox) transformed the game by taking the pace off the ball and bowling accurately. The latter bowled Cutler with his first ball (44-1: 9: 5.1) and, three overs later, the former trapped both Patel and Ferreira lbw on the back foot. Both looked surprised by the decision, but both failed to use the piece of wood in their hands and paid the penalty (57-3: 9 & 0: 9). O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, played himself in, but he failed to control an on-drive from left-arm Kohler's second ball and was caught at mid-wicket (86-4: 10: 16.2). Meanwhile, Zaveri progressed to a sublime 50 from 58 balls, and Ellis, *Rendalls*, provided strong support; the pair had added 53 in 11 overs, and the game was almost won when the latter chipped McCall's first ball to mid-wicket, and Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, was trapped lbw first ball (139-6: 16 & 0: 28.2). Ashworth survived the hat-trick ball and Zaveri continued unbeaten on 73 from 94 balls when the game was won by four wickets. The hosts triumphed comfortably enough, but both Master and Coach were surprised at how many wickets were lost. Zaveri towered above all other batsmen in the game, never failing to attack with confident shots when the opportunity arose, but taking due care and concentrating hard on defence on a surface that was a great deal less reliable than most of the players thought.

The School v Various, 12 May

2nd XI v The John Lyon School Boys-Under-18A, won by 80 runs

The 2nd XI recorded a commanding victory against the John Lyon 1st XI on Thursday. Having been put into bat, Victor Grant, *Moretons*, and Kit Keey, *Druries*, built a solid foundation upon which Caspar Stone, *The Park*, and Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, built, with some impressive, clean hitting in a fifth wicket stand of 99. In reply, John Lyon never looked like chasing Harrow's intimidating total of 188 and Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*, was able to cash in; helping himself to 3 crucial wickets. Special mention to Archie Chatwin, *West Acre*, for an outstanding fielding display which yielded a superb 5 catches.

3rd XI v Berkhamsted School, won by five wickets

The 3rd XI won a thrilling match against Berkhamsted's 2nd XI last Thursday. Harrow won the toss and elected to put Berkhamsted into bat. Berkhamsted posted 206 for 4 after 30 overs. In reply, Harrow posted 207 with one ball remaining, winning by four wickets. Confident and mature batting from Harrow won the day, with Fred Prickett, *The Park*, hitting 67, Arnaud du Roy de Blicquy, *Elmfield*, on 46, and Joe Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, with 29.

4th XI v Berkhamsted School Boys-Under-18C, won by four wickets

The 4th XI won a superb game of cricket by four wickets. They chased down Berkhamsted 3rd XI's total of 124 with one ball to spare! Arthur Kay's, *Lyon's*, 57* made the difference and was a crucial knock!

*The School v Charterhouse, 14 May
1st XI in the Cowdrey Cup*

	R	B
Charlie Nelson ct F Orr b L Griffiths	6	17
George Cutler ct S Eaton b L Griffiths	0	4
Veer Patel ct J Kher b L Griffiths	7	13
Max Ferreira run out (H Wood)	42	57
Connor O'Flaherty ct J Kher b J Postlewhite	0	8
Cameron Ellis lbw b L Kher	72	92
Brij Sheopuri not out	88	100
Phoenix Ashworth not out	45	41
John Richardson* did not bat		
Shrey Rawal did not bat		
James Nelson did not bat		
Extras		17
Total	277	for 6

	O	M	R	W
L Griffiths	11	3	37	3
I Khan	9	1	51	0
J Postlewhite	11	0	45	1
F Orr	5	0	32	0
L Kher	11	0	54	1
L Leavett-Shenley	4	0	28	0
D Smith	4	0	25	0

	R	B
J Khert ct George Cutler b Shrey Rawal	0	1
L Kher b John Richardson	17	60
S Eaton lbw b Veer Patel	10	30
J Postlewhite b Phoenix Ashworth	32	32
L Griffiths b John Richardson	29	38
F Orr b James Nelson	3	6
HWood ct Cameron Ellis b James Nelson	43	69
Harriot Baker lbw b Phoenix Ashworth	30	58
L Leavett-Shenley run out (John Richardson)t	9	9
D Smith ct Brij Sheopuri b Phoenix Ashworth	0	3
I Khan not out	12	7
Extras		25
Total	210	all out

	O	M	R	W
Shrey Rawal	7	0	17	1
Max Ferreira	4	1	17	0
Veer Patel	4	0	9	1
Connor O'Flaherty	7	0	42	0
John Richardson	11	0	42	2
James Nelson	11	2	37	2
Phoenix Ashworth	8	1	43	3

The Green at Charterhouse is another iconic school ground: laid out in front of the Gothic-style buildings and towered over by the Chapel, it is flat as a pancake and has long boundaries. Bathed in sunshine and box-mowed to perfection, it looked resplendent. The pitch was firm and true, but with a tinge of early moisture, which would soon dry out in the sun. Charterhouse won the toss and elected to field, signalling their hope that the best time to take wickets would be at the start.

