



RSSBC: Junior Inter-Regional Regatta Trials, Nottingham (J16, J15, J14)

Thursday 1 May 2014

Three Shrewsbury crews were selected to represent the West Midlands at the annual Junior Inter-Regional Regatta on Saturday 26th April.

For the J14 quad it was their first ever experience of side-by-side racing. They finished in fourth position in their heat, earning a place in the B final. The final proved to be a very exciting battle - with barely a length separating the top three crews for most of the 1500m course - but the RSSBC crew ended up in 3rd position out of 5 in that particular race.

The J15 coxed four qualified for the A final, but were drawn in the unfancied lane 6. They produced a quality row in the final, finishing in 4th place.

Our J16 eight qualified with ease from their semi-final after establishing a 22-second lead over the field. In the final they won a silver medal after a tight race with a strong crew from Sir William Borlase.



RSSBC: Good performances from the J16s, J15s and J14s at the Junior Inter-Regional and Birmingham Regattas

Thursday 1 May 2014

The J16B, J15s and J14s all gained some valuable racing experience on Saturday 26th April at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in Nottingham and the Birmingham Regatta.

Junior Inter-Regional Regatta, 26th April 2014

Three J16, J15 and J14 crews were selected to represent the West Midlands at the annual Junior Inter-Regional Regatta. The J15 eight came second, The J15 four came 4th, J14 quod came 3rd in the B final. Please see the full report: [Junior Inter-Regional Regatta, 26th April 2014](#)

Birmingham Regatta

The J15 eight won gold and the J16s put up an excellent showing but came second. In their first experience of side by side racing, the J14 quod won one of their round robin races, but the two octos lost their races. Please see the full report: [Birmingham Regatta, 26th April 2014](#)



The winning J15 VIII at Birmingham



RSSBC: Birmingham Regatta

Thursday 1 May 2014

The J16B, J15s and J14s all gained some valuable racing experience at the Birmingham Regatta on Saturday, as their respective coaches report below. The J15s were particularly delighted to return from their first regatta of the season with gold medals.

J16

Quirky. And muddy. Those were my outstanding impressions of Birmingham Regatta. The crew were just muddy, by the end, and not dissatisfied with their performance.

Two equal coxed fours drawn from the J16B crew competed in the IM3 event along with a top squad crew from an Oxfordshire school. In the unique manner of this event, everyone raced everyone else, Though unlike the Caucus Race in Alice in Wonderland, not all at the same time. (Though even that would not have surprised me.)

Each of the three crews won one and lost one. Although we did not bring the silverware home (the fastest time down the course counted towards that - we missed out by a fraction of a second), it was a very successful day in terms of racing.

Despite the shortness of the course, each race started well and developed into an attack and counter-attack. All this despite the rain squalls, cold, confusion as to whether racing had been suspended or not, etc. It exemplified the old adage – stuff happens on regatta day, and the quickest to recover go on to be successful.

A very good opening statement from this amiable squad.

J15

The J15 B squad had a successful first regatta of the season. The eight who were entered into the A category to get some serious race practice, raced three times. They won each of their races to finish as the overall winners of the event. Happy boys, with their shiny gold medals. Hopefully, not their last of the season!

The B quad, who had only paddled a couple of times, raced well and competitively in the morning and afternoon. With a few more practice paddles, they will certainly be in line to have a win soon.

The afternoon division saw the B eight race in two equal fours, resulting in a dead heat. Fantastic for the coaches to watch, but not so good to be involved in! With the weather deteriorating, we decided not to run the race again to find a victor. However, horns may well be locked at the Shrewsbury Regatta to settle the score!

All in all, a really good day with plenty of competitive racing. The Bs now have a two-week gap until the Shrewsbury Regatta.

J14s

This regatta was the first experience of side by side racing for almost all of the J14 squad. With the windy conditions came choppy water, but it was hopefully still a positive experience for the crews.

The primary quad won one of their round robin races after handling the conditions much better than their opposition. The two octos were up with the competition at the start of their race, but

the tough conditions then proved to be slightly too much for the boys who then slowed, resulting in both crews losing out at the finish line.

The boys have gained valuable race experience at this event which will prove to be very useful in the coming regatta season.



The winning J15 VIII

British Informatics Olympiad success

Thursday 1 May 2014

In December two Lower Sixth Churchillians, Aue Angpanitcharoen (Ch) and Ed Carroll (Ch) entered the British Informatics Olympiad. This competition involved solving three problems by writing computer programs during a supervised three-hour session.

Their certificates arrived this week and Ed Carroll has achieved a Distinction.

Well done to both for their efforts in this very challenging activity.

PAK



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Gala Evening of Operatic Extracts, Sunday 27th April

Friday 2 May 2014

A concert whose first half contains several pieces of music dictated, so far as this reviewer is concerned, directly by God (through his human intermediaries) is bound to be off to a winner. In last Sunday's 'Gala Evening of Operatic Extracts' we were once again reminded not only of the extraordinary range of Shrewsbury School singing talent, but also of the huge benefits to the cultural life of the School brought by our Sixth Form girls; and not least of the resilience of the Salopian who, with A levels and GCSEs looming, can rehearse and perform to the highest standard as if this is the only thing he or she has been thinking about all Easter.

James Aitken's light tenor set the tone for the evening with Handel's exquisite aria 'Where'er you walk', sung with a mature plaintive sensitivity and pinpoint accuracy. From this point on the singers had the audience eating out of their hands. For me the finest jewels in the classical operatic first half were the heavenly trio 'Soave sia il vento' from Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (sung by Head of School Rory Fraser, Henrike Legner and Katie Elcock) and the sumptuous, almost Wagnerian, 'Evening Prayer' from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (sung by the same ladies). But as always, it is invidious to select particular items from a feast whose every course was delectable. Suffice it so say, we arrived at the end of the first half - with another trio from a Mozart Da Ponte masterpiece - 'Cosa Sento' from *The Marriage of Figaro*, sung by Henrike Legner, Laurence Jeffcoate and Andrew Spicer - deeply satisfied, but in no way sated.

Musicals provided the inspiration for the second half, with several of our operatic stars making a reappearance in lighter mode and occasionally different attire. Again, it is unfair but inevitable that in a review of this length items have to be singled out, but the most poignant moments for me were provided by Charis Virgo in 'I don't know how to love him' from *Jesus Christ Superstar* and that most professional of performers Laurence Jeffcoate in 'Maria' from *West Side Story*. Bernstein featured again at the close of the concert, with the boys, in the shape of Nick Entwisle, Alfred Mitchell and Rob Shone, given the last word in 'New York, New York'. But I cannot close this review without rewarding an entertainment prize to Guy Cabral who, Turkish nightcap on head and candle in hand, got his tongue so adroitly round the 'Nightmare Song' from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*.

So my congratulations to them all and to their singing teachers, Kathryn Turpin and Jonathan May, and of course to their most versatile of accompanists, Director of Music John Moore.

RTH



The annual 'Shewsy' weekend trip: Rosie is here again

Friday 2 May 2014

Shrewsbury House ('The Shewsy') is a youth club in Everton whose history with Shrewsbury School began over a century ago. That link is celebrated with an annual residential visit to Shrewsbury by club members and staff, during which old friendships are renewed and new ones started through two days of shared activities.

Fives, Food and Football

Rosie was here again, on her third visit, along with Jess, who loves music and Max, aged 13, whose favourite subject is English and who came for the first time. The annual 'Residential' for the Shewsy Youth Club Members had begun. Amelia, Krem and Koden were on hand, as Shewsy Ambassadors, to welcome them and join in with activities which included mountain biking, an introduction to Fives, shared meals, a quiz at MSH and a hike up to the top of Roundton Hill. It was almost possible to see both Liverpool and Shrewsbury at the summit, which was fitting for a visit which celebrates the 110-year link between the two.

The annual football fixture between the Club and the School had to be postponed in order to catch Liverpool's disappointing fixture with Chelsea first, but the Club made up for it in their victory. 30 visitors were hosted by 30 students, and next year's itinerary is already in the planning, with 'going in the tank' with the rowers and 'smells and bangs' in the Chemistry Department top of the list of experiences to revisit and share.

LJ Drew

Charities Co-ordinator



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 2 May 2014

This week, the 2nd XI.

It is the start of the summer term and civilisation has returned with the advent of the cricket season. With that in mind, I thought I would start my coverage of various Salopian teams by casting my eye over what is taking place on Shrewsbury's verdant cricket pastures, made lush by months of moisture and the warm and welcome spring sunshine.

As I write this article I am plagued by a brief tingle of nervousness, as of course any writing about cricket has to measure up to the greatness of Sir Neville Cardus. Cardus was the chief cricket writer on the Manchester Guardian from 1919-1940 and is widely thought of as the innovator of all modern cricket writing. He arrived at Shrewsbury School in 1912 and was bowled over by "the richness of the open air of England and the murmur of summer on the most beautiful of playing fields which spread and imperceptibly mingled with the pastoral land of Shropshire." For five summers a young Sir Neville toiled on this "pastoral land of Shropshire" as the School's assistant cricket coach. He wrote of his labours, "When the field lay empty I would gather the stumps from a dozen pitches and carry them in sheaves in my arms, a solitary reaper in the evening sunshine". He certainly sounds like a man happy with his duties, which mainly involved bowling at the "young gentlemen" in the nets.

The focus of much of Cardus's cricket writing was the Lancashire side of the inter-war years, and in particular their twice-yearly battles with rivals Yorkshire. My focus this week is the Shrewsbury School 2nd XI who have won all three of their games so far this term; two of them leading to the first trophy of the season in a 20:20 invitation tournament.

Coach Matthew Barrett could not help but enthuse over the performances so far. He told me he that he has been impressed by the keen and enthusiastic attitude of his players. "I have been impressed by the keen and enthusiastic attitude of the players." He went on to tell me that he felt he had a more balanced side this year. "Last year I felt we were a bit unbalanced but this year we are strong in all departments." Mr Barrett is of course right to mention balance as England look as if they might need Gary Ballance in their side!

I knew Mr Barrett had a ruthless streak and so far it seems to have happily absorbed by his team. He had targeted the athleticism of the opponents as a potential weakness, suggesting that XL referred not just to their age! Lunch, tea and supper are an integral part of the XL Club training manual. There are rumours that they follow a balanced diet inspired by Shane Warne and Mike Gatting – a cheeseburger in each hand! Some of our more sensitive players find some of Mr Barrett's tactics a little extreme. Fred Earlam told me he thought it was a little below the belt of his coach to keep making remarks about starving the opposition of the strike and making them sweat for each run. He was concerned that they might have heard him telling his players "there is a run in every bun" as the opposition tucked into their tea!



The XL Club discussing tea and the bun:run ratio



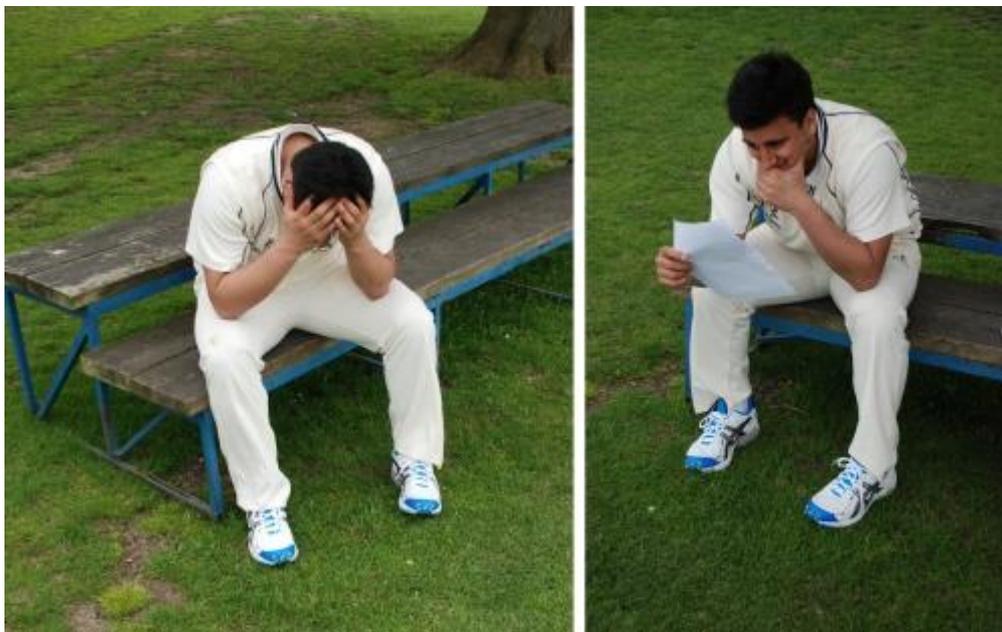
James Warburg nobly giving his team mates a chance

Of course historically not all players have got on with their coaches. "I'm a big believer that the coach is something you travel in to get to and from the game" - Shane Warne commenting on John Buchanan. "Ray Jennings was to orthodoxy what King Herod was to child-minding" - Mike Atherton on the South African coach. The Shrewsbury 2nd XI team were quick to praise their coach, although it must be said that I only spoke to members of the team who were high up the batting order! I asked Mr Barrett if he could encapsulate his relationship with his players and he told me, "Being the manager of the 2nd XI team is rather like being in charge of a cemetery -

lots of people underneath you, but no one listening”. I think Mr Barrett may have borrowed that quote from the great West Indian quick bowler Sir Wes Hall; but if the team can build on this early season success I think we can forgive him for drawing comparisons with other past greats of the game. I find myself wondering if Sri Lanka will be after Mr Barrett, as I believe they have a vacancy for a top quality coach.

I caught up with the team as they prepared to chase down the meagre 133 that the XL Club had set them earlier this week. Captain James Warburg (PH) was slightly upset that the target was so small. “I was looking to score a big hundred today but feel that would be selfish to the rest of the team. I need to make sure that some of the other lads get in the game and so I will not be staying in for long.” I was impressed by such an altruistic attitude and James was true to his word as he allowed Freddie Earlam to the crease with the score on 25. Freddie took the opportunity granted him by his captain and made a well crafted 59. He was involved in two match-winning partnerships with the in form Charlie Adams (S), who has already made two scores over 30 this season, and Fred Adair (Rt) who was bristling with confidence and has had similar success.

