



## Excellent attendance at the Salopian Club Seasonal Drinks Parties

Thursday 1 January 2015

The Salopian Club's annual drinks parties, held in London, Birmingham and Shrewsbury attracted record numbers of attendees this year.

The City Drinks on 20 November, held for a second time in the pleasant surroundings of the Travellers Club in Pall Mall, attracted upwards of 170 guests. Headmaster, Mark Turner, reported on recent developments at the School, including the successful introduction of girls into the 3rd Form from September 2014.

Shrewsbury Christmas Drinks on 5 December, which this year also celebrated 50 years of Shrewsbury School Foundation, was also attended by almost 200 people including Old Salopians, parents and staff members past and present. The guests were treated to drinks, canapés and serenaded by a live harpist, Penny-Robin Riddering.

Birmingham Drinks, on 27 November was a smaller event but no less enjoyable for the 30+ Old Salopians and guests who joined Branch Chairman, Richard Woodgate (Rt 1954-59) and his guest of honour, Richard Hudson (M 1967-72, Housemaster of Churchill's and editor of 'The Salopian'). The event was followed, as usual by a dinner party at a local restaurant.



# The news 100 years ago: 1st - 8th January 1915

Thursday 1 January 2015



*No OS lost their lives this week 100 years ago.*

While fierce fighting raged in France, the war at sea also continued. On 1 January 1915, a British Battleship, HMS Formidable, was sunk by a German submarine in the English Channel. Of a crew of 780, 547 were killed, including the ship's captain, Arthur Loxley.

A life raft containing bodies from the Formidable was blown along the coast to Lyme Regis, where a local pub, the Pilot Boat, offered its cellar as a mortuary. The landlord's dog – a crossbred half collie called Lassie – began to lick the face of one of the seamen, John Cowan, and insisted on staying beside him for more than half an hour. To everyone's amazement, Cowan stirred; he was immediately taken to hospital whereupon he made a full recovery, later returning to the Pilot Boat to thank Lassie. The story is believed to have been an inspiration for the later Lassie films, although the connection is difficult to prove.

## **Battle of Soissons, 8th January 1915**

A translated extract from a Parisian newspaper; published on 18th January 1915:

*Details of the recent fighting at Soissons show that the French made a resolute advance on the Bethune-road, and rushed to the farm, where they encountered a German division.*

*The French repulsed sharp attacks, and flung themselves with desperate courage on the lower slopes of spur 132 until counter-attacks compelled them to fall back on Croy.*



*Meanwhile the French attempted to scale the eastern ridge of the Perrière plateau, but were thrown back by a withering German fire.*

*Fighting on spur 132 was resumed on Wednesday, when 200 Germans were killed and many taken prisoners. The Germans regrouped their forces, and debouched along the Chivres Valley, outnumbering and outflanking the French.*

*The flooding of the Aisne had destroyed the bridge at Missy, thus preventing reinforcements; but the bridge was hastily reconstructed to enable the French to retreat. The Germans occupy the villages on the right bank, but are unable to cross the Aisne.*

*The French artillery is sweeping the plain at Venizel.*



*The Germans violently bombarded Soissons on Thursday. Fires have broken out in all parts of the town. The tower and portico of the cathedral have been completely destroyed. The shells killed many children. The Germans are keeping men, women and children in the quarries as hostages and are forcing the women to go to Soissons and bring back provisions.*



## Inter-House Paperchases 2014

Monday 5 January 2015

*The historic Paperchases were run on the final day of the Michaelmas term in crisp but dry conditions, and included a record field of runners with the inclusion of junior girls for the first time.*

A closely-fought battle in the first race of the day, U15 House, saw Third Form Race winner Harry Remnant of Churchill's take on the early pace, clearly not daunted by being chased by older runners in the Fourth Form, principle amongst them being Owen Mock from Rigg's Hall, who in fact had won the Third Form Race himself the year before. Both Remnant and Mock had placed highly in the annual Tucks race; Mock came home in an outstanding 12th position over the 5.5km course, with Remnant just nine seconds behind in 15th position. However, over the shorter 2km junior Paperchases course, Remnant's pace proved too much for Mock who had to settle for 2nd place on the podium following an outstanding run from the increasingly promising young Churchillian.

There was consolation in the form of a team victory for Rigg's Hall for the third year running, helped by an excellent third-place finish for Third Former Henry Ludlam and an impressive fifth place for Artem Stopnevich, normally to be found in a boat!



Boys' U15 House winners (L-R): Henry Ludlam, Harry Remnant, Owen Mock



In the girls' race, Fourth Former Immie Evans from The Grove was pushed hard by Third Former Sophia Dixon (MSH), and both girls have been in impressive form during the course of the term. Five seconds separated them this time, with Evans coming home for the 'kill' and Libby Hedges of The Grove completing the podium, an exact replica of the top three junior girls' positions in the Tucks. With two Groveites on the podium and six out of the top 10 coming from the House, it came as a surprise that they did not take the team trophy. However, it transpired that they weren't able to get through six 'counters', though the 'B' team weren't too far off the pace, scoring 100 points overall, not far behind EDH's 92 points in 2nd. MSH took the team trophy though with 68 points, demonstrating that every runner counts!



*Girls' U15 House winners (L-R): Sophia Dixon, Immie Evans, Libby Hedges*

In the senior event, as with the juniors, the boys and girls set off together, though the boys would be tackling a longer and tougher 5.5km undulating course with the girls taking a welcome right-turn at Paddy's Cottage for the final sprint along Ashton Road and down Central to the finish line. Their race was over within a flash, therefore, though Tucks winner Tatty Watt had her work cut out with fellow Lower Sixth Former Olivia Papaioannou keeping hard on her shoulder throughout the race. The pair battled hard and looked set for a nail-biting sprint finish

only to be mis-directed down Cannonbury Hill by the marshal. Sally Joyce took her opportunity and having trailed the lead pair for the majority of the race, was now in pole position with a matter of half a kilometre to go. However, Watt and Papaioannou were not going to give up easily and having put in the hard work, they pushed the pace up a further notch and managed to reel Joyce in. By the end of the race, Watt made it a Tucks/Paperchase 'double' just three seconds ahead of Papaioannou, with Joyce four seconds behind that. A very exciting race, and one where The Grove were able to assert their dominance with an overall team win.



*1st House Senior Girls Winners (L-R): Sally Joyce, Tatty Watt, Olivia Papaioannou*

The boys' race was equally exciting, with Oscar Dickins of Rigg's Hall taking the pace on in the early stages, aided by fellow Riggite Will Hayward. The Rigg's duo were chased, however, by Severn Hill's top duo - Huntsman Theo Clarke and Tucks winner Charlie Tait-Harris - and the latter pairing looked extremely comfortable over the first few kilometres and seemed to be biding their time before asserting their authority on the race. By the time the runners were passing behind the School Boat House, it was the Severn Hill duo in the ascendency, though Dickins was not giving up and fought hard through the sapping mud and mire behind Pengwern. An individual bronze would be his reward, with Hayward slipping back to 6th in the end, but nevertheless an excellent performance from a Fifth Former against a field of largely Sixth Formers. The ever-improving Charlie Rogers was just outside of the medals in 4th, with some superb packing from fellow Radbrook runners Hedges, McLure and Lloyd-Jones also in the top ten. It was also good to see last year's Paperchases winner Ben Remnant back up and running following a period of injury, and he can be pleased with a 5th place given the fallow Michaelmas term.





*1st House Senior Boys Winners (L-R): Theo Clarke, Charlie Tait-Harris, Oscar Dickins*

At the front end, the anticipated sprint for the line never materialised, with the Severn Hill duo opting to cross together in a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship to take the joint 'kill' - something of a rarity, I would speculate! In the team stakes, having taken the 2nd House trophy, Rigg's Hall came close to a clean sweep of three trophies. Only to be thwarted by a strong performance from Severn Hill and an injury suffered in the race to one of their key runners. Tucks team winners Churchill's completed what has become in recent years a familiar podium. Radbrook, however, appear to be the team to watch out for, and their runners-up spot in 2nd House (and 4th in 1st House, just 6 points behind Churchill's) suggests they can be a force in future years to break through the dominance of the three big running houses. Fortunes ebb and they flow!

For individual and team results, please see [RSSH Paperchases 2014](#)  
*PJM*

# Cricket Tour to the UAE and South Africa

Thursday 8 January 2015

*The 1st XI and U15 XI enjoyed an extremely successful tour to the United Arab Emirates and South Africa, playing 24 matches in total over 17 days.*



*The 1st XI on their way to victory against Bishops Diocesan College against the backdrop of Table Mountain*

The 1st XI won 11 of their 12 games, including excellent wins against The Bishops Diocesan College and Wynberg High School, two of South Africa's strongest cricketing schools that have produced many South African (and English) Test cricketers.