In Griffiths, the hosts had the perfect weapon to seize the initiative: tall, fast with rhythm, accurate on a consistent length, and able to find bounce and just enough seam movement to trouble the batsmen; he is as good an exponent of opening bowling at this level as I have seen in 50 years. Martin Bicknell,

the Charterhouse coach and ex-England fast bowler, has high hopes for him with Surrey. The figures from his first spell barely do him justice (7-3-10-3), for he went past the outside edge at least twice an over, and the Harrow batsmen's technique and determination were stretched to the limit. Cutler, *The Knoll*, had to play at a ball that left him to be caught at third slip with deceptive ease (2-1: 0: 2.2). Having been dropped by the 'keeper, C. Nelson, *Bradlys*, pushed uppishly to extra cover (7-2: 6: 4.1), and Patel, *The Knoll*, was caught behind playing away from his body (20-3: 7: 8.1). After two consecutive ducks in his previous games, Ferreira, *The Grove*, was understandably tentative, and he played and missed at his first five balls from Griffiths, but survived to play a crucial innings that will have done much to restore his confidence and showed his excellent temperament. Skipper Postlewhite meanwhile had brought himself on to bowl off-spin, much to the protestations of his coach, but immediately justified his decision by having the dangerous O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, caught behind (29-4: 0: 11.1); the striker lingered for a long time before finally departing the scene. The ECB Fast Bowling Directive now came to Harrow's aid: stipulating a maximum of seven overs in a spell, and as long a gap before he could bowl again, Griffiths was forced to rest when in his pomp: in years past he would probably have bowled Harrow out; none of the other bowlers even remotely posed the same threat. Ferreira steadily gained in confidence, and was soon timing his strokes pleasingly, including a fine six over long on, and in Ellis, *Rendalls*, he found the ideal partner: strong with a good defence and excellent eye, he middled and timed the ball from the start, and did much to change the tone. The pair had put on 50 in just 51 balls when disaster struck. For no apparent reason, Ferreira decided to take on Wood's arm, racing in from deep square leg for a second run and palpably lost (79-5: 42: 19.6). Charterhouse were cock-a-hoop and right back in the game, but the partnership had been crucial in wresting the initiative. Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, looked confident from the start, and with 35 overs still to bat, it was crucial that this pair took the opportunity. Having just added fifty in 10 overs, they took sanctuary at lunch on 134-5 from 29 overs. Both batsmen played more cautiously after the break, no doubt realising the importance of sustaining the advantage, as Griffiths was brought back, but Ellis reached a commanding 50 from just 54 balls, and the pair had added 103, when L. Kher had Ellis lbw to end a really impressive innings (182-6: 72: 42.4). Sheopuri continued to accumulate steadily and reached an excellent 50 from 76 balls, before moving onto the attack for the final overs, finishing unbeaten on 88; but it was Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, who really changed the mood with confident aggressive strokes from the start, hitting an unbeaten 45 from just 41 balls. Harrow scored 82 runs from the final 10 overs, and finished with a mammoth 277-6; a remarkable recovery from their earlier difficulties. The hosts had persevered hard, but lacked the bowlers to pose a threat on such a flat, dry surface, once the initial moisture had gone.

Charterhouse desperately needed a good start, but Rawal, *Rendalls*, had J. Kher caught behind first ball fencing at a shortish ball outside off-stump. Eaton's watchful innings was terminated by Patel who got one through his defences to have him lbw (28-2: 10: 10.0), as the hosts limped to tea at 36-2 from 14 overs. L. Kher's defensive innings was ended when skipper Richardson, *Elmfield*, turned one through the gate to bowl him (52-3: 17 from 60 balls: 17.5). Postlewhite at least looked confident and fluent from the start, but spin twins J. Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Ashworth were soon operating in tandem, and each took a wicket as the latter bowled the skipper, and the former castled Orr, both batsmen attempting cross-bat strokes (103-5: 32 & 7: 26.1). Griffiths played with freedom and confidence from the start, but the return of Richardson round the wicket, bowled him round his legs (128-6: 28: 33.1). With prospects of victory now remote, Wood and Baker set about rebuilding and did so effectively, adding 57 in 15 overs of sensible batting

