

## High Time in the South West

Monday 15 April 2019

*It was high time the Salopian Club appeared in the South West...*

... And on 2nd April this was rectified by the appearance of Nick Jenkins, Director, and Toby Percival, School Higher Education Adviser, at the White Harte in Bristol, where a select band of Old Salopians at the Universities of Bristol and Bath had assembled.

Thanks are due to that redoubtable Churchill's duo, Ed Acton and James Snell (both 2013-18), for helping to arrange what we hope will be a regular fixture. Not before time!





# Shrewsbury School Huntsman at the World Cross-Country Championships

Tuesday 16 April 2019

*Mr Middleton reports on a proud and historic occasion for the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt as it is celebrated on the world stage as the home of cross-country running.*

*A link to a film about the Hunt made by ITN/IAAF Productions and broadcast at the World Cross-Country Championships is included at the end of this article.*



*"All bounds who wish to run, run hard, run well, and may the devil take the hindmost!"*

The Huntsman's rallying cry - and accompanying bugle call - have echoed over Shrewsbury's campus and Shropshire hillside for countless generations, but over the Easter holidays both would resonate around the world as the Hunt took centre stage at the 2019 World Cross-Country Championships in Aarhus, Denmark.

At the invitation of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and the championship organisers, this year's Huntsman Charlie Ockleston (O U6) flew out to take part in the 2019 World Championships as the event sought to reconnect with the sport's rich history here in Shrewsbury where the sport has its origins.



*Timeline showing the history of Cross-Country - beginning with Shrewsbury School in 1819*



*Charlie being interviewed for the BBC World Service by Ed Harry*



*The Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt display*

On the eve of the championships and following a series of media engagements, Charlie, his father Hugh and I were invited to the IAAF 'Legends Dinner' which was hosted by IAAF President Lord Coe at Aarhus Town Hall and attended by representatives from all the major Athletics Federations alongside past cross-country champions including Paula Radcliffe, John Treacy, Paul Tergat, Wendy Sly and Lynne Jennings.



*Charlie with Paul Tergat and John Treacy*



*Peter Middleton and Charlie with marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe and Olympic silver medallist Wendy Sly*

All would receive special commemorative awards recognising their contributions to the sport. Between them, those awarded these prizes had over 30 world championship golds! Imagine our surprise and delight, then, when the final recipient of a Heritage Award was announced as Shrewsbury School in recognition for the role it has played in the sport's origins.

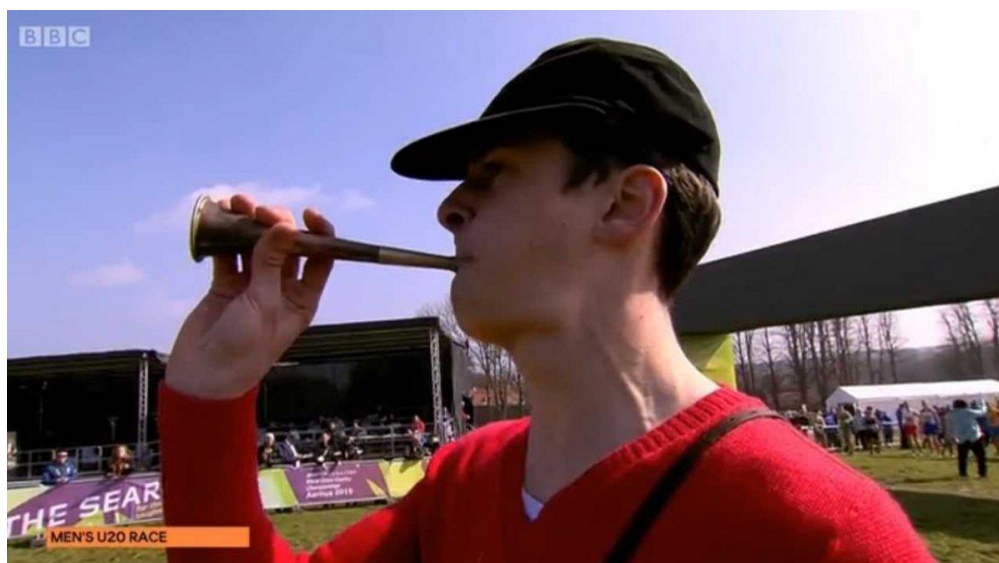




As dawn broke on race day and we waited for the bus to take us to the race venue, there was a feeling of both excitement and nervous anticipation with Charlie's big moment on the global stage edging closer. With the championship races underway, we watched from the grass-covered roof of the Moesgaard museum as the athletes tackled the gruelling course which had deliberately been designed as a tough and gritty series of undulations, much like those early runs over Shropshire hillside. Amongst the runners was GB senior Oliver Fox (*pictured below with Charlie*), who also happens to be Mr Bell's godson. We asked Oliver whether his godfather had been his inspiration and athletic hero. He declined to comment.



With the early races concluded, Charlie was whisked away to prepare for the U20 men's race with the crowd of supporters now numbering in the tens of thousands. Hugh and I looked on nervously as the junior men were brought out and the race announcer introduced Charlie, inviting the Shrewsbury School Huntsman to send the hounds on their way. A long walk to the microphone in front of the race start and our hearts were a-flutter. Weeks and months of practice had led to this point but, even so, there were a few anxious moments as we awaited the moment of truth. The rallying cry 'All hounds...' was delivered in confident, sonorous tones and then, slowly, Charlie raised the bugle to his lips. A slight adjustment and then... yes, a glorious, thrilling and triumphantly sustained note! Long, strong and fuelled by a heady cocktail of adrenaline and nerves, it was a proud moment for the Ockleston family and a proud moment, too, for Shrewsbury School and the Hunt, perhaps the first time that the bugle has ever sounded on foreign shore, and certainly the largest crowd to hear it!