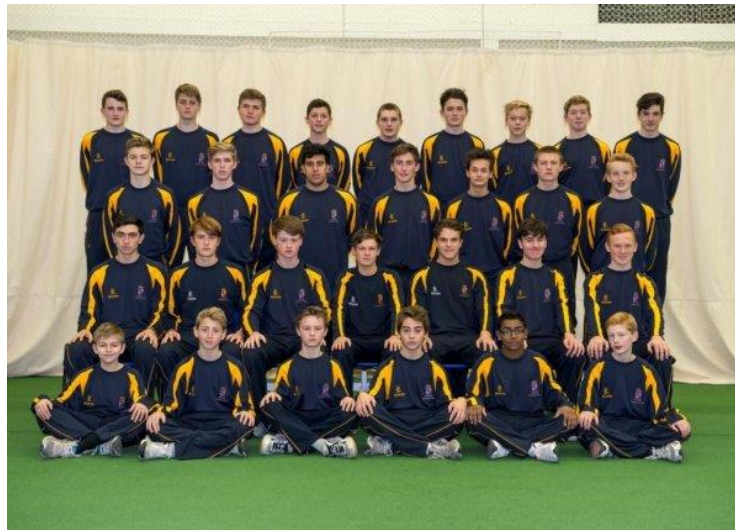
The U15s narrowly lost against Bishops but still managed to win half of their 12 games, with 3 of those losses going down to the last over. Their finest victory of the tour was against the All Rounder Academy (which was the only opposition that the 1st XI failed to beat). Chasing 223 in only 30 overs, they reached their target only one wicket down with a ball to spare, with Jamie Crawley (Rt IV) unbeaten on 119 and Jordan Zaza (Rb IV) undefeated on 74.

The final leg of the tour involved a Twenty20 Festival at Hermanus, a coastal resort 80 miles east of Cape Town. The opponents included a mixture of school and club sides, among them Harrow School. Shrewsbury's 1st XI were successful in all their games, while the U15 XI had mixed fortunes: two straightforward wins, a very competitive game that was lost on the penultimate ball and a comprehensive loss against a Western Province side.

Please see the full [Cricket Tour 2014 report](#).

The touring party are also the focus of Giles Bell's [Team of the Week](#) article.





*Back row L-R: Charlie Home, Harry Gregson, Harry Adair, Dan Durman, David Schofield, Lysander Adair, Edward Stapleton, Dan Humes, Tom Brunskill; 2nd row: George Garrett, Jamie Humes, Reiss Rashid, Tom Breese, Jordan Zaza, George Sandy, Jamie Crawley; 3rd row: George Panayi, Charlie Cooke, Charlie Adams, George Lewis (Captain), Oliver Westbury (Vice Captain), Patrick Jacob, Daniel Lloyd; Front row: Marcus Cope, Toby Pegge, George Hargrave, Angus Moore, Naveen Hari, Archie Mobbs*

## END OF TOUR AWARDS

### 1st XI Awards

**Wicketkeeper of the Tour:** Jamie Humes (I)

**Most Improved Player of the Tour:** Charlie Adams (S)

**Best Shot of the Tour:** George Panayi (Ch) (v Wynnberg)

**Best Catch of the Tour:** Dan Durman (PH) (v Bergvliet)

**Outstanding Performance on Tour:** Jamie Humes (I)

**Man of the Match Awards on Tour:** Tom Breese (PH), Oliver Westbury (S), George Panayi (Ch) & Charlie Home (Rt)

**All-Rounder of the Tour:** Charlie Home (Rt) 158 runs at 31.6 & 14wkts at 15.71

**Bowler of the Tour:** George Panayi (Ch) 18 wkts at 6.50 Ec 2.26

**Batsman of the Tour:** Oliver Westbury (S) 290 runs at 41.4

**Player of the Tour:** George Panayi (Ch)

**1st XI Colours awarded to:** Dan Durman (PH)

### U15 XI Awards

**Wicketkeeper of the Tour:** Dan Humes (I)

**Most Improved Player of Tour:** David Schofield (O)

**Best Catch of the Tour:** Angus Moore (S) (v Bluebells)

**Bowler of the Tour:** Tom Brunskill (S)

**Fielder of the Tour:** Dan Humes (I)

**Outstanding Performance on Tour:** George Garrett (Ch) 5-10 (v Bishops)

**All-Rounder of the Tour:** Marcus Cope (Rt)

**Batsman of the Tour:** Jamie Crawley (Rt)

**Team Player of the Tour:** Jordan Zaza (Rb)

**Player of the Tour:** Jamie Crawley (Rt)

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Shrewsbury's Big Band selected for National Concert Band Festival finals

Friday 9 January 2015

*Many congratulations to the Big Band, who have been selected to play at the National Concert Band Festival (NCBF) finals at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on Saturday 11th April.*

The NCBF is the largest wind band & big band festival. This year will be particularly special, as the Festival is celebrating its 30th anniversary.



## Making history on the Fives courts

Friday 9 January 2015

*Thursday 8th January saw an historic event on the Fives courts: for the first time, all 13 houses competing in a tournament at 'level pegging', as none of the boys or girls taking part had played Fives before arriving at Shrewsbury.*

The girls did well: in the MSH vs Ingrams fixture the honours were even, Ingram's winning first pair 8-6 and MSH taking second 7-6. EDH lost to a strong Churchill's side who are among the tournament favourites. "But I expect EDH to pick up a good few points in the competition from what I saw", said Master in Charge of Fives, Seb Cooley. The Grove 1st pair won 11-4 against a strong Severn Hill pair comprising some of our more promising boys. Severn Hill's second pair made sure honours were even.

Oldham's 2nd and Radbrook 1st were the two pairs that picked up maximum possible bonus points against Moser's and Rigg's respectively, so sit top of their tables after week 1.





## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 9 January 2015

*This week, the Cricket Tour squad.*

It seems a little odd to be writing what is intended to be a light-hearted article the day after the massacre of some 'real' writers in Paris. I would like to think that they would approve of my attempts at humour and that they would want any writer to continue to ply their trade, whatever their lowly status and standard! I would like to dedicate this week's Team of the Week to all those who lost their life for utilising their right to freedom of expression.

Cricket of course is a wonderful unifying sport. The Islamic world has a proud tradition, as exemplified by the Pakistan team and gifted individuals such as Moen Ali and Hashim Amla. It somehow seems apt that a bunch of youthful, enthusiastic and talented cricketers from Shrewsbury School travelled to Dubai, the new home of the Pakistan cricket team, where they experienced wonderful hospitality and enjoyed excellent facilities. Having spent several days there, they then journeyed on to South Africa for a tour that would keep them occupied for 17 days before returning home just in time for Christmas.

It has taken me most of the last week to read all the literature compiled by team logistics expert and scoring advisor Rob Morris. If you want a detailed analysis of each ball bowled I would refer you to that blog (<http://shrschcricket.wordpress.com/>). My aim is to simply try and impart something of the experience that has inspired some gifted and talented young Salopian cricketers.

I had a chance to catch up briefly with some of our talented tourists as they tucked into a tasty turkey tagliatelle. The first victim to catch my eye was George Panayi, who shortly before setting off on tour with the Shrewsbury 1st XI, received an invitation to join another great team: the England under-17s. He will be travelling back to Dubai with them next month to play against the Pakistan U17s.

George enjoyed the hard and bouncy wickets he came across on tour and ended up being the leading wicket taker. His friends at supper were quick to ensure that he is keeping his feet firmly on the ground and that he maintains his modesty and hubris.

George enjoyed the cricket and in particular defeating Harrow in the last game of the tour. I imagine that he will have had benefitted from getting used to the conditions in Dubai in terms of the England tour. I was right; "I will have benefitted from getting used to the conditions in Dubai for the England tournament in February," he told me.



Another bowler who enjoyed the fast tracks was Charlie Cook. Charlie told me that he had worked up “some serious gas”, which I believe refers to the pace of his bowling rather than another type of delivery. Charlie had been looking forward to having a bat but ended up not making it to the crease, although he did pad up in one game. “I am more of a number 12,” he admitted.

One man who did have an opportunity to perform with the bat was Worcester Academy’s Olli Westbury. Olli topped the run scorers’ charts with a string of consistent performances. As he said himself, “I was pleased to be able to produce a string of good knocks, and we are not talking conkers”.

Charlie Adams also contributed with the bat and his bowling seemed particularly productive. One teammate suggested that when Charlie came to bowl, the fielders patrolled the boundary and the batsmen seemed to find them! Charlie was quick to point to the cunning and guile which he uses to lure batsmen into his carefully laden traps. “I am keen on cunning and guile,” he told me, adding, “I learnt it all from Mr Pridgeon.”

Jamie Humes had a good tour behind the wicket. I hoped he had not resorted to sledging and I was relieved to hear him tell me that “there was no snow so there was no opportunity for sledging”. I asked Jamie if he had any lasting memories of the tour. Jamie was quick to mention the sartorial elegance of Reiss Rashid who turned up with the cricket kit he had remembered in a suitcase rather than the traditional cricket bag. Reiss told me that he has long felt the standard of cricket bags is rather average and he likes to present a more sophisticated style when arriving at cricket grounds, even if he is unable to maintain such standards on the field. Regrettably Reiss was encumbered by a long-standing knee injury. His doctor had told him not to play football at all costs, but sadly Reiss in a moment of uncharacteristic forgetfulness joined in a game on the beach, aggravated the injury and was unable to play again on the tour.