before Wood drove to extra cover off J. Nelson (187-7: 43: 48.2) and Ashworth picked up two wickets in an over, ending Baker's sensible effort, lbw shouldering arms, and having Smith caught third ball (194-9: 30 & 0: 49.4). After a flurry of shots from Khan and Levett-Shenley, the latter was efficiently run out by Richardson. Charterhouse finished on 210 to give Harrow a win by 67 runs. On such a good pitch, the spinners had the best figures: Ashworth 3-43, J. Nelson 2-37 and Richardson 2-42, and Harrow's fielding never flagged. It had been a fascinating match, with some fine individual performances, and the visitors had done extremely well to recover from their nadir of 79-5 to add a further 198 for the loss of just one wicket, demonstrating the depth of their batting line-up. With two wins out of two, Harrow currently have a 100% record in the Cowdrey Cup, and look in good form.

2nd XI v Charterhouse, won by four wickets

After a slow but scenic journey to rural Surrey, which included traversing the infamous Hog's Back, George Hamblin, *Moretons*, lost his fifth toss of the season. With the mercury set to soar as high as 21 degrees, the Charterhouse captain elected to bat first in this 35-over game. Harrow took to the field in glorious sunshine on a picturesque pitch in front of the south-west elevation of Charterhouse's impressive nineteenth-century commercial gothic buildings.

As parental picnics got underway on the boundary, the 2nd XI's most experienced opening bowlers Oli Newall, *Druries*, and Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, made a strong start, restricting Charterhouse to 30-0 off 10 overs. Both bowlers looked increasingly threatening as their spells progressed, Newall getting the batsmen to play and miss outside off stump and sometimes finding the edge, and Blackwood swinging the ball more than in previous games this season. Harrow missed a chance when a slip catch was dropped off Blackwood's bowling in the tenth over, and Hamblin and Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, then replaced the openers. Shirvell's bowling revealed that the pitch was turning, and even though a catch was dropped in his second over, he went on to take two wickets in his seven-over spell. However, it was the sharp reactions of Caspar Stone, *The Park*, that allowed Harrow to make the first breakthrough, when he fielded a ball that had gone just wide of him down the legside and threw it to the bowler's end to run out the opener. The score was 48-1 off 14 overs. The appearance of the Master-in-Charge of Cricket on the boundary led to a further two wickets in quick succession. First, Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*, and Hamblin almost contrived a collision to prevent an easy catch from being taken in the sixteenth over off Shirvell, but Hamblin took the catch safely, and then another sharp piece of work by Stone, this time a stumping off Shirvell, meant Charterhouse were struggling on 69-3. Hamblin decided that more spin was needed and Artis entered the attack. At this time, a boy called Lamming, from Charterhouse, was getting settled, and the home team made it to 100 in the 24th over, by rotating the strike and punishing anything from Shirvell that was too short and Artis that was too full. Archie Chatwin, *West Acre*, was full of venom with the ball in hand throughout the afternoon and found plenty of bounce when he came on. After a big appeal for caught behind was turned down by the Charterhouse umpire, the batsman was bowled two balls later and, in Chatwin's following over, Stone took an excellent catch above his head with the ball on the rise. Meanwhile, Adi Gupte's, *West Acre*, pacey spin bowling generated two identical catches at extra cover in two consecutive overs, and it was one of these catches that dismissed the dangerous-looking Lamming. Charterhouse had slumped to 141-7 off 32 overs. Chatwin and Newall kept things tight at the end of the innings; just two runs came off the last twelve balls, not least thank to Newall's wicket maiden in the 35th over. The home side finished on 154-8, well short of what was needed.