The only batsman to seemingly fail was Reiss Rashid (R). I had a quiet chat with Reiss after he had been dismissed for a duck. He needed some counselling to get over the fact that two of his stumps had been removed from the ground by someone nearly as old as I am. It is important to listen to troubled youths and Reiss explained that he had seen me on the boundary edge and realised that he was behind with some Philosophy of Religion revision. Suddenly it was clear why Reiss had allowed the ball to canon into his stumps and I have come to fully realise just what a dedicated student he is.



Rais Rashid realises how much revision he has to do

A word must be said about the Shrewsbury bowling attack. Henry Craig and Jonty Small (joint captain – two heads are better than one) bowled with genuine pace; not like JM Barrie who famously said, "I bowl so slowly that if I don't like a ball I can run after it and bring it back". Ben Quirk was in his own words “mostly bowling good balls” and George Birt is apparently good at



bowling maiden overs, or is that maidens over! He is also renowned as “a good puller” when he is batting. James Hulton-Harrop is a man to turn to when spin is required and he bowled a tidy spell. The man of the match was Sam Green who accounted for the opposition’s New Zealand ex-international run machine who had made life difficult for us last year. Sam on his 18th birthday took four wickets and scored the winning runs. Mr Barrett did say before the match that the wicket looked a bit ‘Green’!



Man of the Match and Birthday Boy Sam Green

The sun is out again today and the prospects for a great season of cricket look good. The champagne moment of the 2nd XI season so far probably has to go to Dan Durman who previously played his cricket for the Dudley Dynamos. He scored a six off the last ball of the game against Kings Macclesfield to ensure we made it to the final; three was required! I have a friend who has recently been to see some Indian League cricket in Dubai. The picture below suggests the atmosphere was nearly as exciting as 20:20 matches at Shrewsbury.



Shrewsbury

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I can only admire the efforts of such a fine side as sadly my efforts are more akin to those of Lewis Carroll these days: "I once delivered a simple ball, which I was told, had it gone far enough, would have been considered a wide."

I sense the Shrewsbury 2nd XI may have been inspired by this exchange from one of the greats of the past: -

(Greg Thomas beats Viv Richards on the outside edge a couple of times.)

Greg Thomas: "It's red, round and weighs about five ounces if you're wondering"

(Richards hits him for six, out of the ground and into a river the very next ball.)

Viv Richards: "Greg, you know what it looks like. Now go and find it!"

The 2nd XI squad are: Jonty Small, Samuel Green, Freddie Adair, Charlie Adams, Freddie Earlam, Nicholas Pearce, Henry Craig, Reiss Rashid, James Hulton-Harrop, Ben Quirk, James Warburg, Charlie Cooke, Dan Durman, Charles Kidson, Edward Hemmings

Good luck to this fine squad and keep the opposition searching!

GJFB



School Sports Awards 2014

Friday 2 May 2014

Nineteen of the School's most gifted and committed sportsmen and women were honoured at the Sports Award Lunch for Upper Sixth students on Sunday 27th April, hosted by the Salopian Club.

The celebratory lunch was attended by Sixth Form students, parents, staff and representatives of OS sports clubs, who enjoyed a fascinating and entertaining speech by guest-of-honour Richard Bevan (OS) and Chief Executive of the League Managers Association.

They also enjoyed the Grace written and recited by Peter Middleton: [Sports Awards Lunch 2014 - Grace](#)

During the presentation ceremony, Head of Girls' Sport Nicola Bradburne and Senior Sports Master Will Hughes paid tribute to each of the Award winners. The testimonials are included below.

Winner of The David Spencer Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport - Henry Blofield (PH)



The David Spencer Memorial Award is named after a true Salopian Sportsman. David played for the School's 1st XI football team for four seasons, captaining the side for side, which was an extremely rare feat in the 20th century at Shrewsbury and remains so today. He also enjoyed three seasons as a 1st XI cricketer and a season as one of the top four Fives players. He was a true gentleman, an honest sportsman and a proud Salopian, as is our recipient of the award today.



Henry Blofield was easily the most nominated person for this honour by both staff and peers, which demonstrates the admiration and respect that people have for him. He plays at the top level in every sport he partakes in and has done so since starting at Shrewsbury. When you read of his contributions and statistics over the years, you might think that you would be faced with a very confident, almost cocky young man, but in fact what you get is very modest and unassuming young man, who regularly plays down his extraordinary all round sporting talent.

In football he has always been a member of the A teams and this year has been a solid player for the 1st XI. He can be relied upon at all times to perform consistently well whatever the situation. He is someone who doesn't necessarily have fancy foot work and all the tricks, but a player who you would not want to be without, and who team mates look to for support. In Fives, he has always been part of the first pair, winning the National Schools' U14 Beginners as a Third Former. That year he also progressed far enough in the Open Championships to be seeded the following year – a fantastic achievement. He continued to be successful at the highest level, reaching the National Schools' finals twice and had led the team exceptionally well this year.

If this wasn't enough, he is the most successful 1st XI cricket captain Shrewsbury has ever seen. His fine bowling matured throughout the summer and he was at his peak at the most important time. His 4 for 9 from 10 overs in the match against the Australian touring team on the second day of the Silk Trophy, was as good as it gets. His batting too has progressed and he played some important innings in all competitions, either ensuring we used up overs or batted to a total. At the end of a triumphant season, he also gained the honour of being selected to play in the MCC Schools XI at Lords in September. 1st XI footballer, 1st pair Fives, 1st XI cricket captain. There is no-one more deserving of this award than Henry Blofield.

Winner of The Eleanor Gurden Award for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport - Joanna Cull (EDH)

The Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport Award is named after Eleanor Gurden, whose family have donated the trophy. Elle was one of the first girls through the doors of Shrewsbury in 2008 and was a leading sporting figure from the start. She played hockey, netball, tennis, rounders and athletics and was captain of hockey as well as captain of boats. She was the first ever Head of Girls' Sport and a huge help to me personally during the first two years of co-education. Her enthusiasm and sporting ability rubbed off on many and I am delighted that she continues to support Shrewsbury Sport. After Shrewsbury Elle went on to Manchester University where she read Chemistry and achieved a 2:1. A week ago she started working in a graduate scheme in investment management at Brewin Dolphin. I am pleased to invite Elle up to present the award herself.

Whilst there were a number of nominations for this award, the same name continued to come up from both pupils and staff again and again. When you think of 'outstanding contribution', you think of today's recipient, Joanna Cull. She arrived at Shrewsbury as an established sportswoman with a very quiet and calm demeanour, which is still very apparent today. But whilst this quietness reflects her modesty when it comes to her sporting ability, don't be fooled into thinking she is timid on the sports field. She applies herself 100% to every sporting situation, whether it be netball, hockey or fives. She is an extremely talented centre court netballer, whose steady play can be relied upon every game. Hockey is a sport that she has made huge improvements in this year and whilst she would personally consider it a 'weaker' sport, her desire to improve and to follow instruction in order to develop her skills is one of the reasons she is being recognised today.

In Fives, she is part of the School's first girl pair and this year played in the main draw of the National Ladies' Championship competition at Eton, where they were competing against the best pairs in the country. To their great credit they came 2nd in the Plate competition, beating their great rivals Wolverhampton Girls' School 1st pair along the way.

The fact that her main sport is cricket and she therefore plays in a male-dominated environment regularly, without issue or concern is testament to her determination and ability to 'get on with the job in hand'. She is a top order batter and change bowler, making her a talented all rounder and has recently moved to Worcestershire ladies where she will have more chance to develop within the county set up.

She is well respected amongst coaches and players due to her exceptional talent, but also because she is hard working and determined which is also reflected in her appointment as head of house. She is genuinely one of the most thoughtful and considerate girls I have ever met and is without doubt, highly worthy of this award.



L to r: Joanna Cull, Elle Gurden, Alice Sykes-Waller

Sportsman of the Year - Oliver Brown (G)





Oliver Brown is one of the bravest and most determined sportsmen I have had the pleasure of working with. He is a talented all-rounder too, having played 3 sports at Shrewsbury to a very high level. U14, 15 and 16A football, rugby and cricket followed by 1st X1 football and 1st XV rugby for 2 and 3 years respectively. Captain Marvel of 1st X1 football and a colossus of 1st XV rugby and always leads by example. This is a man who never knows when he is beaten and never gives up: the kind of player that coaches and team mates fully respect and want in their team. A plethora of awards over the years and invariably the players' player award in the teams he plays in.

A no-nonsense centre half – great in the air, strong in the tackle and with a fierce shot. A silky centre on the rugby pitch with a fine side-step and a bruising tackler. A talented bits and pieces cricketer, leg spinner, hard hitting batsman and a great fielder.

What makes this sportsman even more impressive is that in spite of his considerable ability, there is not an ounce of arrogance about him, and he is a fine role model to younger pupils. He is also blessed with an excellent sense of humour and ability to laugh at himself – as his recent haircuts would confirm.

This is someone who will be a great asset to university and club teams and he has a bright sporting future ahead of him. He has made a huge impact on Shrewsbury School sport.

Sportswoman of the Year - Alice Sykes-Waller (MSH)

Alice has played at the highest level in school sport across a number of areas. She is a strong but graceful games player who is always one of my first names on the team sheet. She is an exceptional hockey player, taking apart oppositions with her speed and skill regularly and it is noticeable if she is unavailable on match day. She is a very confident, determined sportswoman and is keen to hone her skills in every sport.

Netball is a definite area of strength for her and she is an extremely powerful defender – which has been a little too powerful at times! Though she can often be five minutes late for training, there is always a good story to explain why and when she does arrive she is hard working and focused. In Fives this year she competed in the Ladies National Championships Festival at Eton. There were concerns surrounding lack of match practice, but her statement that practice wasn't necessary for 'Fives naturals' was proved correct when she produced her best ever performance with partner Gaby Byrne, reaching the semi-finals.

Her enthusiasm and positive approach to every task she undertakes is infectious and encourages all around her to put in their best effort. As well as hockey, netball and fives, she has represented the school in lacrosse, tennis, and the Hunt, which demonstrates her all round sporting ability. She is a role model on and off the sports field which is demonstrated by her appointment as Deputy Head of School.

Nominations for the Sportsman of the Year and the David Spencer Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to Sport

Niall Barrow (O)

Niall joined the School in the Lower Sixth and quickly made his mark at the Boat Club. It is a testament to his application and example that he was selected as Captain of Boats. Of the top five times recorded in pairs time trials, Niall has been in four of the boats. His leadership has been invaluable this year, including running regular early morning circuit training sessions across all age groups. Niall won the Welsh selection for the Welsh Home Counties team to race in Cork in July.



Joseph Carrasco (Rt)

Joe has moved through from the 2nd XI in football to the 1st team this season. he is a very strong, quick player who has been a great asset to the team, not least in scoring 13 goals in 18 games. Joe's main sport, however, is cricket, where he has been a solid member of the 1st XI throughout his time at the School. He is a talented and stylish opening batsman who has the ability to score all around the wicket. he also bowls handy medium pace and is a useful fielder.

Charles Clarke (O)

Charlie has been a committed member of the Boat Club throughout his time at the School. In the Fifth Form he stroked the 2nd VIII. In the Sixth Form he switched to coxing on request and has quickly adapted to be a significant asset in the 1st VIII and highly regarded as a cox, earning himself an invitation to the GB final trials last year. Charlie's diligence and passion have made him an excellent example to the rest of the Club and a worthy Vice Captain of Boats.

Rory Fraser (Ch)

Rory has been a leading figure in the Hunt for a number of years and this year was appointed Huntsman. In his time, he was County Championships, Midlands & Northern Schools Championships and has won National team medals for three years in a row. As Head of School, Rory leads by example and many look up to him. His dedication to the Hunt has been outstanding and this year has led a young squad to several notable successes.

Nominations for Sportswoman of the Year and the Eleanor Gurden Award for Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport

Francesca Molyneux (EDH)

Francesca started rowing when she arrived at Shrewsbury and has made excellent progress in the short time she has been at the School. Her calm determination and application have made her a pleasure to coach. She represented the School in the quad at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston in October. She is now competing on a National level and will be in with a reasonable chance of a medal at the National Schools' Regatta in May.

Eliza Wood (EDH)

Eliza has been an instrumental part of the 1st XI hockey team for two years and captained the side throughout the 2013 season. She is a wonderful team motivator and leads by example through determination and hard work. Eliza has also been a big part of the Fives team this year, winning the Ladies Championship plate at Eton.

Services to Sport Awards

Stuart Brown (G)

Stuart has always been heavily involved in school rugby as well as playing locally for the Shrewsbury Club and in Shropshire age group teams. He is a strong running centre or wing who takes very good lines and is very adept at picking holes in opposition defences. Stuart is also resolute in defence and as he bulks up will become an even bigger force and will surely go on to play rugby at a high level at university, in clubs or perhaps even with the Scottish Exiles.

Ben Lyster-Binns (Ch)

Ben is Mr Reliable. He is quite simply a model defensive fullback. His tackling is rock solid and he can be relied upon not to miss and so others can focus on their defensive duties knowing that



Ben's man is taken care of. His positional play is very good and is dependable under the high ball. Ben is also a key squad man who will play in any position in the back three. He never misses training and never gives less than one hundred percent, whether it be on the training field or in matches. He will go on to play rugby at a very decent level.

Rob Treasure (I)

As this year's captain, Rob is a player with real ability and with good leadership qualities. Rob led by example both on and off the pitch and had the support and respect of all the squad. By necessity he often played out of his true position but did so with no little skill and without complaint. As he moves on to the next stage he will be able to play at a high level and may even follow older brother to play for Luctonians.

Robert Homden (Rb)

Rob has been a committed member of the Boat Club throughout his time at the School. He has been selected for the 1st VIII in 2013 and 2014. Despite struggling with injuries, he has persevered throughout his time and is a valued member of the Boat Club. Rob has been selected to row for Wales at the Home Countries Regatta in Cork in July.

Will Angell-James (R)

'AKA Quadzilla' has been in the 1st VIII since first selected for the crew in the fifth form. He has been a mainstay of the crew and contributed both with a huge amount of power and much humour to keep the crew on track. Will has also been selected to row for Wales at the home Counties Regatta in July.

Victoria Horbach (EDH)

Vicky started coxing for the Boat Club when she arrived in the Lower Sixth. She has made rapid progress through her time at the school and coxed the J16B VIII to a bronze medal at the National Schools Regatta in 2013. In 2014 she put herself in contention in the top squad and has proven to be an excellent cox. She coxed the 3rd VIII to a bronze medal at the School's Head of the River.