To win 11 out of 12 games on a winter tour suggests promise for the summer, even if it was a bit weird stepping off a plane in Dubai after a hard football season to play cricket in the afternoon. Charlie Home and Dan Lloyd were tough spinners to get away and the whole tour party can take

great credit for the manner in which they played their cricket and behaved, according to the very positive and happy Master in Charge of Cricket and Tour Leader, Andy Barnard.

The under-15 viewpoint was similarly up-beat. Although they won fewer games, they performed with great promise and they probably had the win of the tour when they defeated the All Rounder Academy by 9 wickets. Chasing 222, they scored 225 for 1 with Jamie Crawley 119 not out and Jordan Zaza 74 not out.



The overwhelming impression I gleaned from these youthful tourists was that they enjoyed the fabulous scenery. Playing with a backdrop of Table Mountain was clearly quite special. Good beaches and pretty girls were also mentioned but another favourite was their stay with the families of the Bishops School. I asked Nav Hari if there was a pool in the garden of the family where he was staying and was surprised by his reply which was “No sir, but they did have a church.” Perhaps they were the South African equivalent of the Chappell family!



*Admiring the world's largest chandelier*





Angus Moore, Jordan Zaza and Nav were all able to compare notes with previous tours they had been on. Angus noticed quite a few differences to the Isle of Man rugby tour he had been on. “There was a long plane journey and I was able to watch ‘Elf’, thus helping me to mentally prepare for Christmas,” he told me. Nav and Jordan had previously travelled to Taunton with the Shropshire under-14s. They too noticed a few differences on this tour. They both enjoyed the free drinks (non-alcoholic) on the plane and the facilities they came across, which included the weather. Nav did feel that the pitches in South Africa were wearing a bit as it was towards the end of their season. This meant that the ball had to be hit a bit harder; “it is important to put pace on the ball if it is to fly to the boundary in an impressive manner!” he said.

All in all I am rather envious of the trip. The squad have come back with a certain swagger and confidence, perhaps because they have been in touch with bigness! As a number of them said having seen the biggest chandelier in the world in the grand Mosque in Dubai, “I have seen the light!” I have too and I am going to try and get on the next tour!

Tom Brunswick, who had toured Antigua with Rokeby School, felt that the food was cheaper and more plentiful in South Africa. He was impressed by Mr Morris’s ability to finish his steaks. He told me that Mr Shantry believed Mr Morris to be a major steak holder in the South African food industry.



*Was this the biggest steak in the world?*

There was a visit to the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa, and when I saw the photos I was convinced they were taken from the plane! The tour party all went shopping in the biggest mall in the world.



This was a big tour in numerous ways. I hope I am not bigging the lads up when I say I feel confident about the summer. It could be a big one for Shrewsbury School cricket!



## The news 100 years ago: 9th - 15th January 1915

Friday 9 January 2015

*No OS lost their lives this week 100 years ago.*

The main fighting this week continued around Soissons in northern France, part of the ongoing Battle of Champagne. The Germans attacked the French lines just north of Soissons, hoping thereby to gain access to one of the main routes to Paris. However, the German forces were made up only of small numbers of troops in order to conserve reserves for the fighting on the Eastern front. The French defenders of Soissons repulsed the attack.

The War at Sea is moving into a new phase: early hesitant skirmishes between isolated vessels are escalating into battles in far flung waters, such as the Falklands, the Coast of South America, the Dardanelles, Black Sea and most locally, the North Sea.



## MSH Great British Bake Off

Monday 12 January 2015

*This weekend saw the first ever MSH Great British Bake Off competition. Seven teams from a range of year groups and culinary backgrounds battled it out in a two-day event.*



On Saturday evening the girls produced a range of sweet treats, including homemade cream puffs, chequered sponges and Cookie Monster-themed cupcakes.

Places in Sunday's final were awarded to Tessa Scott Bell (3) for her classic chocolate sponge, Georgia Bruce (LVI) and her stunning and equally tasty double chocolatey gateaux with a white chocolate ganache and Erin Leatherbarrow (LVI), Sarah Jackman (LVI) and Lily Drinkwater (LVI) for their Guinness cake with cream cheese frosting.



*Bake Off Champion Tessa Scott Bell*

On Sunday the final consisted of a technical challenge to produce a MSH-coloured Battenberg-style cake. The winner was Tessa Scott Bell who impressed the Judges (Ms Peak, Miss Rule and Matron) with her very professional efforts.

Well done to all who took part. This will definitely be an annual event!

## Having a blast “Under Da Sea” at the School House Dance!

Monday 12 January 2015



While most of us were winding down from the excesses of too much partying over the festive season, the Sixth Form at Shrewsbury School was just warming up. The Lent Term sees the biennial House Dances. Given that it only happens for each House every other year and it is just for the Sixth Form, students only get the chance to host a House Dance once during their time in Shrewsbury. Therefore, they take it quite seriously.

First in the calendar, and keen to set the bar for the others, was School House. Almost 80 boys and girls from across the Sixth Form turned up on the night. The boys had spent weeks planning the event over the holiday and getting hold of the necessary props and equipment.



*Julian Chesshire setting up before the dance*



The theme was “Under Da Sea”. With 48 hours to go, they worked tirelessly to transform the hall, corridors and locker room into an underwater fantasy comprising dancefloor, chill-out room and bar. The walls were covered from floor to ceiling in black plastic, which was spray-painted with fluorescent paint that glowed brilliantly under the UV black lights. The conversion of School House was amazing (afterwards I was relieved to see it transformed back to its former state as if it had never happened!).

Owing to the hard work of the boys involved, the event was a great success and fun was had by all. However, Julian Chesshire (LVI) deserves a special mention because of his fantastic DJ skills. He kept the dance floor busy all night and has a real talent; he is now in high demand from some of the other Houses on the Dance circuit this year!



## Oxbridge offers

Monday 12 January 2015

*Congratulations to the 12 students who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.*

It is notable that the successes are spread across a very wide range of subject areas. The students and the staff who have supported them are to be congratulated on the hard work they put into receiving these offers.



*L-R: Charis Virgo, Ed Carroll, Miranda Woods, Dan Lo, Aue Angpanitcharoen, Esmé O'Keeffe, Dan Lo, Dom Dootson, Sonny Koh, Merrick Wong*

**Aue Angpanitcharoen (Ch)** - Engineering Science at St Catherine's College, Oxford

**Edward Carroll (Ch)** - Computer Science at Oriel College, Oxford

**\* Rory Fraser (Ch)** – English at Trinity College, Oxford

**Sonny Koh (Ch)** - Economics at Downing College, Cambridge

**Miranda Woods (EDH)** - Arabic & Islamic Studies at Pembroke College, Oxford

**Charis Virgo (G)** – Medicine at St Hugh's College, Oxford

**Dominic Dootson (M)** - Physics at Keble College, Oxford



**Esmé O'Keeffe (MSH)** - Latin & French at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

\* **Tom Lloyd (Rt)** - English at University College, Oxford

**Dan Edwards (S)** - History at Girton College, Cambridge

**Dan Lo (SH)** - German at St Hilda's College, Oxford

**Merrick Wong (SH)** - Mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge

\* Rory Fraser and Tom Lloyd both have confirmed places at Oxford, having taken their A levels in 2014.



*Shrewsbury Oxonians Celebratory Lunch - L-R: Miranda Woods, Ed Carroll, Charis Virgo, Aue Angpanitcharoen, Dan Lo, Dom Dootson; (two absent)*



## R.S.S.H. Pre-Season Training at Derwentwater

Wednesday 14 January 2015

*Fourteen members of the Hunt and three members of staff spent the first few days of the New Year running round the lakes and fells of the Lake District, putting in some serious training for the cross-country running season ahead.*



Isthmus Cottage sits on the north shore of Derwentwater in the Lake District, a stone's throw from the charming town of Keswick and flanked by the imposing fells of Castlerigg and Cat Bells. The views are spectacular and it was certainly an inspiring place for the Hunt to base its pre-season training camp for four days before the start of the Lent term.

Ten boys and four girls made the journey north following a light 8km down the Severn at Shrewsbury before departure, with a number perhaps not having enjoyed a great deal of sleep the night before on New Year's Eve! Conditions on arrival were fairly wild to say the least, with lacerating rain and wind greeting us upon arrival at Isthmus Bay. With the minibuses unloaded, however, we were able to settle in for the evening and await the culinary delights of the first group's dinner efforts; Head Chef Jake Samuel and team preparing a superb spag bol with particularly impressive chopping from the apprentice Sous Chef Monty Hardcastle, who chopped approximately eight and a half onions without crying. Thursday evening was concluded with the '2014 Quiz of the Year' won by Team Hengelo (the same team who were on cooking duty that evening) with Team Berlin (headed up by Huntsman Theo Clarke) sadly ending up bottom with the 'booby prize' of comedy hats to be worn in the following day's run.