To top off a weekend to remember, both Charlie and I donned the RSSH vests to run in the Mass 12km cross-country race which would provide us with the very special opportunity of racing over the world championships course, grass roof and all. As someone who has raced over many cross-country courses during my time, I have to say this was the toughest I've ever competed in and by the last lap my lungs were fairly burning and the legs felt full of lead. No issue for the youngster, though, who powered past me in the final section with a spring in his step and, roared on by the crowd, crossed the line in 5th, topping off a memorable day and a remarkable weekend for Shrewsbury's 188th Huntsman.







*A film about the Hunt made by ITN/LAAF Productions and introduced by Tim Hutchings (two-time World XC Silver Medallist), can be viewed via the link below. A shorter version was broadcast at the World XC Championships.*

*Mr Middleton*



## RSSBC: Easter Rowing Training Camps

Monday 29 April 2019

*The Senior and J16 rowers travelled to Laias, Spain for their Easter training camp, while the J15s enjoyed similarly glorious weather in Shrewsbury for their training camp over the Easter weekend.*



The Cerlac Training Centre provided the perfect base for high-quality training for the Seniors and J16s, with excellent facilities and a fantastic stretch of water on the Castrelo Reservoir.

The crews had access to a physio, swimming pool and delicious food in their down-time to aid recovery between academic work and training.

The weather was glorious, with calm flat water most days.

A huge thank you to the school coaches and staff at the Centre, who made the trip so productive and enjoyable.



A few days later, training for the J15s took place at the School Boathouse. Thanks to the beautiful conditions, the pupils were able to spend the majority of their three sessions a day on the water.

Over the course of the four days the boys and girls made huge progress in singles, doubles and pairs before taking part in crew selections to form strong crews by the end of the camp.

Easter Sunday brought some egg-shaped treats and dinner at Lyons' Den to celebrate the half-way point of the athletes' hard work.



The camp was the perfect opportunity to blow off some cobwebs after three weeks' holiday and get a step ahead on preparations for the Summer Term regattas.



# Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL





## Churchill's retain the Junior House Debating Trophy

Monday 29 April 2019

*Congratulations to Churchill's Hall for retaining the Junior House Debating trophy, awarded on Thursday 25th April.*



The team, made up Fourth Form pupils Ranulf Prentis, Dominic Inglis-Jones and Third Former Tom B, made it through a challenging group stage, quarter- and semi-final to edge out Ridgemount in front of a packed audience in the Science Lecture Theatre.

The final motion, hotly contested, was whether the UN can be considered defunct in a challenging international climate.

Churchill's proposed eloquent arguments full of powerful persuasion and depth and were countered successfully by the impressive Ridgemount team of Aman Chetan, Louis Graham and Third Former Ed S.

The judging panel, led by the Headmaster, took significant time to deliberate the outcome before awarded the win, by the closest of margins, to Churchill's.

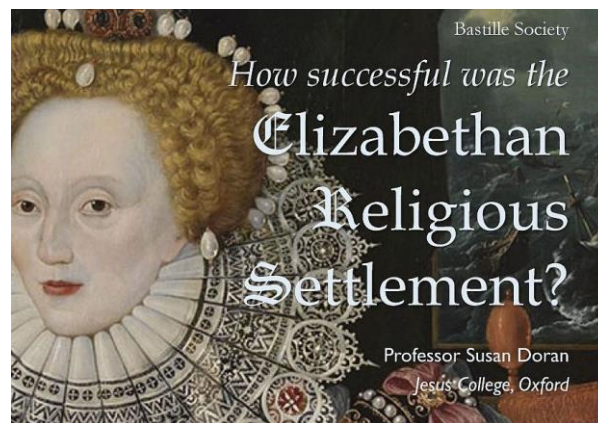
Congratulations to all involved in a superb final showcasing the very best of Shrewsbury debating. My thanks to the staff and pupil judges, without whom it would not be possible to run the competition, and to the Headmaster for so kindly offering to judge the final.

*Mr Mackridge*

# Bastille Society lecture series ends with a flourish

Tuesday 30 April 2019

*Professor Susan Doran's work on Elizabeth I in the Early Modern Period is well known amongst the Pre-U Historians, so it was a great honour for the Bastille Society to welcome her to Hodgson Hall on 26th April to give the final lecture of the year.*



Her lecture covered Queen Elizabeth's Religious Settlement and it was hugely beneficial to those just about to take their Pre-U exam. It was great to see so many historians asking questions and engaging with what Professor Doran discussed in her hugely interesting overview.

The Bastille Society would like to thank Professor Doran for travelling up from Jesus College, Oxford and delivering such a crucial lecture.

As the last Bastille Society lecture of the Academic year, Ebrahim Jamshid and I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the historians who have attended the lectures throughout this academic year. It has been a pleasure to work with the History Faculty and so many of the top UK university historians.

*Libby Hedges*



*Professor Doran with Joint Presidents of the Bastille Society, Ebrahim Jamshid and Libby Hedges*