Daniel Legge (SH)

has been captain of both hockey and golf and has excelled in his leadership in both sports. He has been instrumental in boosting the popularity of golf in the School, as shown by the strong turn out the sport now enjoys. In hockey, he has represented the School throughout his time here as well as performing at higher levels.

George Bates (S)

George fully merits his service to sport award for his consistent improvement in his game. In every training session over five years George tried his best and made significant advances in his game but also in relation to others in his year group. He has become a very strong no.2 for the School and he has led by personal example both on and off the court.

James Warburg (PH)

James has been ever present at the fives courts, putting in hours well beyond the necessary and fitting them around academic commitments. The result was that he improved tremendously and, while it would be unfair to call him an overtly aggressive sportsman, he seemed really to start to understand how the game works on a more fundamental level. A quiet, calm constant over five years.

Charlotte Perkins (EDH)

Charlie has been a lively and committed member of the hockey team throughout her time here. She is one of the players the rest of the team look to for encouragement and support and is always prepared to give her best. She has also made tremendous progress in Fives this year, winning the National Ladies Festival Plate at Eton.

Lizzie Mason-Jones (MSH)

Lizzie has helped lead the netball team to its most successful season ever, coming 2nd in the county tournament and reaching the Midlands finals for the first time. She has played regularly in the side that won the Shrewsbury and District Netball League this year and her positive attitude rubs off on the rest of the team. She is a passionate and determined house captain of sport and approaches each task she is given with enthusiasm.

Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH)

As this year's Captain of Girls' Running, Lucie has led the squad to unprecedented levels, concluding the season with a record haul of three trophies including winning a major regional trophy when they brought home the Midlands & Northern Schools' Champs (a haul that would likely have been pushed up to four had the County Championships not been cancelled). At the National Relays, the girls recorded an astonishing 4th place just outside the national medals, and Lucie can be proud to have been part of that squad.

Will Cook (Rt)

Will is a great ambassador for football. He set a very high standard playing for the 1st XI football team in the Michaelmas Term and has a very professional approach to training and matches. He is someone you can always depend on and this also comes across in his cricket, where he has been a regular in the first team, producing some excellent performances.

Charles Kidson (G)

Charlie was a constant selection in 2013 in cricket and produced some high quality contributions. His support play and energy were a massive plus to the team. His very individual style with bat and ball mark him out as a very dangerous cricketer. Charlie has been 1st XI goalkeeper this season and always performed well under pressure.

Award for International Representation - Ed Barnard (PH)

Having fully recovered from a stress fracture of the spine, Ed Barnard recently represented England U19s in Dubai at the Cricket World Cup. With a superb 93 from just 73 balls, Ed helped England secure an emphatic 213-run victory over the UAE in the opening match and rightly was named Man of the Match. The team went on to secure a third place finish in the tournament with a nail-biting one-wicket victory over Australia that went down to the last over. In this game, Ed was England's leading wicket taker with 3 for 22 off 7 overs, including two maidens. Ed is currently contracted to Worcester County Cricket Club and is very highly regarded by Stephen Rhodes, the Head Coach.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expeditions

Friday 2 May 2014

Sea-kayaking round Anglesey, navigating across Dartmoor... a hugely successful range of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Expeditions took place during the Easter holidays.

The weather was favourable at last (for most of the time), which meant the whole experience for all concerned was much more pleasant than the normal wet socks, boots, hats and gloves with which groups have historically had to contend.

The sea-kayaking team had a fantastic time on Anglesey, going from zero to hero in the space of a week. The team consisting of George Birt, Alex Haspel, Guy Hunter, Roan Kirkby, Nick Pearce, Oliver Pumphrey and Jake Samuel had already spent a term undertaking pool training in kayak rolling, so when they arrived on Anglesey they had mastered the more advance skill of rolling but not the simple skills like going forwards and turning. It was a steep learning curve indeed!

The week began with an afternoon on Llyn Padarn in Llanberis where the students spent time fitting out boats, trying on clothing, and learning about the basic skills of boat handling. We all then moved to Anglesey Outdoors in Holyhead where the training continued late into the evening with a short first aid refresher course.

The next two days were spent undertaking day trips from Trearddur Bay, rock hopping along the coast practising skills like towing, rescues, manoeuvring and paddling safely as a cohesive group. The evenings were jam-packed with theory training in tides, weather, emergencies, calling the coastguard, kit packing, boat repair, to name but a few of the extensive topics covered.

The following two days became a little more testing as the north-westerly wind picked up and blew consistently across the island. Sadly this limited our options for wild camping, and we were confined to the Menai Straits for fear of being blown across to Ireland if we went anywhere else. The wind was cold and had a significant impact on the state of the sea in the Straits. The effect of wind over tide produced quite large steep waves which the whole team could surf! The day was filled with 'woop woops' and cries of excitement when any of the students managed to stay on the leading edge of a wave and was propelled forward at great speed. It was an exciting day, with only one capsize for the team. This was Nick Pearce's first 'roll in anger', as we say in the game! A rousing round of applause followed. The expedition continued with the same level of intensity as the team had a whole day of 'scenarios' to contend with, from suspected broken shoulders to unconscious casualties, to casualties with sea sickness.

The final day of the trip was spent in the classroom. The students had the day to plan their assessment expedition which will be in Enniskillen, kayaking the lakes and rivers that make up the Lough Earne Canoe trail. They have to paddle for four days and camp for three nights without the safety net of being accompanied by an instructor. They will have to deal with all the challenges they will face by themselves, only calling upon the support crew if absolutely necessary. Good luck to all!

Thanks goes to Mr Simper for all his help on this trip (and exceptional knowledge of fishing) and to the instructor Matt Giblin from Kayak Essentials who kept us safe.



In addition, two teams of walkers headed off to Dartmoor with Mr Corbett for the practice ventures on foot. These teams had a greater focus on navigation and general hill craft. The team arrived at Okehampton Youth Hostel with an evening of route planning ahead of them. They had a three-day expedition to plan, comprising a night on a farm campsite (very basic) and a night wild camping (even more basic). The weather held out for the first few days, and the teams could enjoy the bleak and wildness that Dartmoor presents, with deep peat bogs, rough terrain, boulder fields and prehistoric Tors. Without exception, all suffered sore shoulders and damp feet. but spirits remained high. Sadly, the weather didn't remain favourable for long, and as is common in this part of the UK, the rains came.

A night camping can be a considerable amount of fun and for those who enjoy a wilderness experience, wild camping can be very cathartic. In the rain, however, it's just a wet and muddy experience enjoyed only by ducks and frogs!

Well done to all involved for enduring the experience right through to completion. This team now have the challenge of planning a four-day trip across the Peak District.

The teams were: Tom McHugh, Mary Parrott, Ben Smith, Rishi Trivedi, Tim van der Hoeven, Samson Yick, Sabrina Yee, Billy Chu, Imogene Hill, Yuki Lam, Queenie Luk and Sophie Zhou.
Major Jo Billington



Summer holidays: Activities and sporting programme for children

Friday 2 May 2014

Shrewsbury School's Academy and Sporting programme for the Summer holidays includes courses for children of varying ages, but ranging from as young as 4, and up to 16 years. The following courses are on offer:

- Cricket
- Tennis
- Trampolining
- Fencing
- Archery
- Squash
- Canoeing
- Intensive Swimming Instruction

Please see our [Academy and Sporting Programme](#) (pdf file) for details of all courses taking place over the Summer holidays.

Third Former George Garrett's weekly blog - part 1

Friday 2 May 2014

The Easter holidays were gone before I knew it and I was back to Churchill's for the start of the summer term. Getting back at the start of term and having to unpack was a bit of a drag, however a last minute McDonalds was in order before my parents had left!

First day back and being up at 7am was a shock to the system, then being greeted to school assembly in which I nearly fell asleep, so all in all a typical start to the summer term. Before I knew it Wednesday had flown by and I was beginning to slip back into the intense routine of Salopian life.



Thursdays for me are normally the least hectic day during the school week, with no sport changes, just outdoor activities; I call it my relaxing day. However last Thursday wasn't the case since I had strength and conditioning in the gym, followed by three hours at the Cricket Centre preparing for the cricket season and then a music lesson. I can safely say I was knackered.

Friday was the first normal day of the term in terms of a normal routine for me; I like to call it a 'standard' day. Still cricket in the afternoon and a fair amount of Top Schools meant I was tired, just like every day at Shrewsbury.

A welcoming Saturday morning was in order due to Mr Hudson doing his termly Saturday breakfast in his kitchen which brought the full monty! A lie in and a lovely breakfast began the weekend well! Saturday brought the first cricket match of the term against Denstone in the Lord's Taverners under-15 cricket tournament first round. With the prospect of rain about, I was uncertain just like every cricket game in an English summer, whether we were going to play. However the game was on and we turned up with a weakened team. We bowled first and on a tough wicket and they pushed to 146 for 7 off 40 overs. We replied slowly, but gradually got up and going with the required rate. Myself and Harry Gregson (Radbroke 4th Former) were going nicely when we both fell in quick succession. This followed with a panic collapse which resulted in a 3 run loss. The atmosphere in the changing room was low as we were out. With Saturday night being lost due to the journey to Staffordshire, I managed to squeeze in a takeaway pizza before bed.

Sunday is normally a lazy day, no lessons, no sport, just Chapel. Nevertheless having to get up at 7am due to a cricket trial meant that I was out all day. An ordinary Sunday during the cricket season for me. Following the trial, I got back at 7.30pm, this generally means on Sundays the time to finalise over revision for the upcoming tests coming up the following week. Sunday call over (when the whole comes together for a role call and announcements are made by Mr Hudson) followed and the week was closed with evening Chapel.



The first week back in Churchill's had been packed with work, cricket, guitar and rain. My first week of the summer term at Shrewsbury School had been thoroughly enjoyable. Hopefully the weather can begin to improve!

Third Former George Garrett's weekly blog - part 2

Tuesday 6 May 2014

My second week in my first summer term at Shrewsbury School was tiring yet again, but at the end of it was a great reward - a coach weekend!

My first major event of the week was on Wednesday when I had an under-15s cricket match against Shropshire under-15s. We batted first and good a great total of 245-3 in 35 overs. Following our innings we bowled well in which we bowled them out for 56. I managed to get figures of 5 overs, 2 for 3. A great win which I thoroughly enjoyed.



Then on Thursday I had little rest because it was Third Form field day! This meant that we were put into groups with instructors and then sent onto the Long Mynd to practise our navigation skills for our DoE coming up soon. Climbing up steep hills was exhausting. However the lovely views were enough to make it worthwhile.

Friday was a cricket day again with a Midlands trial in the morning/early afternoon, followed by an Under-14 Cup match in the afternoon. The morning was a great test being a Midlands trial for the age group above. I bowled tidily after a nervy first over with figures of 1-21 in 8 overs. Then quickly I hurried up to AH (Allington Hall) to catch a minibus to get to an Under-14 school match away at Adams Grammar. We got there, bowled them out for 24, knocked them off 0 wickets down, then got back onto the bus and travelled back. A comprehensive win!

Saturday was started by half of my dorm having to get up at 5am to go on a trip to France. Oh how I loved the sound of James Snell's alarm booming around the dorm! With there only being three of us at the breakfast table, it seemed slightly weird. However it was a normal but quiet Saturday with Coach Weekend ahead! Morning lessons passed and before I knew I was on the 1st XI cricket pitch playing Trent School! With another win in the bag, Coach Weekend was here, and I had the pleasure of my school report from my parents on the way back. It wasn't too bad I guess!



RSSBC: Wallingford Regatta

Wednesday 7 May 2014

The Boat Club took four eights and two sculls to race at the Wallingford Regatta held at Dorney Lake on Sunday.

The Regatta had a very strong entry across all the junior events due to limited multi-lane racing opportunities before the National Schools' Regatta in three weeks' time.



2nd VIII

The 2nd VIII and J16A were both drawn into very tough heats and failed to progress to the final. The 2nd VIII were always under pressure, racing three school 1st VIIIs and Eton's 2nd VIII with only one crew guaranteed a place in the final. The J16s came up against eventual winners St Paul's and a strong crew from Sir William Borlase that won the Junior Inter Regional Regatta.



J15A VIII

The J15A VIII put on an impressive performance in their heat and looked strong leading the field home to secure a place in the final. In the final they were unable to produce the same speed off the starting blocks and weren't able to settle into the strong rhythm they found in the heat; they had to settle for a fifth place.

Claudia Kimpton-Smith rowed well in her first full distance sculling event and made some pleasing progress, despite missing out on the final. Lettie Tay made it through to the final where she came in fifth. She will be hoping to build on that result going into the National Schools' Regatta.



Lettie Tay

The 1st VIII were drawn in a very tough heat of J18 VIIIs and needed to beat one of the crews they had lost to at the School's Head in order to give themselves a strong chance of qualifying for the final. Hampton School made the early running, leading both Abingdon and Shrewsbury off the line. The 1st VIII held their composure fantastically and showed a great deal of guts to stick with Abingdon and row through Hampton in the final 500m to secure qualification for the final.

In the final the crew once again showed they are in the reckoning with another impressive row, coming in third of a length behind Eton and two-thirds of a length off Abingdon. In the process they beat Radley, who came third at the Schools' Head and King's Chester.

This coming weekend will see over 70 crew combinations from the Boat Club racing at the Shrewsbury Regatta.

ATH



1st VIII on their way to the start



House blog by Ed Acton – Week beginning 28/4/14

Wednesday 7 May 2014

And how about Ed Acton's second week? Not so keen on the old cricket, it seems...

Monday and Tuesday ran rather smoothly, after 7 periods of lessons, it was again down to the Boat House, for an intense work out! The J14s have just been given a new boat, A.E. Kitchin, made by Empacher, the Ferrari of all boats (bar the engine, steering wheel, wheels, gears ...). The carbon fibre giant soared down the river, like a high speed bullet train. Then it was off to tea for yet another jacket potato, and so to bed.

Wednesday was rather uneventful. After rowing, there was a quick trip 'down to grot' for a bag of crisps and a pack of sweets. This definitely helped calm us down before tea ... not.

On Thursday we had Field Day. This is when all lessons are cancelled, and you are whisked off to a hill, and told to walk, well perhaps that's a little bit of an exaggeration. We were taken to the Long Mynd, to do our Duke of Edinburgh training. I live in Acton Scott, not far from the Long Mynd, and have a vague knowledge of the hill, however the same could not be said for my companions. After much confusion regarding navigation, after which my colleague realised the wrong orientation of the map, we started off, with haste (and reluctance) in our strides.