Porridge awaited us on arrival at breakfast on Friday (thank you Mrs Weston!) which provided the perfect start to the day and excellent energy for the training sessions ahead. The senior boys would run in the morning and swim in the afternoon, with the girls' sessions the other way round. The morning run was a loop around Derwentwater, though as you will know if you have been to the area, this is not a small lake! In fact, the entire loop was 17km which was a really good post-Christmas tester and the guys ran extremely well, packing in as a group for the first three quarters before a lead pack of Charlie Tait-Harris, Theo Clarke, Oscar Dickins and Will

Hayward pressing the pace in the final few kilometres, bringing it down to 3.30min/km which provided a swift end to a long and testing run, one that involved rather a lot of water, often up to the knees, and on one or two occasions, up to the waist!



*Start of timetrial at Buttermere*

Despite the cold weather, there were many hillwalkers out on the trails with us, most of whom looked at us rather strangely (and one of whom barked out, 'You're mad!'), though we were unsure whether this was due to the fact we were out running in these conditions or due to the sight of comedy hats worn by Theo 'Meow' Clarke (cat's ears), Charlie 'Mustafa' Rogers (fez cap), and Oscar 'Infinity' Dickins (Buzz Lightyear cap). At least they were not alone, unlike fellow team member Tati Watt who was the only girl in their group and therefore would later in the afternoon head out on a 10km run in a cat's mask. She seemed strangely enthusiastic about it, though, and it didn't hinder her in what was by all accounts a pretty swift final half of their out-and-back route. Harvard Fellow Miss Paine, in her first visit to the Lake District, made light work of the rocky sections with some swift canyoning and scrambling. The boys meanwhile headed up to Penrith for some post-run swimming and managed to put in 30 lengths (girls swam 40 in the morning) and concluded their training day by burning considerable calories, making way for Team Berlin's dinner of chicken stuffed with goat's cheese, wrapped in parma ham, served with a pesto and natural yoghurt sauce followed by stewed cinnamon apples. If we don't win any trophies this season, Masterchef surely beckons...





The following day saw the group tackle a tough 6x1km reps session with the lead group knocking out 3.20-3.25 min/km, which was very encouraging given the somewhat tricky terrain and the impact of the long run the day before. The group worked hard and looked strong. A lazy afternoon followed with some time at the cottage or a stroll into Keswick, with some even opting for an icy dip in the lake to ease their muscles in readiness for the tough core session later in the afternoon. Sadly there was little enthusiasm for a visit to the world-famous Keswick Pencil Museum, much to the dismay of Mr Haworth and Mr Middleton who were hoping to revisit this important part of their childhoods. Their mood was lifted, however, with some fine grub at a local pizzeria and the evening was concluded with an extremely vigorously contested game of Articulate. Once Theo Clarke had realised that El Salvador was not a person, the game produced some inventive and creative performances, with a particularly memorable impersonation of a toad from Charlie Tait-Harris (*pictured right doing his Usain Bolt impression*).

After the hilarity of the evening before, it was back to business the following morning for the final key session of the training camp: a time trial around Buttermere Lake. After an early start and a somewhat precarious drive up the Honister Pass, the group jogged a warm-up lap around the lake just as the sun started to peep over the mountain-tops and then we were ready for some racing. The girls ran a 5km section of the loop with the boys covering a lap and a half to total 10km. This provided useful preparation for the following week's national Knole Run where the



runners will tackle similar distances over similar terrain. First home for the girls was Olivia Papaioannou with Oscar Dickins holding off Huntsman Theo Clarke to come through the finish in just over 38 minutes, an excellent time over the course and following some gruelling sessions in the preceding days. With the run completed it was back to the cottage for a welcome slap-up brunch and another lazy afternoon for some, and even a spot of work for a number of the group. An evening visit to the Alhambra cinema to see ‘The Theory of Everything’ which was enjoyed by all, though one of the boys conceded that he had cried ‘at least twice’ during the film so perhaps it had all been a little emotional.



*Oscar Dickins leads Theo Clarke at the front of the pack; Olivia Papaioannou limbering up for the timetrial at Buttermere Lake*

The final morning involved a light 5km loosener and a short core session before some brunch, a final clean and a briefing on the season ahead. With the Lent term the Hunt’s major competitive season, we are in a strong position to go into the races ahead and with considerable depth and strength in the squad, we are anticipating a strong season to follow. The group worked hard over the course of the trip and were a pleasure to be with. My thanks go to Mr Haworth, Mrs Weston and Miss Paine for giving up the final few days of their holiday to assist with the camp and to the pupils themselves for committing to the training camp. Roll on the races!

*PJM*



## Former Head of MI6 delivers the inaugural Thomas Pryce VC Memorial Lecture

Thursday 15 January 2015

*We were delighted and honoured to welcome Sir Colin McColl (SH 1946-50), who was Head of MI6 from 1989-94, to give the inaugural Thomas Pryce VC Memorial Lecture at Shrewsbury School on Tuesday.*

Sir Colin held his audience in thrall as he described his recruitment to MI6 and gave a brief glimpse of some aspects of his fascinating career and the world of Secret Intelligence.

The event was conceived and organised by Heads of School, James Plaut and Esmé O'Keeffe, who have now established a new Salopian tradition: a centrepiece lecture in the School's annual Lecture Programme, to be delivered by a high-profile public figure and organised each year by the Head of School.



*Thomas Pryce VC*

The lecture is in memory of Thomas Pryce, one of two Salopians who won the Victoria Cross during the First World War. Pryce was a pupil at Shrewsbury School from 1900-04 and a member of Chance's, which later became Severn Hill (and James Plaut's house). He joined the Army in August 1914 and was in the Honorary Artillery Company. He was later transferred to the Grenadier Guards in October 1915. He received the MC in November 1915 and was awarded an added bar some time afterwards, for further acts of bravery, having been twice wounded. He was reported missing on the Western Front on 13th April 1918, but is now known to have been killed on that date. He was awarded the V.C. in May 1918 (posthumously) "for most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice".



His Army Commander later wrote: "There is no finer stand in the history of the British Army than this to which Captain Pryce contributed very largely."

Similarly his Colonel wrote this to his widow: "Your husband was perfectly splendid and his company did wonderfully. Its record will be one of the finest episodes in the war."

Introducing the lecture, James Plaut commented that the School's other VC winner, Harold Ackroyd, already has a memorial lecture as well as a scholarship in his name at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. The Harold Ackroyd Lecture has been delivered by no fewer than five Nobel Prize winners. "Although Pryce is somewhat playing catch-up," said James, "it is a satisfying thought that the set is now completed - and an especial honour that another great Old Salopian should deliver the first lecture in his memory."



## Opening round of the Junior Debating competition...

Thursday 15 January 2015

*... a closely fought debate with a narrow loss.*







## Richard Hillary Essay Medal

Friday 16 January 2015

*The Richard Hillary Essay Medal was inaugurated in 2013, and the third annual competition took place on Wednesday evening. The competition provides an opportunity for Sixth Formers to spend two hours pitting their wits against a one-word unseen essay title. The event is modelled on the historic competition undertaken to select Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford.*

This year 34 students volunteered to take part, and each competitor opened an envelope on their exam desk to reveal this year's one-word title, "Power". This follows on from "Luck" and "Time", which had been the previous years' titles. The essays will be judged by Dr Mark Wormald, Old Salopian and Senior Tutor of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Dr Wormald is also a former Governor of Shrewsbury School.



The prize is named in honour of Richard Hillary (Old Salopian) and was launched in association with the Salopian Club. Hillary was born in 1919 and joined Churchill's Hall in 1931 and he went on from Shrewsbury to study at Trinity College, Oxford. He was called up to the Royal Air Force in October 1939 to train as a Spitfire fighter pilot. He joined 603 Squadron and moved with them from Scotland to join the Battle of Britain on 27th August 1940. Within a week Hillary had shot down five German fighters, but he himself was shot down on 3rd September 1940 and was very badly burned while escaping from his aircraft.

Hillary was badly disfigured and never regained full use of his hands. He wrote the story of his experiences, "The Last Enemy", which is widely regarded as one of the best books to have emerged from World War Two. He convinced the RAF that he was fit enough to return to flying in November 1942, even though the damage to his hands remained severe. On 8th January 1943 his Bristol Blenheim crashed in Scottish woodland during a night training exercise, and he died aged 23.

He is remembered today at Trinity College, Oxford by an annual literature prize, a portrait outside the college library, and an annual lecture in his honour. At Shrewsbury, his name appears on the War Memorial and his name is also on the Battle of Britain memorial in Chapel.



## vēnimus, vīdimus, docuimus – We came, we saw, we taught!

Friday 16 January 2015

*Five students from Shrewsbury School have taken the plunge and are experiencing the educational equivalent of ‘poacher turned gamekeeper’ – giving a weekly Latin lesson to a class of children at a local primary school.*



The Upper Sixth formers – Olivia Bradley, Jamie Nugent, Esmé O’Keeffe, Hannah Sanderson and Miranda Woods are teaching elementary Latin to the whole of year 6 at Coleham Primary School in Shrewsbury. The Salopians teach two sets of children – some 60 pupils – as part of the Thursday Afternoon Activities Programme.

The initiative was set up by the Head of the Classics Faculty, Paul Fitzgerald: “There’s no better way of improving your grasp of a language than by teaching it; but these boys and girls are learning valuable life skills too – communication, thinking on your feet, adapting to different circumstances – and simply being out of your comfort zone; these will stand them in good stead in later life.”