Obviously eager to finish the game and turn his attention to

the FA Cup Final, Victor Grant, *Moretons*, uncharacteristically threw caution to the wind, hitting a 6 over square leg off the second ball of the innings and following it with a 4 off the next ball. Combined with some good running between the wickets from the outset, Grant and his partner Kit Keey, *Druries*, had scored 24 runs off just two overs. Keey continued to drive the ball straight down the ground to get Harrow to 40 runs off five overs before Grant was caught behind on 30. The score was 58-1 off seven overs. Along with Keey, Grant had set the tone for the innings, and it would seem hard for Harrow to lose from this position. Chatwin demonstrated intent by hitting a boundary off his first ball, and Harrow continued to motor along to 69-1 off 10 overs. A good leg-side catch by the wicketkeeper off the notorious Lamming's bowling brought Chatwin's innings to an end in the 14th over. Meanwhile, Keey looked increasingly established, and the 15th over went for 17 runs, with Keey's 50 coming off just 46 balls. Gupte, Chatwin's replacement, played some nice shots and was getting set before he was caught on the long-on boundary, the fielder barely having to move, which made the score 125-2 off 16 overs. As is so often the case, with the target within touching distance, Gupte's recklessness became infectious. Keey was stumped the following over, playing a completely unnecessary shot. It was an ignominious end to a fine innings in which he scored 62 and he should have been there to conclude proceedings. A collapse ensued. Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, who saves huge numbers of runs with his fielding, was not able to make many with the bat. Stone, who had been agitating to bat higher in the order, made a point by hitting an enormous 6 off his second ball that was so big it nearly cleared the wall of the Charterhouse Head Master's garden, but he was caught at deep mid-wicket soon after. Suddenly, Harrow were 145-6. The ever-dependable Shirvell saw Harrow over the line, hitting 12 off four balls to secure a four-wicket win with 14 overs to spare. Although this looks like a straightforward victory on paper, Harrow's middle order made this a much closer encounter than it ever should have been.

3rd XI v Charterhouse, won by 27 runs

Fred Prickett, *The Park*, lost the toss but helped steer the 3rd XI to a commanding lead with 132. Energetic fielding from all, despite the attritional summer heat, meant 278 was ultimately too much for Charterhouse to chase.

Fred Prickett, *The Park*, 132 & 3-37, Olly Hills, *The Head Master's*, 97

Colts A v Butterflies, won by seven wickets, Butterflies 158-9, Harrow 163-3

A superb 104* from Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, was the key difference in the run chase as Harrow chased down 158 to win by seven wickets

Colts B v Haileybury, won by six wickets

The Colts B restricted Haileybury's 3rd XI to 107 from 20 overs with some excellent bowling and very alert keeping from Andrew Stratton, *Newlands*, who caught an edge and orchestrated two run outs. St John Smith, *Newlands*, took a sensational catch at extra cover, and his bowling and brilliant energy in encouraging his

Junior Colts A v Charterhouse, won by 13 runs

In a low-scoring match, the JCAs showed great steadfastness with ball in hand to overcome a strong opposition. Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*, 30, Henry Porter, *Moretons*, 25, Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, 2 for 12.

Junior Colts B v Charterhouse, won by four wickets

Junior Colts C v Charterhouse, won by five wickets

Harrow fielded well to limit Charterhouse to 84 runs, with Jevons, *West Acre*, taking 3 for 13. Cooke, *The Park*, Emery,

Moretons, and Allen, *West Acre*, worked well to take the game by the sixteenth over.

Junior Colts D v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools Boys-Under-15C, won by 89 runs

Opener Samuel Howes, *The Grove*, retired 50* after 15 overs. With the ball, Krishan Rajakulendran, *Rendalls*, was 3 for 12 and Nathan Karri, *Rendalls*, was 2 for 0.

Junior Colts E v Brighton College, lost by nine wickets

The JCEs lost by nine wickets. Man of the Match was Hans Patel, *Newlands*, for keeping his calm in the face of defeat and raking up 20 runs for the team.

Yearlings A v Charterhouse, won by 4 runs

Harrow: 177-7 off 30 overs, Charterhouse: 173-9 off 30 overs

A frustrating performance for Harrow that nonetheless resulted in a victory thanks to a courageous effort to wrestle control of the game back from a dangerous Charterhouse batting lineup. Special mention must go to Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*, for a fantastic bowling display that included a hat-trick and ended with figures of 4-23, and to Oliver Gisborne, *Lyon's*, who ended up playing for both the Yearling Ds and As in the same afternoon.

Yearlings B v Charterhouse, won by 12 runs

Yearlings B defeated Charterhouse by 12 runs, successfully defending a total of 138. Special mention to Jed Hurley, *Bradby's*, for his 65 and to Neil Timblo, *Moretons*, for an outstanding catch and two wickets in the final over of the game.

Yearlings C v Charterhouse, won by 8 wickets

Yearlings D v Charterhouse, won by 217 runs

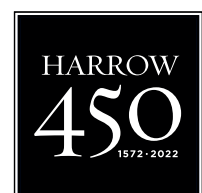
Yearlings E v Brighton College Boys-Under-14D, lost by 44 runs

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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

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