Friday was long drawn out. Following English, French and Maths, we got dressed and headed down to the cricket centre. Cricket - what a long, boring, hot, white game. Everything seems to take ten times longer than the actual length of time. But perhaps I shouldn't be insulting it, as it is pretty much the only game we Brits can actually play. So as I sit here this Friday evening, I can only think of two things; Coach Weekend tomorrow..... and one more blog completed.





Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 8 May 2014

This week, the Rounders team.



The Rounders Team

One of the first (of many) games that I excelled at was rounders. I was five years old but could still hit a tennis ball into the laurel bushes at the internationally renowned Southdown School, half way down Jarvis Lane in the pretty Sussex town of Steyning, under the watchful eye of headmistress Dallas Brown. To be honest, I was never on first name terms with Mrs Brown but I have never met anyone else called Dallas and have therefore always remembered the name! Apart from rounders, all I can remember about my time at Southdown was being forced to drink quarter-pints of warm milk at break and the stench that emanated from a large spaniel called Shadow who was also covered with warts and put me off dogs for many years; until I too came to own a smelly spaniel with a couple of large warts.

The rules of rounders are fairly straightforward, although there is more to the game than I had realised. I will not go into the intricacies but the basics are as follows:

- Teams can be a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 15 players; 9 players are on the field for each team at any one time.
- One team bats while the other team fields and bowls.
- The bowler bowls the ball to the batter, who hits the ball anywhere on the rounders pitch. The batter then runs to as many posts as possible before the fielders return the ball to touch the post the batter is heading for.
- Games are usually played over 2 innings.



For those of you who like your history I have discovered:

The game of rounders has been played in England since Tudor times, with the earliest reference being in 1744 in *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* where it was called "base-ball" by John Newbery. In 1828, William Clarke in London published the second edition of *The Boy's Own Book*, which included the rules of rounders and the first printed description in English of a bat and ball base-running game played on a diamond. The following year, the book was published in Boston, Massachusetts.



Coaches discussing tactics

The first nationally formalised rules were drawn up by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in Ireland in 1884. The game is still regulated by the GAA in Ireland. In the United Kingdom it is regulated by Rounders England, which was formed in 1943. While the two associations are distinct, they share similar elements of game play and culture. Competitions are held between teams from both traditions, with games alternating between codes and one version being played in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

As part of my research for this Team of the Week piece, I spoke to the Marketing Officer for Rounders England, Julia Rice. Julia was very helpful and told me that there are around 40 rounders leagues in the country including one in Shropshire. Rounders England play a number of fixtures a year but the big game is generally against Wales. This year it will take place at the University of Leicester on Sunday July 20th and I imagine that tickets will be hard to come by. The away fixture is Sunday 17th August somewhere in Wales!

As the start of the first match of Shrewsbury School's rounders season against a strong Bedstone side became imminent, the Shrewsbury coaches Nicola (I-Can-Coach-Anything) Bradburne and Grace (So-Can-I) Woo put their heads together to determine the line up and discuss tactics. The

team was chosen from a keen and enthusiastic gang of young women who wanted a break from the rigours of revision and a blast of fresh air.

The team was a mixture of novices such as Poppy Crowe, who admitted to me that she was playing her first match for the School in any form of team sport other than rowing, and experienced operatives such as Charlotte (known as Chaz) Harris who has international experience, having represented the Welsh under-15 team. Her experience was soon in evidence as she scooted round for a rounder after a powerful hit. Connie Osborne was also keen to show her prowess, having been last year's captain and she admitted to me that it is a game she is fond of. "It is a game I am fond of," she said.



L to r: Connie Osborne, Chaz Harris scoring a rounder, Phoebe Barbosa in baseball pose

Gaby Byrne told me that she has always enjoyed rounders and that she was one of last year's regulars. She recently completed the London Marathon with an eye on her fitness for this year's rounders squad. (It's worth mentioning here that she raised £5,000 for the charity devoted to helping Parkinson's sufferers and her donation page is still open - see the feature article elsewhere on this website: [Shrewsbury pupil runs the London Marathon](#).) "I just hope I have the stamina to cope with a two-innings game of rounders," she told me. "I don't want to let the School, Mrs Bradburne, my Housemistress, my Tutor, my friends, my teammates, my parents, the rest of my family, Liverpool or myself down." Gaby has actually admitted to an addiction to rounders and if you know anyone in a similar plight, you can contact me and I will put you in touch with the 'Reliant on Rounders' help and advice service. It has to be said that her training has paid off as she was voted most consistent player on second base by the coaches.



Hatty Warner

Another consistent performer was Hattie Warner. She was the team bowler and also one of the most effective hitters. I asked her how it felt to be the team bowler and she said that she was “very honoured and that she embraced the awesome responsibility as a chance to show future employers that she could cope in highly stressful environments”.

In the warm up Phoebe Barboza looked as if she was going to be a threat to the opposition and she admitted that her past association with baseball had given her a competitive edge. Lucy Petch was enjoying a break from fencing and Abby Attenborough wanted to thank her parents and brother for helping hone her skills in the garden. Charlie Perkins hit the ball well and admitted that “it is more exercise than I was expecting”. She decided to sit the second innings out “to give lesser players a chance to develop”, which was very noble of her.

Raphie Major was hitting the ball well but ran herself out in what she described as a “mad moment of over-excitement”. “It was all so exciting I just lost my head,” she told me. Izzy Turney was in charge of the motivational music. She had brought *Now 87* along to add a little atmosphere to proceedings. Apparently the team song was Timber by Ke\$ha. Izzy Croft was another rounder scorer and, in the words of her coaches, showed much potential.

Miss Woo and Mrs Bradburne were united in their admiration of the team. They felt that, as in life, rounders is all about connections and that the Shrewsbury team did not have quite as many as the Bedstone team on the day, losing 8 and a half to 7 and a half. It was a close run thing and it was clear that everyone on both sides was having a good time. I found it uplifting to see sport being played for fun on a sunny afternoon with lots of smiles. I found myself reliving some of my earliest days and being reminded of the camaraderie, excitement and joy that a sport played in a good spirit with good friends can bring in its purest form. There should be more rounders!

GJFB



Shrewsbury pupil runs the London Marathon

Thursday 8 May 2014

Despite not really considering herself a runner, 18-year-old Gabrielle Byrne (EDH UVI) ran the London Marathon last month – and raised almost £5,000 for the charity Parkinson's UK in the process.



“Running isn’t really my sport and I didn’t want to tell lots of people beforehand that I was taking part in the London Marathon, in case I didn’t manage to complete it and had to give people refunds!” Gaby says with a laugh.

The spur for taking part in the Marathon came last year when Gaby’s uncle was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease at the age of 49. “I wanted to do what I could to raise awareness about the disease and funds for Parkinson’s UK, a charity that is working to find a cure for Parkinson’s and improve life for people affected by it.”

She only told her immediate family about her plans to run the London Marathon and they helped her raise the £1,800 she needed to apply for a charity entry into the race. Much of her preparation was done at home in Liverpool during coach weekends and exeats. “I’m not a member of the Hunt, but at school I tried to maintain a good level of fitness with my hockey and fives and running on the treadmill with Mrs Weston,” she explains. “Marathon runners are supposed to build up the distances gradually, but I did three big runs of 15 miles, 18 miles and 22 miles when I was at home.”

The last of these was during the March coach weekend when she ran the 22 miles from Tarleton to Crosby. “I was basically running along the bypass that goes down the coast. It was awful. I felt

that if I could do that, then I was ready to cope with running the Marathon – and in fact it was much harder than the Marathon itself.”

The day of the Marathon was warm and sunny – perfect for the spectators but not ideal for the runners. Gaby’s whole family travelled to London to support her and cheer her on. “The crowds were amazing and the atmosphere was fantastic, like a huge party. During the first ten miles I was fine, looking at all the people in costumes, feeling ‘I can do this’” Gaby said. “Then when I went over Tower Bridge at the halfway mark, I realised that I still had to do the same distance again – and that was hard.

“At 21 miles I hit the wall, but fortunately I caught sight of my mum at that point. The crowds really do carry you through. The final mile running down the Mall with everyone cheering and Buckingham Palace behind me was just amazing. And when I crossed the finish line, my Dad was there to give me a huge hug. He’s been my rock through all of this.”

Gaby is thrilled with the huge support she has received; donations to the charity made in her name now total almost £5,000. She has no immediate plans to run another marathon, however. “I haven’t really caught the ‘running bug’. The main thing for me was the huge sense of achievement at overcoming a challenge.”

After finishing her A levels this summer, Gaby will be spending a Gap Year in Australia, where she has won an internship working for Channel 9 TV. She also hopes to tackle another challenge: climbing Kilimanjaro.

To support Gaby’s great achievement and donate to Parkinson’s UK, please visit her fundraising page on [VirginMoneyGiving.com](https://www.virginmoneygiving.com).

Four saxophone players achieve Diploma distinctions

Friday 9 May 2014

Many congratulations to saxophonists Henry Newbould (Cb V), Ben Sansom PH V, Alexander Bird (S LVI) and William Dodson-Wells (SH UVI), who have all been awarded distinctions in their ATCL music diplomas - a stunning achievement.



L. to r with their teacher Maria McKenzie (Head of Woodwind): William Dodson-Wells, Alexander Bird, Henry Newbould and Ben Sansom

According to the Trinity College London website, the standard of performance required at Associate (ATCL) level is “equivalent to the performance component of the first year in a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire or other higher education establishment”.



Opening race for the Young Engineers at Rockingham Raceway

Friday 9 May 2014

Having spent the last two terms building a racing car, the Third Form Young Engineers Group took their new car to the Greenpower Season's Opening Race at Rockingham Raceway on Wednesday 7th May.

During practice in the morning their car proved to be faster than the old car from the previous year, but the reliability needs improving.

In the races in the afternoon involving 40 cars from all three age groups – Formula 24 (11-16 year olds), Formula 24+ (17-25) and Corporate Cars including Landrover Jaguar – the boys held their own. As this was their first time in the car and on a race track, they managed to complete the race time of 80 minutes and finished in the middle of the field.

As the only Shropshire school taking part in this National Competition, the Third Formers were a credit to the School.

JEH



Laurence Jeffcoate wins the 2014 David Harrison Prize for Mathematics

Friday 9 May 2014



Laurence Jeffcoate

The 2014 David Harrison Prize for Mathematics was won by Laurence Jeffcoate (Ch UVI), with a thought-provoking and superbly presented talk entitled "Beautiful (and Ugly) Equations". He spoke about a study carried out by researchers at University College London who found that the brain reacts to beautiful equations in the same way that it responds to art and music. The most beautiful equation was found to be Euler's Identity (<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/EulerFormula.html>), which Laurence went on to prove as part of his talk.

Tom Dodd (Rb V) was a very close second (for the second year running!) with his talk about the fascinating properties of the torus. The torus is more commonly known as a doughnut or bagel, hence the quantity of crumbs generated during his practical demonstration!

The Mathematics Faculty judge the competition and commented that the standard in the final this year was as good as ever. Huge congratulations must also go to the other finalists: Huda Hasan (MSH LVI), Alex King (M IV) and Ilya Lapan (I UVI).

This annual competition is open to all year groups and takes the form of a presentation on any mathematical topic, which is given to an audience of Third and Fourth Form mathematicians.

This prize is endowed by Mr and Mrs Peter Harrison in memory of their son David, who was Head of Mathematics from 1995 to 1996, and who tragically died in the mountains of Alaska in the summer holidays of 1996.

RMW



Wind and Brass Prizes 2014

Monday 12 May 2014

Over 65 young Wind and Brass musicians performed in the School's annual Wind and Brass Prize competitions, held in the Maidment Building last week. The standard of performance in all categories was excellent, with some spectacular performances in certain areas.

Many congratulations to the following prizewinners:

WIND PRIZES 2014

Junior Class (Adjudicator: Shelley Oliver)

First Prize – Edward Stapleton

Highly Commended – Alastair Harris

Commended – Michael Hoare

Intermediate Class (Adjudicator: Claire Fitton)

First Prize – Brook Plumptre

Highly Commended – George Panayi

Commended – Jesse Mattinson

Senior Class (Adjudicator: Naomi Sullivan)

First – Henry Kennedy (Clarinet)

Highly Commended – Henry Newbould

Commended – Alexander Bird

BRASS PRIZES (Adjudicator: Rhys Owens)

Intermediate Class

First Prize – George Holder

Highly Commended – Edward Acton

Commended – Samuel Bayliss

Senior Class

First Prize – Harry Sargeant

Highly Commended – Henry Thomas

Commended – Brendan Parsons

We are very grateful to adjudicators Rhys Owens, Naomi Sullivan, Shelley Oliver and Claire Fitton for their time, expertise and thoughtful comments.

Rhys Owens, who adjudicated the Brass Prizes, began playing the cornet in his local brass band at the age of eight. At 17 he was Principal Cornet of the National Brass Band of Wales and Principal Trumpet of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. In 1984 he entered Chetham's School of Music moving on to the Royal College of Music in 1986. During his time at the Royal College he was a brass finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and also finalist in the Shell LSO competition. He joined the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in 1991 and was promoted to Section Principal in 1998. He has been teaching trumpet at the Royal Northern College of Music since 1999.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The Junior Wind Prize was adjudicated by clarinettist **Shelley Oliver**, co-owner of the specialist music shop Windband in Shrewsbury.

Local saxophonist, flautist and clarinettist, **Claire Fitton** adjudicated this year's Intermediate Wind Prize.

The Senior Wind Prize was adjudicated by **Naomi Sullivan**, who has won awards from the Musicians' Benevolent Fund, Countess of Munster and at competitions including the Royal Overseas League, 'Pacem in Terris' Bayreuth (Germany) and the Northshore Music Competition (Chicago). As a soloist Naomi has performed with orchestras in USA, Germany and UK. She continues to work on the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme and for Live Music Now! Her orchestral playing includes work with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. As a chamber musician, Naomi has performed at numerous London venues as well as for the Park Lane Group Young Artists Series and Blackheath Hall's Young Artists Series. She has also recorded several chamber music CDs.



May 2014: School House rowers are unbeatable on the river

Tuesday 13 May 2014

On Thursday 8th May, School House went into the final round of the Senior 4s competition with six "clear water" wins out of six from the previous two rounds.