For most, it was a daunting but exciting afternoon. Jamie Nugent said, "The kids were so enthusiastic about learning Latin, having never learned it before. It was a very different experience from being taught at school, and I have finally appreciated how difficult it can be as a teacher, as well as how much fun it can be!"

Olivia Bradley agreed: "It was great to teach kids who seemed so enthusiastic about Latin and to approach a subject I've been studying for so long from such a different angle."

Head of School Esmé O’Keeffe added, "Teaching a language to others, especially to such a receptive audience, helps to consolidate it and to understand it better yourself".

## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 16 January 2015

*This week, Fives...*

As I lay in bed last night listening to the wind and the rain desperately trying to join me in my cosy bed (it failed, as my house is made of bricks), my mind suddenly focused on this article. Yes, the weather is so inclement, it must be the season to stand outside a Fives court watching those inside spend three hours trying to exercise their superiority over each other.

Not, I hasten to add, that Fives is a bad spectator sport; it is just that the viewing areas for spectators at all the great Fives arenas I have visited are not set up for warmth, comfort or dryness. I am considering requesting that a video link be set up to the TV in Quod, where one can sit and watch in the warm with a cup of tea on a nice sofa!

The first major Fives event of the term is on the horizon, as a whole host of our finest exponents of highly sophisticated glove work head for the courts at the 'Shrewsbury of the South'. There they will take on fellow competitors from Highgate, Eton and Harrow. Will it be a step too far? We will have to wait and see!



*Third Form Elite Squad Archie Mobbs, Joe Kynaston, Oscar Mattinson and new hopeful, Dan Nicholas*



For those of you not versed in the language of Fives, ‘Step’ means that if you win the next point assuming you have the serve – you will win the game currently being played. A server on ‘Step’ has to keep one of their feet off the step; failure to do so can lead to the loss of serve for both members of the pair! (My source for this information is none other than the reigning World Fives Champion Seb Cooley, who is also Master in Charge of Fives at Shrewsbury School.)

I visited the Shrewsbury courts to see how training for the forthcoming battles was going. The first thing I noticed was how busy the courts were. All 14 courts were full and the enthusiasm and enjoyment was a joy to behold. In one court I noticed three members of the under-14 elite squad were ‘toying’ with a more mature looking junior pro. Dan Nicholas admitted to me that he had never made it into the under 14 A Fives team when he was at school but that he thought he was in with a chance this year. “I am in with a chance this year,” he said with the look of someone who lacks a little confidence in the selectors.

His opponents and playing partner were quick to tell me how much they were enjoying a sport that all of them had only recently discovered. Oscar Mattinson enjoys the way in which the ball bounces off all the walls although it can be a bit confusing and hypnotic. “I sometimes find myself a bit out of it and pretending to be a washing machine,” he told me. Archie Mobbs likes to scare his opponents with loud yells and scary faces. He has watched *Brave Heart* 45 times and *Last of the Mohicans* twice. Joe Kynaston likes the feel of the ball on his hand. “It is something akin to a hand massage and gives me a strange sense of power. It is almost as if I am shooting a web from my hand.” Joe has watched all the Spiderman movies.

In the next court were more elite under-14 players. Will Hope and Toby Cope are a partnership because their names rhyme. When I asked them if they were looking forward to visiting Eton they told me, “We hope we can cope with the pressure of the situation.” I asked them if they had any lucky charms or rituals they indulge in before a big match. Will Hope admitted to carrying a picture of the Pope and Toby has his lucky piece of rope. They also promised that they will not mope if they lose! ... There is scope for more but we will stop there!



*Toby Cope and Will Hope*





Fingal Dickins has developed a keen interest in Fives having realised you can play in a warm room and keep dry. I would beg to differ with Fingal about the warm room aspect of a Fives court, but then I have never visited the Dickins family cave. Frenchman Antoine Legeais claimed not to be a regular Fives player, but I could see that he was being sucked into the squad by the generosity with which they gifted him points and boosted his confidence.

Antoine informed me, “I enjoy *les cinqs* and I think that if there were more cinqs courts in France it could become a very popular game. I am lucky to live in Shrewsbury and be educated and taught at this very fine school where I have an opportunity to play Fives every day and be coached by a World Champion.” Fingal told me that Antoine’s Head of School campaign has started well and he just hopes he can maintain it for the next four years.



*Antoine Legeais, Fingal Dickins and Will Hope*

In another court I found some of the top squad playing with World Fathers and Sons Champion Grant Williams. Stefan Cottey and Matt White have been playing together for a while and last season made the last 16 of the Nationals. Matt enjoys the considerable improvement in his hand-eye co-ordination that he gets from playing Fives. I can verify this, as I teach Matt and he can write now. Grant reminded him that he also enjoys excellent coaching.

James Harris was enjoying a return to Fives from rugby and gave me two reasons for his switch of codes. “Firstly, I have studied this year’s long range weather forecast; and secondly, if I am honest I found playing rugby was like banging my head against a brick wall and I would prefer to do that with my hands.”

It was at this stage that I felt I was getting frozen and thought I too would venture into the courts to take some action shots as the players ‘let it go’! This was quite brave, as the ball was being hit at a considerable velocity; indeed so fast that you cannot see it in some photos.



*This photo was taken a split second before the ball hit me; at which point I left the court.*

Before I left, I also had a chance to catch up with Fives Captain George Lewis, fresh from his captaincy of the Cricket Tour to the UAE and South Africa (see last week's report).



*Spot the ball. (No promise of prize.)*

George was with George Panayi, Jack Fox and Luke Lloyd-Jones (*in the photo above*), all of whom are hoping to be on the bus to Eton. George Panayi remarked that he liked the sociability of such trips, although he did admit that everyone takes a pillow and sleeps the whole way. Jack Fox and George Lewis are hoping to hear more of Seb Cooley's excellent music collection. Coaches Matt Barratt and Torin Morgan (*below*) were also looking forward to a trip to London.



For the junior squads, it is all part of building experience, Dr Morgan told me. He went on to tell me that the Shrewsbury players develop faster than elsewhere, as we train at a higher intensity. This is necessary, as some of southern prep schools play Fives and therefore have an edge in the younger age groups – but not for long!

I left the fives courts just as the elite under-14 girls were starting to train under the watchful eye of Andy Barnard – a veteran player if there ever was one! They are preparing for a tournament at Berkhamstead on Tuesday and they told me they are quietly confident, or at least that's what I thought they said.



*Lizzie Ware, Libby Hedges and Phoebe Wasdell following Mr Barnard's carefully prepared warm-up routine*

Fives is a very sociable game as there can be mixed pairs in terms of gender, age and ability. One thing was clear from my visit to the Peter Worth Shrewsbury School Fives courts. Fives is thriving at Shrewsbury and a lot of fun is being had by all. As Borat would say, High Fives!  
GJFB





# The news this week 100 years ago: Old Salopians in WW1

Friday 16 January 2015

*In August 2014 we launched a four-year joint project with St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury to commemorate all former boys and masters of Shrewsbury School who gave their lives in the First World War. This is the latest instalment in our weekly commulative archive that records the progress of the First World War and the names of the Salopians who were killed.*

This week we remember:

**Second Lieutenant John Trevor Rees, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.**

Chance's (now Severn Hill); left in 1911.

Killed in Action on the Western Front, 22nd January 1915, aged 21.

Buried in the Bois Grenier Comm Cemetry, Dept. du Nord.

At the outbreak of war he joined the Artists' Rifle Corps (28th County of London Territorial Battalion) as a private and went to France with them in October. Promoted on the Field, he received a Commission as 2nd Lieut. in the 1st battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and, during the sadly short time that he held it, succeeded in winning the esteem and affection of his men.

One of his men wrote of him: "In losing Mr Rees the Regiment has lost one of the most daring and bravest officers it has ever had. He knew no such thing as fear.... He made us all love him, by his daring bravery, cheerfulness and consideration for the sick and weak; and I myself have lost the best friend I have ever had in my six years of soldiering."

## The news 100 years ago: 16th - 23rd January 1915



This week saw the first airship raid on England.

Proposals to bomb England from the air had first been made in August 1914, in the opening days of the war, but had been stalled by the Kaiser's reluctance to authorise them. Rumours suggested that he was especially anxious that London should not be bombed in case any of his relatives in the British royal family were injured. Nonetheless, by the beginning of 1915 the Kaiser had clearly changed his mind: Zeppelin raids against English targets were launched on 19th and 20th January with the intention of hitting ports and industrial centres around Humberside. In fact, due to strong winds, the Zeppelins were blown off course and instead dropped their bombs on Great Yarmouth, Sheringham and King's Lynn. Four were killed.

As with the shelling of Scarborough and Hartlepool the previous December, the raids were used as a propaganda opportunity by the British Government to encourage more men to enlist into the armed forces.



## Salopian Club Committee - Supper and Presentation

Friday 16 January 2015

*A special celebratory supper followed the Salopian Club Committee meeting in January, with a guest list of current and recent committee members.*

A special celebratory supper, in Kingsland Hall, followed the January meeting of the Salopian Club Committee. This was a lovely opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the notable efforts of some recent members.



Following speeches from the Headmaster, Mark Turner, and the Club Director, Nick Jenkins, House colours, in the form of scarves, were presented to Old Salopians Paul Nichols, Peter Worth, Nick Randall, Richard Barber and David Thomas in recognition of their hard work for and commitment to the Club over many years. Salopian Club colours were given to Miriam Walton, retiring Administrator, with thanks for all her efforts whilst in post.

With delicious food provided by the in house team and wine flowing, there was a relaxed and enthusiastic atmosphere, reflecting the positive position the club finds itself in moving forward.



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**News of the war: 16th - 22nd January 1915**



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# Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



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# The national Knole Run, 10th January 2015

Monday 19 January 2015

*One of the major races on the schools' national circuit, the Knole Run is a tough and gruelling cross-country course now in its 41st year of competition. Having placed on the podium for three years in a row between 2012 and 2014 and with a top 10 spot for the girls for the first time in 2014, the Hunt travelled down to Kent hoping for a similarly successful start to the new season. With two girls' teams entered for the first time (along with the two boys' teams we traditionally enter) this was the largest number of runners we had ever brought down to the race.*

As usual, we travelled down to Sevenoaks the night before the main race, staying in the comfortable - if not quite luxurious - Day's Inn hotel. A quiet morning for most (though a GCSE biology trial exam for our Fifth Formers) and then it was down to Knole Park for pre-race inspection and final preparations.

Having undertaken five days of pre-season training in the Lake District prior to the start of term, our squad were well prepared, albeit without key personnel in the boys' squad due to injury.

Last year our girls' squad had broken into the top 10 for the first time, and in the race report I noted that this was "our best ever result and with Third Form girls arriving next year, the result provides a strong foundation for the momentum that is gathering with the Girls' Hunt. We believe that in the coming years the girls will begin to experience some of the recent successes of the boys, and they too will become established as one of the leading clubs in the country."



*Sally Joyce (G) ready to tackle the final hill on the course*



Our predictions that girls' running would go from strength to strength with the advent of co-education has become a reality, with numbers higher than ever before and some real talent not only in our new Sixth Form entrants, but also in some very talented junior runners in the Third and Fourth Form.

The girls' team took to the startline brimming with confidence, and despite their race inexperience they raced in such a manner that this was not made apparent. Over the 3-mile course, our top performers from the past term- Tati Watt (G LVI) and Olivia Papaioannou (EDH LVI) were fighting hard at the front end of the field and both looked to be capable of hitting top 20 spots (out of a field of over 150 runners). Indeed, by the end of the race, both girls did achieve this with Papaioannou in 20th and Watt 30 seconds ahead in 12th in a time of 22.03. This was a superb achievement in their first Knole Run and if they can drop a minute between now and next year, both can look towards hitting the top 10 next year.

Crucially for the team score (with four runners to 'count') we were packing in well behind with newcomer Sally Joyce (G LVI) crossing the line in 24 minutes flat in 48th position, helped enormously in the final stages by our experienced captain Tory Mobley (EDH UVI) who pushed her on in the final run-in with Mobley just behind in 49th. The team score of 129 points was good enough for 5th position overall, just behind last year's winners Southend High School for Girls. This marked a tremendous step forward for the girls' Hunt following last year's 'best ever' mark of 10th position, and with so many returning next year, they will hope to challenge for the medals next year, if not the title itself. Interesting to note was the fact that our 'B' team placed 16th out of 28 teams, beating 'A' teams from such prestigious schools as Wellington College, Charterhouse, Tonbridge and King's Canterbury. They were led by 'B' team captain Abby Attenborough (MSH UVI) home in 66th position with Lower Sixth Formers Martha Pownall (MSH LVI) and Susie Watts (MSH LVI) not far behind in 70th and 78th respectively both in the top half of the field. Perhaps the standout performance, though, came from Sophia Dixon (MSH) in 64th, a remarkable run from a young athlete who is only in the Third Form.



*Rising star Third Former Harry Remnant (Ch)*

In the boys' race, a Third Former also provided one of the standout performances of the day, with newcomer Harry Remnant (Ch) tackling the legendary 9.5km course with ease, coming home for our 'B' team in 114th position (out of 300 runners) in a time of 40.30, an outstanding

run from such a young runner. He was a valuable asset for the 'B' team who packed in well, headed home by fellow Churchillian Henry Newbould (Ch LVI) in 85th, a resurgent Jake Samuel (O UVI) in 91st, short-distance specialist Scott Hatton (S V) in 108th, Charles Wade (PH LVI) just behind in 109th marking his return to the club, and a terrific run from Fourth Former Monty Hardcastle (I) in 112th. A team total for the 'B' team of 619 points ensured their best ever performance in 12th place overall out of 36 teams (again, beating 'A' teams from prominent schools such as Manchester Grammar, Wellington College, Charterhouse, Brighton College and Haileybury amongst others). With all but one of the 'B' team in the Lower Sixth or below, this signals considerable promise for next season and was a terrific achievement from the runners.

The 'A' team fought hard in a highly competitive field and were certainly hoping to maintain our position on the national podium that had been our domain for the previous three seasons. However, the absence of one or two key personnel would make this difficult and we knew we would have our work cut out. Indeed, whilst tactically the runners got it right and ensured that they didn't get off too quickly in this long and undulating course, a top 10 spot for a Hunt runner seemed out of our grasp, though Oscar Dickins (R LVI) can be very pleased with his 19th position in a time of 35.51 to come through as first Hunt runner home. He'll need to drop a minute next year in order to dip into the top 10, perfectly possible, though he'll need a clear run of training through the Michaelmas term if he is to do so.



*A focused Charlie Tait-Harris (S)*

Huntsman Theo Clarke (S UVI) ran a superb captain's run over a distance that doesn't necessarily suit him, coming home in 24th, with fellow Severn Hill runner Charlie Tait-Harris (S V) just behind in 25th. For two years in a row, Tait-Harris has placed in the top 25 and, whilst disappointed not to have improved on his outstanding 18th position last year, his time will come.



Having won the Hector Rose Bowl at this year's Tucks and demonstrated his ability consistently over the past three years, he can certainly target a top 10 spot in future years, if not higher.

It is also worth pausing to note the performance of Charlie Rogers (Rb LVI) who only seriously took up running last year and has made phenomenal progress over the past year, partly through the generous award of the Will Ramsbotham Award from Old Salopian and former Huntsman Oliver O'Callaghan-Brown. The Award is intended to recognise an up-and-coming Fifth Former who has shown potential but hasn't yet pushed into the top ranks, with the intention being to enable this athlete to make that step up through various means, such as a week-long residential training camp in the summer. Charlie Rogers - last year's first recipient of the award - is a fantastic example of the way in which this award can really help, and his 40th position in this year's Knole Run demonstrated quite clearly just how far he has come in a year, given that the previous year he had placed 115th.

The final two 'counters' for the 'A' team were William Hayward (R V) in 49th, and Senior Whip Charlie Godman (M UVI) in 53rd. Godman's run was truly gutsy and perhaps his best ever performance, and he can be very proud of his efforts for the team. Hayward was hoping for higher (more like top 30) but issues with shoulder pain continue to plague him. A top 50 place despite this discomfort and pain did not surprise us, given the hardened reputation of the Iron Man Hayward!

A team total of 210 points would not this year be good enough for the podium, with 5th place being the outcome for the team. Our old adversaries Abingdon College came home ahead of us in 4th, with ever-improving Sevenoaks School the hosts taking team bronze for the first time in many years. Judd School reclaimed the title that they probably view as their natural right, with last year's winners St Alban's School having to settle for the runner's up spot this year, despite captain Robbie Lightowler's individual bronze.

Whilst the first race of the season was tinged with some disappointment for our top boys' squad, there were nevertheless considerable positives to take from the event, in particular the ascendance of our female athletes and the strength in depth in both boys' and girls' squads, with high team placings for both 'B' teams.

The next major focus is the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry, effectively a national schools' relays with other 50 teams taking to the startline at the beginning of February. Our boys' squad will probably still be without two of our main men so may well find it hard even making the top 5, with Judd and St Alban's in such fine form and real threats from Loughborough (my 'wild card' for the title), and with Sevenoaks School clearly displaying their intentions at the Knole with a young and impressive squad, and further strength from Abingdon and probably from Sedbergh, who this year came down to the Shrewsbury Relays in a raiding party to take the title away with them.

It will certainly be a fascinating race, and the boys will want to do all they can to ensure that they place highly. The girls, too, sense that there is an opportunity at Coventry to do something truly special, and will look to go one better than last year's 4th position with the intention to make a team podium at a national race for the very first time.

Watch this space...

*PJM*

## Rugby news update – 19th January 2015

Monday 19 January 2015

This week there have been fixtures against Oswestry School, Loughborough Grammar School and Wrekin College.

The 1st XV beat Oswestry (24-0) but lost to Loughborough (8-22).

The U16A XV started their season with an impressive win (19-5) over Loughborough.