The School House Senior 4s team (L-R): Tomas Shiels - Cox (3), Will Dodson-Wells - Captain (UVI), Moritz Benschel (UVI), Henry Young (UVI), Alfred Mitchell (V)

Odds-on favourites to win the competition, the biggest question was whether we could get maximum points by leaving clear water between us and all the other houses. Will Dodson-Wells' team answered emphatically by leaving everyone else in their wake. (See results table: [Senior IVs - Week 3 standings](#))



The boys cruising to victory in their final race to secure maximum points for School House

Further success was to come the following weekend in the Shrewsbury Regatta, in which several of the School House boys competed, chalking up many victories between them and bringing home enough tankards to sink a rowing boat!



Just some of the School House boys who competed in the Shrewsbury Regatta with just a few of their winning tankards! L - r: Ralph Assheton (4), Tomas Shiels (3), Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill (3), Dan Lo (LVI), Toby Thomas (LVI), Will Dodson-Wells (UVI), Moritz Bense (UVI)



RSSBC: Shrewsbury Regatta

Tuesday 13 May 2014

The Boat Club enjoyed a wonderful two days competing in the Shrewsbury Regatta. Over 100 boys and girls took to the water in combination of over 60 different crews. The crews recorded wins in 35 events, which will be a great boost as the club prepares for the National Schools' Regatta in two weeks' time.

Mr Hundermark reports on the Seniors' results:

The senior oarsmen raced in a few different events. The 1st VIII won Elite Eights against Liverpool University and then faced an Old Salopian crew representing Sabrina in a friendly event, with the 1st VIII taking the honours. The 1st VIII broke up into coxed fours and pairs on the Sunday and won IM1 coxed fours, IM2 coxed fours, IM1 pairs and J18 pairs.

The 2nd VIII won IM2 Eights after beating Sabrina in the second round and Stourport in the final. On Sunday they faced Stourport again in the final of IM1 Eights and went on to win the tightly fought race with a verdict of three feet.



2nd VIII vs Stourport

The 3rd VIII enjoyed success in the J17 VIII's' invitational event and lost out to the J16A crew in the IM3 Eights final.

The senior girls took part in pairs and singles events over the two days and recorded 7 wins out of the 9 events entered. Lettie Tay won Elite single sculls on both days and J18 single sculls on Saturday. She teamed up with IM3 sculls winner Francesca Molyneux in the pair to go on to win IM1 pairs on Saturday and Sunday. Claudia Kimpton-Smith had some tough racing in her single, narrowly missing out in J17 single sculls on Saturday and IM3 sculls on Sunday, but got it right in her final event of the day by winning J17 sculls on Sunday.



Lettie Tay and Francesca Molyneux

Mr Wilson reports on the J16s' results:



J16A VIII

On Saturday the J16A crew racing in IM3 8+ beat RGS Worcester's 1st VIII in the 1st round before beating our own 3rd VIII in the final. In the afternoon they faced our 2nd VIII in J18

Eights in a tight race the J16s won by a quarter of a length. Four boys then raced in IM1 coxless fours against a top four from Liverpool University's 1st VIII, despite losing out by a couple of lengths.

The J16Bs started their day off in two coxed fours. It looked as though an all Shrewsbury final was on the cards, but a strong crew from Athlunkard beat off one of our crews in the semi-finals. In the final the result was reversed, with Shrewsbury coming out on top. In the afternoon they boys jumped into the VIII to race the J15A crew, another close fought battle, but the J15s came out just on top by two feet. For their final race in the VIII before National Schools' the boys were entered in Novice Eights against De Montfort University, a race which they won in style - well done! A special mention must go to Mischa Manser racing in Novice singles, who made the final, only to lose out to our 3rd VIII coach Andrew Farr!

Sunday was quieter, but no less busy. In the morning a coxed four drawn from the J16A VIII was unable to overcome a J18 4+ from Athlunkard in tricky conditions. In J18 pairs, stroke and bow combinations from the J16As and 1st VIII faced each other. Unsurprisingly the 1st VIII pair came out on top, but were hotly pursued by their more junior opposition. Henry Thomas and Tom Sykes paired up in IM3 pairs and showed some class, winning the event for their third pot of the weekend. Lastly the coxless four from Saturday raced in IM3 4+, having drawn the unfavoured outside station (more wind, more stream). They knew they would have to do it the hard way; that they did.

Mr Manser's report on the J15s' results:

Saturday saw some fine racing, the highlights being the J15B VIII pulling off a memorable win against the 3rd VIII at the second attempt – albeit that they were given a small advantage; they certainly produced a great finish. The As did a similar job, by beating a quick J16B VIII by two feet – a perfect result!



J15A vs J16B

Our J15Bs also did a great job, racing in a senior novice IV event. Four of the boys went on to win their series of races, with the other IV losing in the final. It is such a joy seeing our fledglings go out and race strong men and beat them. (It's always a tough one for them to race fit, well-drilled schoolboys!)

Sunday was a more relaxed day. The As raced each other again in IVs. Luckily (and thanks to a rising river) it was fairly easy to arrange for the IV who lost on Saturday to win on Sunday, so spoils were equalled. The victorious B IV from Saturday went up a division, but had the most fantastic series of races – coming from behind in two of them – to reach the final once again.

Their winning streak was eventually brought to an end by an RSSBC J16 crew. The other B IV was only beaten by another senior RSSBC crew.

All in all, a fantastic weekend for all the boys. We now move on to the slightly more important matters of National Schools'.



J15A Fours



J15 Quad

Mr Scrimshaw's report on the J14s' results

A large number of the Third Form took part in Shrewsbury Regatta. This was the first chance the boys have had to race on their home water, so all were very keen to put in a good performance. Thanks to the large J14 squad at the School, we were able to put out three octos to race on Saturday morning. One of these then went on to win the final of this event, putting in a very impressive performance against Cheltenham College.



J14A VIII

In the afternoon, two quads were racing, both of which were new crew combinations. The first quad to race put in a very strong performance but the windy weather got the better of the crew in the final straight, resulting in them narrowly missing out on a place in the plate final. The second crew on the water got through to the final and then raced very well to go on and win the event. These great results will hopefully give a boost to the already strong Third Form squad.

The Sunday sprint regatta was a chance for the boys to enter crews of their choice. Mil Luangamornlert competed in a single scull, a great achievement given the very difficult conditions. Two boys from Rigg's chose to race in a double scull, Churchill's fielded a coxed quad and then another quad was composed of five boys who had won in the octo the previous day. The shorter distance race made for some close racing. The combined quad came on the right side of this margin, winning the event; this gave the boys their second pot in as many days.



J14 double scull



House Blog by Ed Acton - Week Beginning 4/5/14

Thursday 15 May 2014

May the 4th be with you

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ran as per usual, with little excitement. However, Friday was the day of the Brass Competition, Junior Level. After several confusions, including the apparent loss of my accompanist, we started off. There were only five of us, and it was close, however the completion resulted in George Holder, another Churchilian, coming first, and myself coming second. Overall, it was a well held event (even though there were more performers than audience members).

Saturday – In the morning, it was the start of the Shrewsbury Regatta. We woke up to find hundreds of boats scattered across our usually empty riverside. After a humiliating race, where our A crew beat us (B crew) by what seemed to be several hundred miles, we headed back to house, to ponder and vegetate. My dorm mate, who is in the A crew, later came in holding a cup, with a rather smug face to say the least ...



Sunday – We had organised a Churchill's Third Form quad to race on Sunday, comprised of A and B crew rowers. As we headed off to the start, with Mr Hudson uttering words of encouragement and the possibility of a shop tea (when a teacher pays for your sweets), it became apparent that the wind was rather strong; our blades were being battered! When the word "go!" sounded, we powered down the river, but couldn't get away from our opposition. Water spraying everywhere, screams of encouragement, panting from the rowers and wake from the opposition; we were going to lose! Our cox, a man without limits, was uttering words of encouragement, but they seemed worthless. We had lost, the final bell went, and we stopped. Then, as if it couldn't get any more humiliating, we drifted into the bank. We could only sigh with frustration (apart from one crew member, who found the whole experience rather amusing) as the rescue boat sped towards us and pulled us out of the tree that we had become stuck in. After much effort, including getting the boat to actually face the right way down the river, we came back in, blades were put away, and the boat was dumped. (Shh ... Don't tell the boatman).

But all in all, I was gladder to be at school than on the top of some mountain, in the pouring rain, like my friends George Garrett and Tom Hughes!



Sabrina VIII among the Salopian crews at Shrewsbury Regatta

Thursday 15 May 2014

For the second year a Sabrina 8 raced on the Saturday of Shrewsbury Regatta (10 May). Last year the crew had very few outings pre race day, they raced the Schools J15A crew and won by a small margin.

This year the crew had been on the water around 8 times(although not in the exact race line up!), so expectations on boat speed were higher. The School second 8 were deemed a potential target so the IM2 event was entered.

First up was a crew from Liverpool University who were dispatched in a comfortable fashion, giving some confidence for the second 8 duel.

It is always tricky to compete against fit, well drilled Schoolboys and this was the case, beaten but not down hearted!

Cox – Sophie Walker (EDH/MSH 10-12)

Str – Al Hagger (PH 86-91)

7 – Rupert Chitty (M 07-12)

6 – Richard Shropshire (I 91-96)

4 – James Russell (PH 90-95)5 – Freddie Hay (G 01-06)

3 – Harry Lonergan (O 10-12)

2 – Philip Wood (M 92-97)

Bow – Matt Walker (M 92-95)

Author Patrick Ness inspires Shrewsbury staff and pupils at the Library of Birmingham

Friday 16 May 2014

...and they returned armed not only with ideas for writing, but a furniture wish-list for the School's Moser Library...



Patrick Ness

Head Librarian Jo Eliot writes:

On Friday 9th May, accompanied by Ms Suarez and four keen readers from the Third and Fourth Form, I met one of my literary heroes, award-winning writer Patrick Ness. Speaking to young readers and writers from schools across the West Midlands, Patrick Ness discussed his experience of becoming a writer and read from his latest young adult novel *More than this*.

After getting our books signed we then explored the cavernous new Birmingham Library. Armed with one of our library ipads, the students were charged with photographing features which they would like to see in our library at school. It was delightful to see the boys excited about the library and I am now armed with an exciting furniture wish-list for the Moser Library – although I'm not sure the neon-lit escalators or the glass elevator will be featuring back at school!



It was a pleasure to accompany the boys – who were great company – and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know them better. Alex Penman (Rb IV) even volunteered to write a short piece about the trip:

“The trip was to see Patrick Ness talk about his books and his life, and this I think we all enjoyed. He gave some inspirational advice about book and film writing and read excerpts from his books ‘The knife of never letting go and More than this. I personally have read them both and found them fantastic books and I recommend them for borrowing from the school library.’

The library itself is well worth a visit, its architecture is superb albeit a little odd, and some of the furniture inside is extraordinary- the makeover [of the Moser Library] that will hopefully happen soon is going to include (I hope) a few bucket chairs for readers.

Overall the trip was a great success, and I think that any reader and sightseer alike will enjoy the trip if it ever happens again or at their own leisure.”



L to r: Angus Warburg (PH 3), Archie Free (Rt 3), Henry Maybaw (Cb 3), Alex Penman (Rb IV) and Ms Suarez (Hispanic Fellow)



Fencing: British Youth Fencing Championships – U18 Boys’ Sabre

Friday 16 May 2014

Ross Viljoen (PH LVI) competed in the Under-18 Boys’ Sabre competition in the British Youth Fencing Championships on Sunday 4th May, finishing in an impressive 13th place.

Held at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, the event attracted 34 competitors, from across the British Isles, all of whom had qualified from their regional events.

Ross won four out of six poule fights and won his first direct elimination fight, 15 hits to 6 hits against David Nehaul (Yorkshire). He lost his second direct elimination 15 hits to 8 hits against Simon Dacey, who went on to finish 3rd.

Excellent fencing from Ross throughout the day in this his first year of competition in this age group.

Ken Holding



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 16 May 2014

This week, the Under-15B Crew and the Girls' Pairs and Scullers

I always look forward to Shrewsbury Regatta, as the river bank becomes alive with athletic looking people clad in all sorts of lycra outfits, oozing youth, vitality and well being. I feel very much part of such a crowd. My one failing is that I have never actually had the opportunity to carry an oar, which seems to be de rigueur at such events, and so at times one can feel a little akin to someone in a wetsuit on a nudist beach.

This year I sadly had to miss the event to visit my ailing father in Worthing Hospital, where he had checked in for a few days leaving mum to run the family estate on her own. Instead of listening to shouts of encouragement from demon-eyed coaches on ancient, uncontrollable, buckling, battle-scarred bikes, I had to contend with Victor in the bed opposite from my well behaved patriarch. He was convinced that there was a plot to murder him hatched by the charming nurses, who certainly looked more up for murder after one particularly lengthy loud-mouthed and abusive rant. Having fled the hospital, I found myself watching the waves break on the Sussex shoreline. Meanwhile in Shrewsbury, the crew that was making perhaps the most noticeable waves on the Severn were the under-15Bs.

It will not come as a complete surprise to the rowing aficionados among you that an under-15 crew should get a mention in this most hallowed of slots. Both the A and B crews came third at the Schools' Head of the River last term, and at the 'magnificent motivational Manser moment' before both crews embarked on a rigorous training session, squad coach Paul Manser spoke of the quest for gold at the National Schools' Regatta on the first weekend of half term. All around me there was vigorous nodding of heads and steely looks from young athletes with their eyes firmly fixed on glory! Coach and squad seemed united in their ambition and Paul told me that it was not hard to motivate this fine bunch of marauding river-raiders. "It is not hard to motivate this fine bunch of marauding river raiders," he said.

Paul has been involved with rowing at Shrewsbury since he was small – so all of his life! There is nothing he does not know about this stretch of the river, apart from a few trivial things like how many shopping trolleys there are at the bottom of the river under the bridge and whether the river froze over in the Winter of Discontent. Paul is ably abetted by Dr Mark Elliot, who told me he gained his love of rowing at Peterhouse, Cambridge. He then started to enjoy coaching rowing when teaching at Tonbridge and Halle Berry (does he mean Haileybury - Ed?), before he managed to get a job at a proper school. Mark wanted me to mention that one of the most impressive feats of the crew's performance of the weekend is that they defeated men's crews – and they were not XL Club cricketer-style athletes!