The U15A XV thrashed Wrekin (48-7) but lost, with an injury-hit team, to Loughborough (0-75).

The U14A XV have started the year 'on-fire', beating Wrekin (77-0) and Loughborough (28-12) and look like a very promising outfit; and finally, the U14B Xv lost to Loughborough GS 7-31.



## Netball news update - 19th January 2015

Monday 19 January 2015

The netball season started last week with a trip to Repton, where we won 1 out of 4 very close and enjoyable matches.

On Wednesday, our Juniors travelled to Moreton Hall and there were wins for both the A and the B teams, 21-13 and 13-0 respectively.

On Saturday our teams travelled to Wrekin College and returned with a pleasing set of results: our 1st VII played their 2nd VII, winning 20-17; our 2nd VII played their 3rd VII, losing 16-18; our U14A VII lost 10-18; and the U14B VII won 18-16.



# James Taylor scores the winning runs in the latest one day international against India.

Tuesday 20 January 2015



Saracen James Taylor once again showed selectors that he means business, scoring the winning runs as England 'thrashed' India in the latest one day international.

Taylor (R 2003-2008) scored 56 not out, securing the victory with a four, in what is already his third half century in a one day international.

[Read the full article here.](#)



## Singing Prizes 2015

Wednesday 21 January 2015

*Congratulations to Theodora Jarvis (MSH 3), Dan Powell (Ch V) and Henrike Legner (MSH LVI), who won the Singing Prizes on Sunday 18th January. The judges and audience were treated to a very impressive and enjoyable range of performances from the 39 Salopians who took part in the competition.*

The three classes, junior, intermediate and senior were expertly judged by Nicki Kennedy and Sarah Wild, who both teach singing at Repton. They commented on the extremely high standard of singing here at Shrewsbury and the impressively wide repertoire performed.

The three winners of their respective classes were: Theodora Jarvis (junior), Dan Powell (intermediate) and Henrike Legner (senior). Theodora and Dan's winning songs were both drawn from *Les Miserables*; Theodora's 'I dreamed a dream' was delivered with great expression and carefully shaped phrases, and Dan's 'Empty chairs at empty tables' was a fluid account which showed off his fine baritone voice. Henrike Legner's winning performance in the senior class was fully deserved and the judges were suitably impressed by Henrike's acrobatic coloratura in the first movement of Mozart's 'Exsultate jubilate'.

Of the numerous excellent performances on the day, Jessica Walker's 'When you've got it, flaunt it' and Will Harvey's 'Wonderful' were both awarded prizes for the most entertaining male and female performance, when their acting skills were as evident as their singing gifts. Felix Mason-Hornby (R IV) got the biggest laugh of the day when he informed the audience after his performance of 'The Elements' by Tom Lehrer that the lyrics were, in fact, out of date and that since the song was penned in 1959 seven new elements had been discovered!

The judges paid warm tribute to the work of the singing teachers here at Shrewsbury for their careful preparation of the singers and the sterling support given by piano accompanists, John Moore and Susie Allan.

AEM



## The national Knole Run

Wednesday 21 January 2015

*Following the Hunt's tremendous performance in the national Knole Run last year, when the boys' squad won their third successive podium position and the girls' squad broke into the top 10 for the first time, hopes were high for further success this year.*



*L-R: Sally Joyce, Charlie Tait-Harris, Harry Remnant*

And there were some terrific team and individual performances – in particular among the girls. Despite their race inexperience, the girls' A team came 5th out of 28 teams. Over the 3-mile course, our top performers from the past term - Tati Watt (G LVI) and Olivia Papaioannou (EDH LVI) - were fighting hard at the front end of the field and both looked to be capable of hitting top 20 spots (out of a field of over 150 runners). Indeed, by the end of the race, both girls did achieve this with Papaioannou in 20th and Watt 30 seconds ahead in 12th in a time of 22.03. This was a superb achievement in their first Knole Run. Newcomer Sally Joyce (G LVI) crossed the line in 24 minutes flat in 48th position, helped enormously in the final stages by our experienced captain Tory Mobley (EDH UVI) who pushed her on in the final run-in, with Mobley just behind in 49th.

The girls' B team came 16th, beating 'A' teams from many schools, including Wellington, Charterhouse, Tonbridge and King's Canterbury. They were led by 'B' team captain Abby Attenborough (MSH UVI) home in 66th position, with Lower Sixth Formers Martha Pownall (MSH LVI) and Susie Watts (MSH LVI) not far behind in 70th and 78th respectively both in the top half of the field. Perhaps the standout performance, though, came from Sophia Dixon (MSH) in 64th - a remarkable run from a young athlete who is only in the Third Form.

The boys' A team were just off the podium this year in 5th position (out of 36 teams), while the B team achieved their best ever performance, coming in 12th position, with Third Former Harry Remnant (Ch) providing one of the standout performances of the day.





## School House Oxbridge hopefuls receive good news

Thursday 22 January 2015

*The exceptional intellectual ability of two of our finest Upper Sixth academics was recognised at the highest level in January, when Merrick Wong and Dan Lo received offers to study at Cambridge and Oxford.*

Dan will be studying German at St Hilda's College, Oxford and Merrick will read Mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Both boys thoroughly deserve their success and will be great assets to the prestigious institutions.

It should be noted that Merrick's achievements are all the more remarkable given that he is a full two years younger than the normal Upper Sixth age; most students his age are in the Fifth Form working towards their GCSEs!



*Dan (L) and Merrick (R) thoughtfully considering the age-old Oxford vs Cambridge rivalry!*



## Shrewsbury's Football 1st XI captain wins USA university sports scholarship

Thursday 22 January 2015

*Congratulations to Max McClure (Rb UVI), who has won a football scholarship to Florida State University.*

Max, who came to Shrewsbury in the Sixth Form as the first ever Alex Wilson Scholar, was the "automatic first choice" as 1st XI football captain for the 2014-15 season, according to Steve Biggins, Master in Charge of Football.



“He had played a full season as a Lower Sixth pupil and his performances for Shrewsbury School have been outstanding. He is an intelligent player who has good pace, he has a good range of passing and as a defender he reads the game very well. Max has been one of the best defenders I have seen on the public schools circuit this season.”

His Housemaster, Dr Richard Case, is equally warm in his praise: “As a student Max has been exemplary in every respect. He’s really hard working and is a very positive role-model. He’s taken the honour and privilege of captaining the 1st XI in his stride, not let it go to his head and has

proved himself more than worthy of the expectations and responsibilities that come with the role.

“He clearly demonstrated the qualities that make him an excellent captain – excellent attitude, leadership, sportsmanship and motivation on the pitch as well as having the respect of his teammates. I can think of no one more deserving of the accolade of a scholarship to Florida State University. He has a very exciting four years ahead of him in Florida and exciting gap year plans shaping up before he leaves for the USA.”

The Alex Wilson Dayboy Scholarship for Sporting and Academic Excellence is a biennial award for a state-educated local boy entering the Sixth Form as a day pupil. Alex Wilson was a pupil at Shrewsbury from 2003 to 2009 and Head of House in Radbrook during his final year. He achieved three A grades at A level, captained the 1st XI football team, was Vice Captain of rugby and played for the 1st XI cricket team, as well as playing a very active role in the School community. He went on to study French and Spanish at St Andrews University. Alex died in a tragic accident in November 2009 at the age of 19.

The Alex Wilson Scholarship has been set up by his family in order to offer a local boy the same life-changing opportunities that Alex enjoyed at Shrewsbury, and to ensure that his legacy lives on at the School.





## School House knights return to inspire the next generation of spies and doctors

Thursday 22 January 2015

*No fewer than four old boys of School House from the 1940s went on to receive Knighthoods; we were lucky enough to welcome two of them back within a day of each other in January.*

On Tuesday 13th January Sir Colin McColl KCMG (SH 1946-50) gave the inaugural **Thomas Pryce VC Memorial Lecture**. He was awarded his Knighthood following his time as Head of MI6 (1989 – 1994). Entitled “Secret Intelligence in a Changing World”, Sir Colin described his recruitment to MI6 and gave a brief glimpse of some aspects of his fascinating career and the world of Secret Intelligence. After his lecture, he stayed the night in School House for the first time in more than 60 years!

The following morning Brook Plumptre (UVI), Brendan Parsons (UVI) and Nifemi Okusanya (V) had the privilege of spending the morning with Sir Colin as they showed him round the School and School House. They learned a great deal from the man who led MI6 at a critical time when the Iron Curtain was lifted, the Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War came to an end. They also found out that Sir Colin was known as “C” when he was in office, rather than “M” as James Bond would have us believe!

Before Sir Colin returned home, the boys presented him with his School House Scarf, the highest House award, as a token of their gratitude and in recognition of the fact that it really was quite cold outside!

The next day, we welcomed back Professor Sir Eldryd Parry, KCMG OBE (SH 1944-48). On this occasion he was at school in his capacity as President of the Salopian Club. However, last term he delivered a captivating lecture to the Medical Society on "Frontline Medicine in Africa". Our prospective medical students were greatly inspired by Sir Eldryd's experiences managing and helping to improve medicine in Africa. He founded the Tropical Health and Education Trust, THET, which helps African medical schools and hospitals to improve staff skill levels. He received the OBE in 1982 and was appointed KCMG in 2011 for services to healthcare development in Africa.