The performances of the under 15B VIII at the Shrewsbury Regatta went as follows. Rowing as an VIII, they defeated the Shrewsbury School 3rd VIII in one event and narrowly lost to them in another. This is unusually good! Then when they were split into two coxed fours, one crew won their Novice event on the Saturday, meaning that they had to go into a higher level event on the Sunday. On the Sunday they narrowly lost to the under-16A Shrewsbury crew in the final of their event. The other four were narrowly defeated in the final of their Novice event on the Saturday and then were again impressive on the Sunday.

The eight are Jacob Rand (R), Alex King (M), Max Yale (S), Rory McKirdy (PH) Cox Dan Powell (Ch), Jake Elliott (Rb), Ben Jones (Rb), Donald Hickey (Ch) and Caspian Cowan Taylor (Ch). Ralph Assheton (SH) was also a cox for one of the fours.

Max Yale gave me his account of the weekend. “This weekend was one of devil’s luck.” (Has he been watching *Jamaica Inn*?) “To begin with, nearly every race we had in the J15B four (of Jacob Rand, Alex King, Rory McKirdy, Max Yale and Dan Powell) was on the inside lane, the one closer to the bank and out of the wind and stream.” (I have it on good authority that as the river levels were rising this was a considerable help but, hey, you earn your luck!) “While the races were staggered to account for this, a sprinting crew had a distinct psychological advantage in the final straight. Our boat took full advantage.

“On the Saturday our first race was delayed by a mix-up of crews, with the wrong Grosvenor crew in our opposing boat. Once this was resolved, we met a pretty unprepossessing crew of youngish men, who we promptly beat by three lengths. The second was a tad more gripping, after a member of our crew caught a crab in the start of the race, putting us back by two lengths. We inched back until pulling level at the Toll Bridge and pulling ahead. The third race we beat the Abingdon RC crew by ten lengths to win the title of Novice Club 4s. This victory put us in the situation of being effectively barred from Novice competition.



J15B IV (in the foreground) v 3rd IV

“The next day the crew got ready for an IM3 4s competition with some trepidation, as it was a considerable step up from Novices. The first race was uneventful; however, the second was more interesting. After falling behind in the first half of the race, we picked up the rate on the final stretch to pull level with the men’s crew from Stourport. After crossing the finish all but even, it was anybody’s guess to whom the spoils went, but we won by the teeth of skin – or two feet, to be exact. The close call was enough to make us question our eligibility in the more senior competition.

“Yet another nail-biter against another more able Abingdon RC crew gave us confidence going into the final. What we did not expect was to be faced with racing our very own J16 As 4, who happen to be representing GB against France this exeat. Little did we know that the mammoth mismatch would play into our hands. We had little, if any, pressure to perform against the superior crew so were relaxed going into the final. The same race that we had experienced before played out, albeit with us much further behind than beforehand. In the final straight we again mustered what little strength we had left and pulled back to within half a length of our older counterparts before crossing the finish behind. Despite the loss, the journey from Novice to contending with a GB J16 4 was certainly a memorable series of events that I will treasure for the rest of my life.”



J15Bs with their Shrewsbury Regatta pots

A mention of the coxes Ralph Assheton and Dan Powell must be made. Both coaches were impressed with how they steered a fantastic line, keeping the crew out of the stream and maximising their lane advantage. Coxing is in Dan Powell’s blood, as his mum was a cox at Durham University and at the Thames Rowing Club in Putney. Dan told me that his motivational phrase “Unleash the Beast” seemed to have the desired effect on his crew, whereas Ralph preferred “Go Mental”. Dan was keen to mention that he had found a sporting niche for himself at Shrewsbury having not been a great fan of sport at Rowkby. “Come to Shrewsbury

and sit in a boat,” was his advice to non-sportsmen and women at prep schools up and down the land!

I sense that all the work that the lads have put in during the cold and the damp of January and February is paying dividends. Certainly the crews were shooting the bridges fast but with full concentration. Apparently they are rated very highly and I certainly agree! Indeed regular readers of this column and members of the girls rowing squad, Poppy Crowe, Issie Tennyson Collins, Issie Codrun and Izzie Diment had all noticed the power of the younger lads and were keen to be quoted as being inspired by their performances. “Izzy wizzy let’s get busy!” they said and Poppy Crowe agreed, stating “Let’s go and sweep up some pots!”



Lettie Tay and Francesca Molyneux

I think I am right in suggesting that there were some 70 ‘pots’ won over the weekend by Shrewsbury rowers – the girls making quite an impact, as Lettie Tay won five of them: two with Cesca Molyneux in a pair and three in single scull competitions. Cesca also won a singles sculling event by some way. Claudia Kimpton-Smith was also successful, although she lost to her friend and rival in the final of one competition, but only because she knew her opponent was going through a hard time! All the girls told me that they were inspired by their friends in the Rounders team (see last week’s Team of the Week piece).

It seems the Rowing Club have much to cheer after this weekend. It is just Oar Inspiring - so get out in a boat!

GJFB

Okusanya wins Sidney - Darwin Dash for School House

Sunday 18 May 2014



Nifemi going through the tape to win the Sidney - Darwin Dash

Having performed brilliantly in the heats on Thursday, School House had three finalists for the 100m sprint between the statues on Central on Sunday 18th May. Nifemi Okusanya (IV) was racing in the Junior category; Ladi Okusanya (V) and Nick Entwisle (V) were in the Senior race.

It is particularly impressive that Nick and Ladi competed so well, given that they were racing against Sixth Form boys: they finished just outside the medals with 4th and 5th place respectively. We therefore have high hopes for the Senior race over the next couple of years.

However, it was Nifemi who took the Junior title with a fantastic sprint; he was so quick that his time was faster than some of the boys in the Senior race. Mrs Besterman is claiming some of the credit for providing him with a special energy-boosting pasta dinner the night before!



Left - Nifemi being presented his trophy and medal by the Headmaster; right - Nifemi showing off his silverware next to proud big brother Ladi



History Trip to Munich and Nuremberg, Easter 2014

Monday 19 May 2014

A report by Archie Thomason (Rt IV).



L to r: (standing) Mr Cook, Euan Cunningham-Jardine, Jack Lock, Hugh Davies, Max Yale, Caspian Cowan-Taylor, Rhys Elliott-Williams, Charlie Speed, Ivan Zagrebhnyy, Vardan Hambarzumyan, Archie Thomason, Billy Riggall, Ed Hemmings, Bertie Watts; (seated) Henry Povey, Ross Bennett, Ed Owen, Patrick Jacob, Bentley Moss, Max Morris, Daniel Iles, George Hargrave, James Whitaker, Joshua Mahyon, Jacob Morris, Rory Fergusson, George Chaplin, Sam Russell, Alex Penman

Five hours after waking up to cold, dark Shrewsbury, we touched down in the soothing sunshine and heat of Munich. After dropping our luggage off at our hostel, we spent the first day getting a feel for the city and later going around a museum (the München Stadtmuseum), which has a separate wing devoted entirely to the history of the city during the Nazi era.

On the second day we went (slightly apprehensively) to the former concentration camp at Dachau. This camp held political prisoners and other 'asocials', the Nazi's perceived enemies from within Germany and the occupied territories, as well as 'VIP', high profile prisoners, held in solitary confinement to be made an example of after Germany had won the war. We had a guided tour of the entire camp, including the gas chamber, crematoria and huts where people slept. The description of the horrific conditions there really hit home, but what really struck me was how normal it all felt. Thinking back on it, this is what was so significant about the visit for

me: the fact that the area resembled pretty much any other place, reminded me how there is only a minor gap between our way of life and that of a horrifying regime, and how in our world someone or something could still be able to bridge this small gap between 'good' and 'bad'.



The memorial at the former concentration camp at Dachau depicts the contorted figures of prisoners who have committed suicide by throwing themselves against the electrified perimeter fence. Written next to the memorial in five different languages are the words "Never again". (Photo by Alex Penman (Rb IV))

The next day, we visited the medieval town of Nuremberg and, on the outskirts, Hitler's parade grounds. The parade grounds themselves, the fortress-like Zeppellin Field, and the colossal Congress Hall, built to resemble the Coliseum, were all hugely oppressive and bleak structures that showed the Nazi Party's claims to omnipotence. These austere Nazi structures had been covered up by the local authorities, presumably ashamed of their past; for example, the 2km long Great Road is now used as a giant lorry park. I think on that day we all got a sense that the Nazis saw themselves not as a cult that would come and go, but that they actually expected to have a legacy similar to that of the Ancient Romans.

The following day we had a guided tour of Munich, which was really enjoyable. Wide boulevards, impressive buildings and wonderful architecture made for an extraordinary city. We visited various places in the city, but the one that I enjoyed most was the Königsplatz, a large open square formed by three classical Greek buildings. These imposing structures had been taken advantage of by Hitler, who used the open space as a parade ground and draped flags of the Swastika from the monuments. After the tour, we were given free time to explore the city in small groups. The final day, we visited the BMW Museum, the Olympic Park and the Nymphenburg Palace, before wearily catching our flight home.

Archie Thomason (Rt IV)



Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge 2014

Monday 19 May 2014

In years to come, Salopians will look back on the bright, sunny Sunday morning in May 2014 when a new Shrewsbury tradition was begun - the whole School lining the avenue between Sidney and Darwin to cheer on the finalists in the inter-house Quarter-Mile Challenge and Sidney-Darwin Dash.



Most schools at this time of year will, of course, be gearing up towards their annual Sports Day, as indeed Shrewsbury will come Tuesday 24th June. However, few schools have as unique an athletics event as this one, with runners hurtling down Central between the two iconic statues of Sidney and Darwin or speeding past the Pentagon with the Masters' Garden but a blur of bougainvillea and scented lavender. With echoes of the Trinity College Great Court Run, our own event is in fact a deceptively recent 'tradition', not hundreds of years old as one might expect but in fact first run in 2011.

The genesis of the event came when a local resident of the town contacted the school asking whether we would be interested in a silver butter dish top that she had found in her attic, presented on 17th June 1869 to a certain H. Hughes for winning the Shrewsbury School Quarter-Mile. Having gratefully received this donation, we added a rather fine plinth and silver plates and considered the idea of recreating the old 'Quarter-Mile' event. A suitable location was scouted for, with various areas around the school campus and beyond considered, but the area around Central was settled on to include a loop down past the Main School Buildings and

around the Alington Hall. We decided, moreover, to extend the event to include a sprint, with the tree-lined avenue running from the Sidney to Darwin statues providing a natural ‘track’ to put our speedsters to the test. It was certainly quirky and not your average athletics event, but the first year’s event was a tremendous success, with competitors and spectators relishing the uniqueness of the event and the exciting action that it generated.

The 1869 trophy was won by Port Hill’s Howard Stringer in a time that remains the event record, a title that he retained in his Upper Sixth year in 2012. The Junior Quarter-Mile was won in that first year by Stuart Brown from The Grove, with Chike Kandi from Moser’s Hall taking the winner’s tankard in the newly-christened junior ‘Sidney-Darwin Dash’. Howard Stringer completed an impressive ‘double’ in winning the senior Sidney-Darwin Dash.

Now in its fourth year, the 2014 races brought about a new chapter for the event, with the finals being run on a separate day to the heats and the finalists taking their marks in front of the whole school lined up either side of Central, cheering on the kaleidoscope of house colours as they come sprinting past.

Junior Quarter-Mile Challenge

In the first race of the day, hotly tipped Severn Hill made their mark with strong performances in the Junior Quarter-Mile, where Scott Hatton took bronze and Charlie Tait-Harris came home comfortably ahead of second-placed Port Hill athlete Dan Orchard. Tait-Harris’s time of 52.41 was a new record (previously held by Anton Nelson, also of Severn Hill), an impressive time particularly since he had sprained his ankle three days previously! All three medalists in this event had also reached the final of the Sidney-Darwin Dash, a fine achievement in itself.



Eventual winner Charlie Tait-Harris takes an early lead

Girls' Quarter-Mile Challenge

The Girls' Quarter-Mile challenge provided an interesting duel between Mary Sidney Hall's top two runners Alice Sykes-Waller and Jasmine Douglas, both Upper Sixth runners and therefore competing for one of the last times for their House. In the absence of Emma Darwin Hall Lower Sixth Formers Tory Mobley and Tatty Hunt, the cheering crowd were treated to a titanic struggle between Sykes-Waller and Douglas down the home straight, with a late surge from Sykes-Waller enabling her to pull past her compatriot, though only just! Sykes-Waller defended the title won last year, and improved her time, lowering the event record to 63.87.



Jasmine Douglas (left) and Alice Sykes-Waller battling down the home straight

The Senior Boys' Quarter-Mile

The Senior Boys' Quarter-Mile did not produce an event record, though with the winner and the runner-up not yet in the Sixth Form, perhaps Howard Stringer's 2011 record may be under threat in future years. Certainly, Anton Nelson's winning time of 51.95 was not far off Stringer's 51.35, and having twice won the Junior Quarter-Mile event and having this year taken the Senior title, Nelson is an athlete of considerable promise to watch out for in the future. On the day, he was simply unstoppable, despite a valiant attempt from Huntsman and Head of School Rory Fraser, whose tight cornering as they appeared from the back of the Alington Hall did not pay off and led to him stumbling and eventually fading to 4th place overall. The Grove's Ollie Brown took advantage to take the bronze medal, ensuring that in the last year of boys in The Grove they would have a lasting legacy in the event. Ahead of Brown was Oscar Dickins from Rigg's Hall, who sets himself up for two more years of rivalry with Nelson, particularly intriguing

when you throw into the mix fellow Hunt athlete Ben Remnant, who was absent from this event due to injury.



L to r: Oscar Dickins (bronze), Ollie Brown (silver), Anton Nelson (gold) and Rory Fraser (4th)

Junior Sidney-Darwin Dash

Following the exciting longer distance races, the event moved into the 'headline' races of the Sidney-Darwin Dash run between the two famous Old Salopians. The Junior Boys' starting line-up included QM medalists Tait-Harris, Hatton and Orchard, who had only a matter of minutes to recover following their previous race. The race was as electric as anticipated, with Tait-Harris determined to achieve 'the double' previously only ever completed before by Howard Stringer in the senior races. Despite running bravely and powerfully, on the day Tait-Harris could not quite take the double victory, with School House's Nifemi Okusanya crossing the tape in a time of 13.81. Who knows what might have been had Tait-Harris not injured his ankle earlier in the week, though that is not to take anything away from what was a quite blistering performance from Okusanya. His smile as he crossed the line and realised he had won stretched from ear to ear!



Nifemi Okusanya (centre) with Charlie Tait-Harris (left)

Girls' Sidney-Darwin Dash

In the girls' sprints, as in the Quarter-Mile, last year's champion took to the start line determined to retain her title, and indeed, as in the Quarter-Mile, a new record was set, this time by Lizzie Mason-Jones from Mary Sidney Hall. Her time of 16.38 was nearly a full second clear of second-placed Poppy Beckett (EDH) demonstrating her dominance at this level, crossing the line looking really rather relaxed! A splendid run from Laura Nightingale ensured an individual bronze for Mary Sidney Hall as well, with Head Coach ARP obviously having worked her athletes hard in the build up to the races...



Lizzie Mason-Jones sets a new record for the Girls' Sidney-Darwin Dash

Senior Boys' Darwin-Dash

The final race of the day was billed as being potentially the tightest and most exciting of them all, with some astonishingly talented athletes taking to the start-line, and even then, that didn't include last year's winner Joe Carrasco from Ridgemount or Severn Hill's Max Parsonage. It was going to be a close one to call. A strong start out of the blocks from Ladi Okusanya raised hopes amongst the School House supporters that he could emulate his younger brother, with housemate Nick Entwistle also featuring strongly in the opening 50m. Yet as they sped towards the tape in a polychromatic blur, it was neck and neck between Port Hill's Ed Barnard and Severn Hill's James Plaut, with Upper Sixth Former Barnard determined to pip his younger competitor.



Photo finish - James Plaut (left) and Ed Barnard

It took a reviewing of the race video to confirm that it was Lower Sixth Former James Plaut who crossed the line first in a race record time of 12.70, with Barnard also dipping under 13 seconds with a time of 12.93. Completing the podium was new entrant Tom Knight from Radbrook in a time of 13.17, suggesting that he will be eager to take on Plaut at next year's event. Plaut now holds the record at senior level and at junior level, following in his father Mike's footsteps as being a Salopian record-holder!

Congratulations to all who competed, and in closing let me pause to thank the considerable number of staff members who gave up their time at the weekend to help out at the event.
PJM

For full results, please see [Quarter-Mile Challenge and Sidney-Darwin Dash Results 2014](#)



Richard Goulding (I 1992-97) is 'Spot-on' as Prince Harry at the Almeida

Tuesday 20 May 2014



Richard Goulding (I 1992-97) and pictured on the right, is currently 'Spot-on' as Harry in the sell-out show, King Charles III, at the Almeida - on until 31 May.

From the Times Review (11 April, 2014):

Bold, brilliant and unstoppably entertaining, this new play by Mike Bartlett appropriates the form of a Shakespeare history play to imagine some troubled early days as Prince Charles finally becomes king.

[] an intelligent, empathetic, moving look at the power and limitations of the modern monarchy.

The show has all the intrigue and forward momentum of a real history play. The grandeur too, And Goold's production, on the plushly carpeted dais of Tom Scutt's set, is played without caricature by actors who are the right types rather than lookalikes (though Richard Goulding is particularly spot-on as Harry).

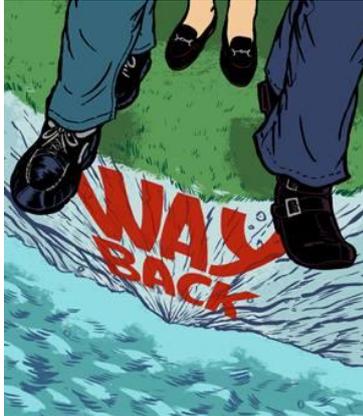
King Charles III makes us care, makes us laugh, and no doubt will make us argue too. Theatre doesn't get much better than this.

<http://www.almeida.co.uk/event/kingcharles3> to check for returns.



Matt Lim appearing in his own Comedy Drama set on Beachy Head

Tuesday 20 May 2014



Matt 'Chapu' Lim (SH 2002-07) is appearing in his own new comedy-drama, 'Way-back' set on Beachy Head at the Brighton Fringe Festival.

The show has already received great reviews from runs at Cambridge and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year, and Matt says he and the cast are very proud of it!

The show is on until 29 May, more

at: <http://www.brightonfringefest.co.uk/show.asp?showid=2932>

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Memorial Service for Nick Bevan at Balliol College on Saturday 10 May

Tuesday 20 May 2014

In the packed chapel of Balliol College, Oxford, a memorial service for Nick Bevan (Oldham's 55-60 , Housemaster of Ingram's 79-88, inspirational coach of the 1st VIII and President of the Salopian Club) took place on Saturday 10 May. The service, conducted by the Rev Douglas Dupree, Dean of Balliol College, included Recollections by Tim Bevan (O 53-57), a Tribute by Jeremy Goulding (Housemaster of Oldham's 83-89 and Headmaster 2001-2010), readings by Richard Bevan (O 57-61) , Oliver Bevan (M 93-98) and John Marsham (father of Robert(R 95-00)) , and an anthem sung by Daniel Norman (I 84-88).

The School was represented by the Headmaster, Mark Turner, the Salopian Club by the Chairman, David Thomas, and the Director, Nick Jenkins, and the Sabrina Club by the President, Martin Slocock, and the Secretary, Rod Spiby.



Old Salopian Tour of the Somme Battlefields, 23 – 27 April 2014

Wednesday 21 May 2014



To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, a party of 31 comprising Old Salopians, their wives/family members and the Club

Administrator, visited the Somme area between 23 and 27 April.

The tour was ably led by military historian and professional tour guide, **Peter Caddick-Adams (Ch 1974-78)** seen in mustard trousers, left. The tour, which followed the course of the Somme campaign from north to south, visited many of the key battlefields along the way

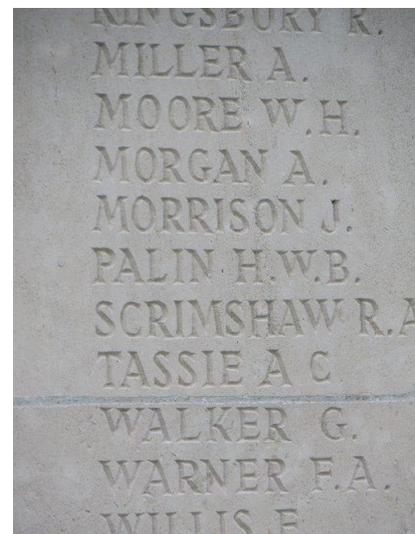
and including several cemeteries where Old Salopians were buried. Peter's way of organising the tour meant that the group gained a cogent understanding of how the campaign was conducted and the various gains and reverses which took place during 1916-18.

The party laid wreaths at Thiepval and Pozières to commemorate the Old Salopian fallen and placed poppy crosses on all the Old Salopian graves we could find elsewhere, including at Caterpillar Valley where a memorial to H W B Palin (SH, left 1900) and uncle of Michael Palin) and the graves of other Old Salopians can be found (see below, right). Thiepval was particularly poignant as many Old Salopians' names are written on the memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

The tour members – a friendly bunch in the best Old Salopian tradition - were drawn from a wide range of backgrounds with many hidden talents - linguistic, artistic and athletic - emerging as the tour proceeded.

Thanks are due to Julia Midgely (wife of Jonty Godfrey S 1960-64)) for her beautiful pen-and-ink drawings (see example below, left), to Erica and John Pinfold (S 1956-61) for their beautifully illustrated report (please see below) and for everyone who has submitted photos and thoughts about the tour.

Above all our thanks are due to Peter for his outstanding leadership, military knowledge and the plethora of 'homely' information about the lives of the people caught up in this battle and to which the Somme landscape's many barely-concealed scars continues to bear witness. **Miriam Walton, Administrator**





Photos: A selection of the many excellent photos taken during the tour can be found in the current edition of the Salopian magazine. The office also has a large collection from various sources which we will try and make available via this website as soon as technically possible.

Captain Charlie May, of the Manchester Pals Regiment, and great uncle of Mavora Roberts (wife of David Roberts (M 1954-58)), along with two Old Salopians, is buried at Dantzig Alley, Mametz. By happy coincidence, Mavora's brother, Gerry Harrison, whose edition of Charlie May's vivid and entertaining diaries will shortly be available, was at the memorial when we arrived.

'To Fight Alongside Friends - The First World War Diaries of Charlie May, edited by G Harrison' - ISBN 978-0-00-755853-7 William Collins

- <http://www.harpercollins.co.uk/titles/9780007558537/to-fight-alongside-friends-gerry-harrison>

An illustrated report of the trip by Erica and John Pinfold (S 1956-61) may be downloaded [here](#).

A full report, with more photos and the Pinfolds' recollections can be found in the July edition of the **Salopian magazine**.



Third Former George Garrett's weekly blog - part 3

Thursday 22 May 2014

George Garrett compares Churchill's quad cricket with the official version...

Another week has gone by at Shrewsbury and believe it or not the sun decided to come out over past few days, making it a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

Under-15 House cricket was at the first round stage and Churchill's could be a force to be reckoned with in the tournament. First up was School House on Chances pitch. Anyway to cut a long story short we bowled first, bowled them out for 27; then we followed by getting the total 0 wickets down and in about 2 overs. So the match was over in about 40 minutes and we walked back to house knowing the next round awaited.

As the summer weather finally began to arrive, more quad cricket has been played recently. Quad cricket is the heart of Churchill's summer term with it being played regularly during free time. Quad cricket is basically cricket played in the courtyard (centre) of Churchill's. Appeals can be heard from miles off, especially when Deputy Head of House Angus Hayward is in action!



With Third Form exams fast approaching, revision has been taking place. Believe or not, I have been doing a fair amount of work as well as cricket.

I spent my weekend playing two cricket matches for the U14s. Both wins. First on Saturday against Sedbergh where we got 150 in 35 overs and we followed with a quality bowling performance and bowled them out for 41. Sunday brought the Staffordshire Under-13s and again a 9 wicket win was convincing. A great weekend and another action-packed week.



Portuguese Evening at Shrewsbury School

Thursday 22 May 2014

At last the long, dreary winter evenings are behind us. So, with this in mind, we decided to turn our thoughts to countries that are rather good at celebrating summer and, of course, summer food! We chose the beautiful country of Portugal.

Portugal is world renowned for its love of good food, what with the abundance of fish, seafood, olives and vegetables right on its doorstep. In fact the Portuguese enjoy a good level of health and longer life expectancy due to the excellent food that they produce.

The KH counters were decorated with a riot of colour and the food was beautifully presented in Mediterranean-styled bowls. Bowls of olives, peppers and bottles of infused olive oil sat alongside the steaming platters of Portuguese paella. Plump, crispy pork dumplings were displayed in wire baskets along with trays of frittata.

Summer may not be completely upon us, but our Portuguese evening certainly helped us capture a taste of sunshine!

Carrie Zeiler



Shrewsbury staff members win gold at the British Rowing Masters Championships

Thursday 22 May 2014

Congratulations to Rose Manger, Annabel Foulger, Jinny Price-Owen, Jane King and cox Beth Grech, who won gold in the British Rowing Masters Championships on Sunday 18th May, racing for Pengwern Boat Club.



L to r: Jinny Price-Owen, Jane King, Rose Manger, Beth Grech, Annabel Foulger

Rose Manger is a Learning Support teacher at Shrewsbury. Annabel Foulger, who rowed for her college (Newnham, Cambridge) and has been involved in the sport on and off ever since, is wife of Dr Tim Foulger, Head of Geography at the School. They are coached by Nathan Williams, who also coaches girls' rowing at Shrewsbury.

The Championships took place in glorious sunshine at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont Lake, Nottingham. Racing for a kilometre in a Women's Masters E coxed 4, they beat Monmoth and Bewdley in the final, despite having to give them a ten-second start.

They are now in training to race at Masters Henley in July.



Port Hill Upper Sixth Last Day Photo

Friday 23 May 2014





Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 23 May 2014

This week, the U14C/D cricket team...

As I am sure you all know, cricket at Shrewsbury is currently a very successful and thriving sport. Will it be in such good shape in four years' time? The answer must lie in the depth of talent in the under-14s and the standard of coaching. Just think how strong and healthy Salopian cricket will be if the under-14C team is a force to be reckoned with!



Your correspondent scoring and writing Team of the Week at the same time

Some less imaginative academic institutions tend to assign their most inspirational and well-qualified coaches to their top teams. Andy Barnard, Master in Charge of Cricket at Shrewsbury, is a most enlightened man and has realised that it is important to bring on talent at every level and you need your best coaches with those who need the most coaching; that must be why he asked me to coach the under-14 Cs. Actually I see myself as more of the Squad Manager, as I am aided by Chief Coach Laurence Evans, a well-known figure in Shropshire youth cricket. I am never one to blow my own trumpet, but four games and four wins does suggest that the Evans/Bell partnership is beginning to show that dedicated coaching, hard work, extra practices long into the night all year long in our impressive Cricket Centre, technical expertise, attention to detail and occasional chats with School Cricket Professional Paul 'The Pigeon' Pridgeon (or 'Big Bird', as he does not like to be called) have reaped their reward. It has also led to a busier lifestyle, as my old friend Peter Moores (the new England Cricket Coach) has been on the phone a lot recently, searching to replicate a recipe that is clearly working here with his new-look England side.

I am a great believer in cricket being played in the sunshine, which is why I think England have suffered at times in the past. The venue is important too. The under-14Cs have been lucky this

term. They started with an away match at Packwood Haugh. I remember a close personal friend of mine at Cambridge, ex-England Captain Mike Atherton, telling me that a beautiful place to play cricket ensures that the game will be played beautifully. I would totally concur, and Packwood is a beautiful place to play cricket – and eat chocolate cake. The result was beautiful too, as we won by 19 runs.

We then played Repton under-14Cs and won by ten wickets. Such was their enthusiasm to test themselves against ‘the best’, they brought twelve batsmen. Their players were bowled over by Shrewsbury in more ways than one, but we did finally manage to force them back onto their bus for their return to Repton. We then enjoyed a wonderful trip to Birchfield School, where we were royally entertained. We won by 14 runs but for me what stood out, apart from the vibrancy of the cricket, was the quality of the cake at tea. I remember another close friend of mine at Durham, ex-England Captain Nasser Hussain, telling me that he thought nutrition was a very important part of a modern cricketer’s diet. It was a very tough decision to turn down the coffee cake at Birchfield in favour of the Victoria sponge and I am still not sure I made the right decision.

This week saw the team travelling to Shrewsbury High School Prep. I say ‘travelling’ but in fact we decided to walk, as the team took the impressive decision that they would prefer to arrive at the ground devoid of the sluggishness that can often be associated with coach travel. Obviously this was a carefully thought-out part of the coaching plan and I think it is something we may try again, although this will depend on the Headmaster allowing us a week’s (or possibly two or three) travel time to walk to our away fixtures.



A team of 'walkers'

A concern when playing prep schools is not to over-intimidate the opposition with our immense height and so we made the players take the 'Hedge Test'; which involves ensuring no one on our team is more than a head higher than the top of the Kingsland House Hedge. The Hedge Test was of course made famous by one of my grandfather's close personal friends, Karl Jung, who believed it should be an archetypal test for all cricketers playing against younger opposition.



Taking the 'Hedge Test'

Arriving at another very pretty prep school venue, the team were delighted to accept the invitation to bat first, especially having carefully analysed the pitch.



Captain Bertie Speed (I) was very happy with both the team selection and his place in the batting order. "I am very happy with the team selection and my place in the batting order," he told me.

As a young cricketer I was always impressed by the captaincy of a close personal friend of my father's, ex-England captain Mike Brearley. He appeared to be in the team generally in a diplomatic role, although he did on occasions score the odd run. Inspired by Mike, we made Tom Drury 'captain of diplomacy'. Tom is one of the friendliest cricketers I have come across! Cricket can take such a long time there is always time to make new friends, and as a close personal friend of mine, current England international Ian Bell (no relation – although he told me once he wished he was) told me, "Cricket is all about cake and friendship".



After losing a couple of early wickets, last-minute signing Will Sawyer (PH) steadied the ship with a carefully constructed innings. Tom Drury then top-scored with 24 and was ably aided in his diplomatic role by Tom Hughes, who ran himself out in case he took the game too far away from the opposition. There were also valuable contributions from notably Joe 'Moser's' Moseley and Sam 'every shot a' Peach! Finishing on 93 all out with one ball left, I felt Shrewsbury High Prep could be proud of their bowling performance against such a successful side. "Shrewsbury High Prep could be proud of their bowling performance against such a successful side." I said.

After a wonderful piece of coffee cake – I think the only piece that Housemaster of Radbrook-elect and ex-Kingsland Grange pupil Dr Richard Case left us – it was back to the cricket.



Above left - Dr Richard Cake, sorry, Case; above right - sandwiches for everyone else

The youngsters from the Prep batted with guts and determination in reply, and it took an excellent bowling and fielding display to keep them 17 runs away from victory. James Crewdson and Joe Dodd were perhaps the pick of our nine-man attack and they were well supported by some excellent catching from Will Blanchard-Butter and Richard Walker, as well as some laconic wicket-keeping by Fred Blanchard-Butter.

It was a game enjoyed by all and it was a delight to visit another wonderful prep school and have one's cake and eat it – as my old friend Mr Kipling might have said!

GJFB



Contemplating the warm-down walk home at the end of another successful day

House of Lords Reception to celebrate Shrewsbury Eye Clinic, Malawi

Friday 23 May 2014

The President-Elect of the Salopian Club, Sir Eldryd Parry, the Headmaster and the School's Charities Co-ordinator, Lesley Drew, attended a Reception at the House of Lords last week to celebrate the opening of the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic in Malawi.

The event was hosted by Lord Ian Blair, a friend and supporter of the charity Medic Malawi, the School's partner in this project.

In his welcome, Lord Blair said how special it is that every penny given to Medic Malawi actually goes to the projects it supports, with no UK running costs, salaries or expenses at all. The focused work of this dynamic young charity is transforming lives, and hopes, in one of the poorest countries on Earth. The eye clinic will attack preventable blindness, a particular scourge in Malawi, with regular monthly clinics to reverse cataracts and stop trachomas.

Building the eye clinic has cost about £14,000, which has come from the School's charity fundraising, and Stephen Drew, the volunteer Director of Medic Malawi, sincerely thanked Shrewsbury School. The need now, he said, is for funding for the regular eye surgeries, which will cost about £1,800 a month but, he pointed out, "In two years of monthly surgery, the equivalent of the whole population of Shrewsbury School could be cured of blindness."

During the Reception Mr Turner met this year's Speech Day guest, Henry Olonga, the former Zimbabwean Cricketer, who is another great friend of Medic Malawi, and the two men heard Stephen Drew talk of his next ambition for Medic Malawi – a 'hospital on wheels', going out to the villages to find the sick and dying – a new vehicle to become a 'don't call us, we will call on you, ambulance'!

Lesley Drew commented, "It is great to know that the fundraising at School produces such wonderful, direct and tangible results and we are proud to be committed to Medic Malawi as one of our partner charities each year. Nineteen students and five staff are increasingly excited about their visit to Malawi in July.

To find more about Medic Malawi please visit www.medicmalawi.org





A new school magazine is launched – ‘The Historian’

Friday 23 May 2014

Written by Shrewsbury pupils and edited by Mr Haworth and Theo Simmons (Ch LVI), the first issue of The Historian magazine has been published.

Nicola Spruyt (EDH LVI) looks back to the events of a hundred years ago as Emily Davison fatally threw herself in front of the King’s horse at the Derby in 1913, and investigates whether it was suicide or a prank gone wrong.

Dan Edwards (S LVI) compares the personalities of two of history’s greatest rivals for power – Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots – and examines why Mary’s bid for the throne failed so spectacularly.

Forty-five years on from what proved to be the decisive moment in America’s disastrous involvement in the Vietnam conflict in the 1960s and 70s, **Oli Beressi** examines the effects of the Tet Offensive of 1968 and explains how it contributed to America’s ultimate, humiliating withdrawal from Vietnam seven years later.

Jamie Nugent (SH LVI) looks at how France went about trying to rid itself of Christianity during the French Revolution, and the problems they encountered in their attempt.

The magazine also includes three reviews of lectures given at the Bastille Society last term, including a review by **Helena Irvine** (EDH LIV) of Dr Richard Rex’s talk on the English Reformation in the 17th century, while **Sean Sawyer** reviews the lecture given by Dr Michael Broers on the question of whether Napoleon Bonaparte was a military genius. There’s also a review of the final lecture of the term, by Professor Jonathan Phillips in December, on the motivations of crusaders in the 12th and 13th centuries.

There’s an in-depth look at what it’s like to study a degree in History at the University of Manchester, a look ahead to upcoming lectures and news, and a quiz page to get those historical brains working!



Charlie Tait-Harris (S IV) helps ISFA secure historic win against Manchester United

Friday 23 May 2014

The Independent Schools' Football Association (ISFA) Under-15 team brought their season to an exciting end with an excellent performance at the Manchester United Tournament on 3rd May. Fourth Former Charlie Tait-Harris (S), who has been playing with ISFA for the last two years, was delighted to be selected for their major end of season tournament against Manchester United, Liverpool and Aston Villa Under-15s Academy, held at Manchester United's Aon Training Centre in Carrington.



Charlie (back row 3rd from right) with the ISFA U15s

Even before they set foot on the pitch, the ISFA team were wowed by the sheer scale of the training facilities at Carrington Road. "It's spectacular," said Charlie. "It's absolutely mind-blowing. There's a huge building for the 1st team and 12 changing rooms just for the Academy. It was a real thrill to be there."

The Manchester Academy team train several times a week, as do Liverpool and Aston Villa. The ISFA squad, by contrast, which draws together talented players from independent schools across the country, meet to train together once every few months during school holidays.



Charlie competing in the Knole Run, January 2014

Nevertheless, in their opening match against the hosts, they “came out of the blocks” and held their own from the start. The lead was secured before half-time and they scored two further goals in quick succession early in the second half, to win an historic victory over their somewhat stunned opponents.

Although the ISFA team lost their next two matches – “We were tired,” said Charlie. “We’d given everything in that first game and we’re just not as match-fit as they are” – they nevertheless played well and finished the day on a high.

Charlie is looking forward to trials for the U16 ISFA squad next term and to pre-season trials for Shrewsbury Town in June. While football has been his passion ever since he can remember, at school he has also been making his mark in the Hunt. Last October he travelled to East Africa for the Hunt’s pre-season training in Kenya and Ethiopia – reluctantly missing an ISFA development camp – and he has just finished an excellent season, winning medals in the Coventry Relays and the Midlands & Northern Schools' Cross-Country Championships and 18th place in the national Knole Run. Last Sunday he won the Junior Quarter-Mile Challenge (see [report](#)) and very nearly snatched a double-victory, coming a close second in the Junior Sidney-Darwin Dash.



Charles Burney, famous 18th Old Salopian is featured on Radio 3

Monday 26 May 2014



Dr Charles Burney, whose anniversary falls this year, was yesterday featured on Radio 3's 'The Early Music Show':

*In July 1772 Dr Charles Burney set off on his second European journey to gather information for his proposed mighty publication of *A History of Music*. Lucie Skeaping interviews musician and publisher Ian Gammie about Burney's musical perambulations through Germany and The Netherlands, and chooses music by some of the composers he met along the way, including Gluck, Hasse and Quantz.*

To listen to the programme via the i-player (until Sunday morning, 1st June),

visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00c8p1m>

Second Sports Awards Lunch - 27 April: Report

Tuesday 27 May 2014

Over 150 people attended the Sports Awards Lunch on Sunday 27 April in Kingsland Hall. The guest speaker and presenting the awards was Richard Bevan (DB 1974-1978), Chief Executive of the League Managers Association (previously Chief Executive of the Professional Cricketers' Association). Among the award winners were :
Sportswoman of the Year: Alice Sykes-Waller (MSH and sister of Rory (SH 2007-2012))



Sportsman of the Year: Oliver Brown (G)

Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport: Jo Cull (EDH)

Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport: Henry Blofield (PH and son of David (DB 1975-1979), brother of Alex (PH 2005-2010) and Hannah (MSH 2009-2011)

Old Salopian Sports Clubs were well represented in football, cricket, fives, golf, the Hunt, rugby, the Yacht Club, the Sabrina Club and Women's Sports together with the Chairman of OS Sport, Paul Nichols, and the Chairman-elect, Peter Birch.

Pictured, above right, are Old Salopian Female Sports Representative Elle Gurden, (MSH 2008-10) with Jo Cull (EDH, left) and Vicki Horbach (EDH, right)



Salopian Artists' Work on view in Shropshire from Wednesday 28 May

Tuesday 27 May 2014



Works by two respected Salopian artists will be exhibited during late May/June in Shropshire.

Details of the exhibition in Ludlow of recent paintings by **former master, John Alford**, can be found by clicking [here](#). The Private View will be on Sunday 1 June, from 11am - 1pm and the exhibition runs from 2 - 28 June. Please email oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk if you plan to attend the Private View.

Max Baccanello (Rt 2001-06) will be one of the nationally renowned artists and sculptors exhibiting work at Ellesmere College's Big School Hall of from Thursday 29 May to Saturday 31 May (11am - 9pm) and on Sunday 1 June (11am - 2pm). Refreshments will be available.

More information can be found at Ellesmere College website: <http://www.ellesmere.com/the-schools/all/admissions/open-days-and-events/ellesmere-art-exhibition-2014/>. Email: development@ellesmere.com, Telephone: 01691 626 541



Report: of Grand National Meeting at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake on Friday, 4 April

Tuesday 27 May 2014



Some 34 Salopian golfers arrived at Hoylake on Friday 4 April on an overcast cloudy day with NO WIND at all!

Included in the above were Mark Schofield (Master I/C Golf) and five current pupils. We were pleased to welcome a number of Fathers who were playing too.

After a quick coffee and Bacon roll and a welcome to Hoylake by Sean Duncan, Past Captain, play began with

the President of OSGS, Anthony Smith, leading out the first group.

Due to the British Open being played at Hoylake this year the Championship Course was in operation whereby the usual 17th Hole has become the first hole and the usual 16th Hole being the Open Championship 18th. The Grandstand for the final hole was being built and we teed off as the men were constructing the stand.

The course was in splendid condition and all the bunkers were back in play having been upgraded for the Open later in the Year. One certainly tested me and I am certain others also found them from time to time.

There were nine members of Hoylake playing and the OSGS is very grateful for their attendance and sponsorship as this helped to offset the cost of the day for non members.

We all enjoyed a great round of golf before arriving back at the Club House for an early supper, presentation of prizes by Anthony Smith. The course was quite sublime and I am certain the many OSGS Golfers will be telling their friends all about how they played the Open Course later in the year. It gave us all a wonderful insight into a fantastic course and we are now looking forward to the Open later in the year. All the prizes were golf balls with the Open Championship Logo thereon - these will be a nice keepsake / memento (if you do not lose them when out playing!)

My thanks to all those who played and all Hoylake members for their generous hospitality - this was my first effort at organising this meeting and I am indebted to both Tim Lewis, our Hon Sec and Robert Lanyon - who was my ADC and "rock to lean on for the day".

Robin Mouldale (ex master) came along and supported all of us although he was unable to play on the day - a final comment from him (and I know exactly what he means) was Charles was a “great Shoveller” trying to organise everybody for the right tee time etc. It was just like trying to nail jelly to the wall! (police training is very apt for this role!)

In summary, a great day was had by all in which a number of new friends were made, old memories of ‘The Schools’ were discussed in animated fashion, old friends were re-aquainted - Huge thanks to awl at Hoylake - Flreat Salopia!

The results can be found [here](#).



OSGS - Report from Halford-Hewitt and Grafton Morrish, 2014

Thursday 29 May 2014



Chairman.

The OSGS enter two major scratch foursomes competitions, the Halford Hewitt and the Grafton Morrish.

On a windy day at the beginning of May at Olton Golf Club in the Midlands the pairings of Mark Ferguson and Jon Howse, Will Painter and Alex Stewart, Andy Pollock and Angus Pollock accumulated sufficient points to qualify for the finals for the Grafton Morrish to be held at Hunstanton on the 3rd 4th and 5th of October. Hopefully we will have a strong young side to do battle with the other forty seven schools who qualified from the initial entry of almost one hundred.

To read the rest of the report, click [here](#).

Pictured, left, are Anthony Smith (I 1954-59), OSGS President with Andy Pollock (I 1971-74), OSGS

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



OSYC - 2014 Arrow Trophy

Friday 30 May 2014



The 2014 Arrow Trophy will be held on the weekend of 3 -5 October 2013 and OSYC will be entering two crews. Please email david.richards@trinity.oxon.org for more details or to register interest. This is always a competitive and enjoyable event, both on and off the water and we hope to equal previous successes.

More details of the Arrow Trophy can be found

at: <http://www.arrowtrophy.org.uk/>