Three Sixth Form prospective medics from School House met with Sir Eldryd to present him with his scarf (see photo below). The following week they were delighted to receive copies of key medical research papers in the post, which he had kindly forwarded in order to help them prepare for their forthcoming medical school interviews.





*L-R: Alfred Mitchell (LVI), Hugo Besterman (Housemaster), Nat Chumbala (LVI), Sir Eldryd Parry (SH 1944-48), Yutaro Sato (UVI)*

# Safari Supper: Cocktails and Canapés, Saturday 17th January

Thursday 22 January 2015



The Third Form girls came together to prepare their sophisticated 'Cocktails and Canapés'. Having carefully selected a suitable selection of canapés, planned the quantities, and then deliberated over the cocktails to be created, they set about final preparations so that they could welcome their guests in good time.

They went on to a main course at MSH and dessert at EDH. A perfect opportunity for the year group to get together after a hectic week.





## Rigg's House Dance

Friday 23 January 2015

*The usually tranquil and studious environment of Rigg's Hall was transformed momentarily on the evening of Saturday 17th January for the Sixth Form House Dance.*

A proliferation of sombreros, zulu spears and ginger beards provided colour to the evening - the chosen theme for the evening being 'Around the World'.

Over 90 guests joined the dance from around the campus, enjoying the musical talents of Ridgemount DJ Tom Robinson or chilling out in the outside 'Bedouin Tent' in the Quad (i.e. gazebo, some tarpaulin, a few houseplants and some stringed lights).

Guests were served drinks by TPP in full Tigger outfit, and in homage perhaps to their Scottish housemaster PJM (who himself was in tartan trews), a number of the boys got kilted up. The prize for costume of the evening went to Upper Sixth Former Charlie Cooper (last seen as Bob Marley in the Rigg's Hall House Music competition) who made for a convincing Kim Jong-Un. We have not yet received a response from North Korea.







## Galin Ganchev wins Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music

Friday 23 January 2015

*Galin Ganchev (M UVI) has been offered a Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music to study piano in September, where he will join Henry Kennedy (I) who is currently in his first year as a wind player.*



This represents a huge achievement given the terrific competition for places at the Academy, which is one of the foremost institutions for performers in the world.

Last week Galin gave a debut solo piano recital in Milan, playing an extensive programme which also included works by the respected Italian composer Massimo di Gesu, who attended Galin's concert, and who, through Galin's piano teacher at Shrewsbury, Peter Bradley-Fulgoni, has become a friend of the Music Department here at the School as well.

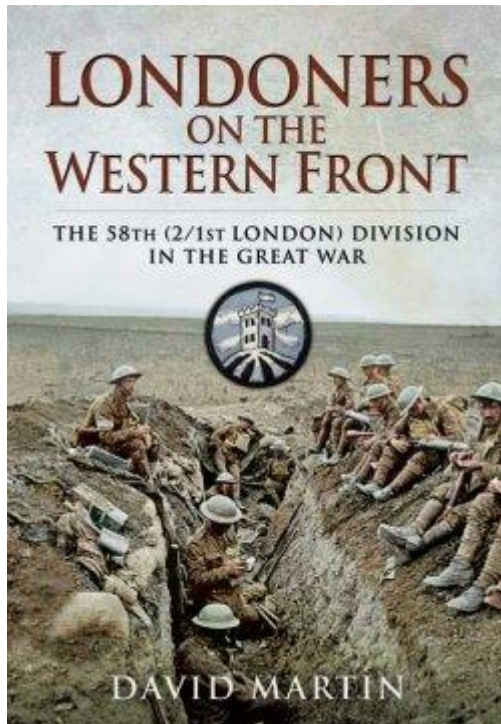
Galin is now preparing Rachmaninoff's 3rd Piano Concerto for performances with the School's Symphony Orchestra during the last weekend of this term in the Alington Hall. Next term sees him giving a solo recital, also in the Alington Hall.





# Book: Londoners on the Western Front, David Martin

Friday 23 January 2015



In spite of all the books written on the First World War, some remarkable stories still remain untold, and that of the 58th London Division is one of the most neglected. A territorial formation, lacking the glamour of the old army or the Kitchener Volunteers, the 58th never received an official history and, apart from the odd mention and a poignant memorial on the Somme battlefield depicting a rider cradling a dying horse, it has faded from memory. Yet the Division saw hard service and won through at Passchendaele where it won fame for capturing the Wurst Farm ridge – many of its soldiers were decorated for this action, and the ridge afterwards renamed “London Ridge” in its honour.

This book tells the fascinating story of the 58th Division's war, and through this cast new light on the wider story of how the BEF struggled through the hard years and developed into such a formidable force. Passchendaele is remembered for mud and

waste, but the 58th Division's experience shows the immense scale of the preparations supporting the offensive and show both how these worked and when they fell short.

David Martin's (Rt 1987-1992) book has received some excellent reviews and is available to buy from [Pen and Sword Books on this link.](#)

*"The author is to be roundly applauded for his well researched and well written narrative which honours not only those who fell but all those who served with the 58th.*

*A fitting tribute. 10/10" The Great War Magazine.*

*"David Martin's new book is not only a gripping read, it finally gives Londoners on the Western Front the profile their Division deserved." Shropshire Magazine*



## BBC Young Musician of the Year Laura van der Heijden (cello) and Tom Poster (piano) in concert at Shrewsbury School

Friday 23 January 2015

*Last night, a packed Maidment Auditorium was hushed in awe at the sublime playing of a duo partnership, which must be one of the best of its kind currently performing in the UK or anywhere.*



Two years ago or so, Laura van der Heijden, then still only 15 years of age, played the Walton Cello Concerto in the finals of the 2012 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, and won the hearts of the judges - and also a much wider audience who saw her play and marvelled at her technical assurance and musicianship.



Tom Poster, who also made his London concerto debut at a tender age, was every bit her equal as a performer, and between them they gave the audience at Shrewsbury a concert to be treasured for a very long time. The lovely thing also, was to see an audience of huge diversity in age, including some very young aspiring musicians coming to see someone still so young perform so wonderfully. They cannot fail to have been inspired by what they saw and heard. Laura had also heard three young cellists play to her earlier in the day, and that too will have been a tremendous experience for them, and hugely valuable in terms of technical and musical advice.

Laura and Tom played a wonderfully diverse programme ranging from the monumental fourth cello sonata by Beethoven and Schubert's outpouring of lyricism in his Arpeggione Sonata in the first half of the concert, through the rhythmical energy of Fitkin and harmonic piquancy of Poulenc in the second. The technical and musical assurance from both players was simply breath-taking. The audience stamped and roared their approval at the end, and were treated to a sublime encore, Ravel's *Piece en forme de Habanera*.

Laura also spoke warmly of her visit to the School, praising both the acoustic of the Maidment as one of the finest she has ever played in, and also the quality of the catering in Kingsland Hall! It was an evening of mutual admiration.

*JFM*

## Berkhamsted Girls' Fives Festival

Friday 23 January 2015

*On Tuesday 20th January, eight Third Form girls travelled to Berkhamsted to get a taste of their first competitive Fives. Playing in the Junior Girls' Fives Festival first and then the Senior Festival, the Shrewsbury pairs proved to be strong competition for all age groups.*



Following on from last year's inaugural Berkhamsted Festival which involved just three schools, this year 40 girls ranging in age from 10 to 18 from five schools gathered at Berkhamsted for an afternoon of fun Fives. The other schools represented were Aldenham, Berkhamsted both Senior and Prep, Oakham and Stowe.

After a number of comfortable wins in the Junior Festival, Shrewsbury's best pairs found that they could compete well with the senior girls from Berkhamsted and Stowe. Our 1st pair (Nina Lange & Tilly Reynolds) played with great athleticism and power on overcoming Berkhamsted 1st pair 12-4. They were easily the best pair on show.

Our 2nd pair (Katie Oswald & Emma Graham) & 3rd pair (Lizzie Ware & Phoebe Wasdell) played some exciting Fives and developed well during the day by beating all junior pairs and some seniors.

The 4th pairing of Libby Hedges & Sophia Dixon played impressively, losing their final match against Stowe 1st pair 12-8.

There are another six U14 & U15 girls now playing Fives regularly and all will be aiming to make an impression this season.

ASB





## A strong turn-out for the Junior Singing prizes from The Grove

Sunday 25 January 2015

*Nina Lange and Abi Watkinson won Bronze and Silver respectively.*





## The news 100 years ago: 23rd - 29th January 1915

Thursday 22 January 2015

This week we remember:

**Lieutenant William Leonard Ringrose Hatch, 2nd Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers.**

School House, left in 1907

Killed in action in Belgium 25 January 1915 aged 24

Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Panel 42.

The Salopian records that he was known to have a "pleasant personality, unfailing good humour and readiness to take part in all forms of House activity. Those of us who recollect him as a member of the Army Class will feel sure that he died as he lived: a sportsman, a gentleman, and a loyal Old Salopian".

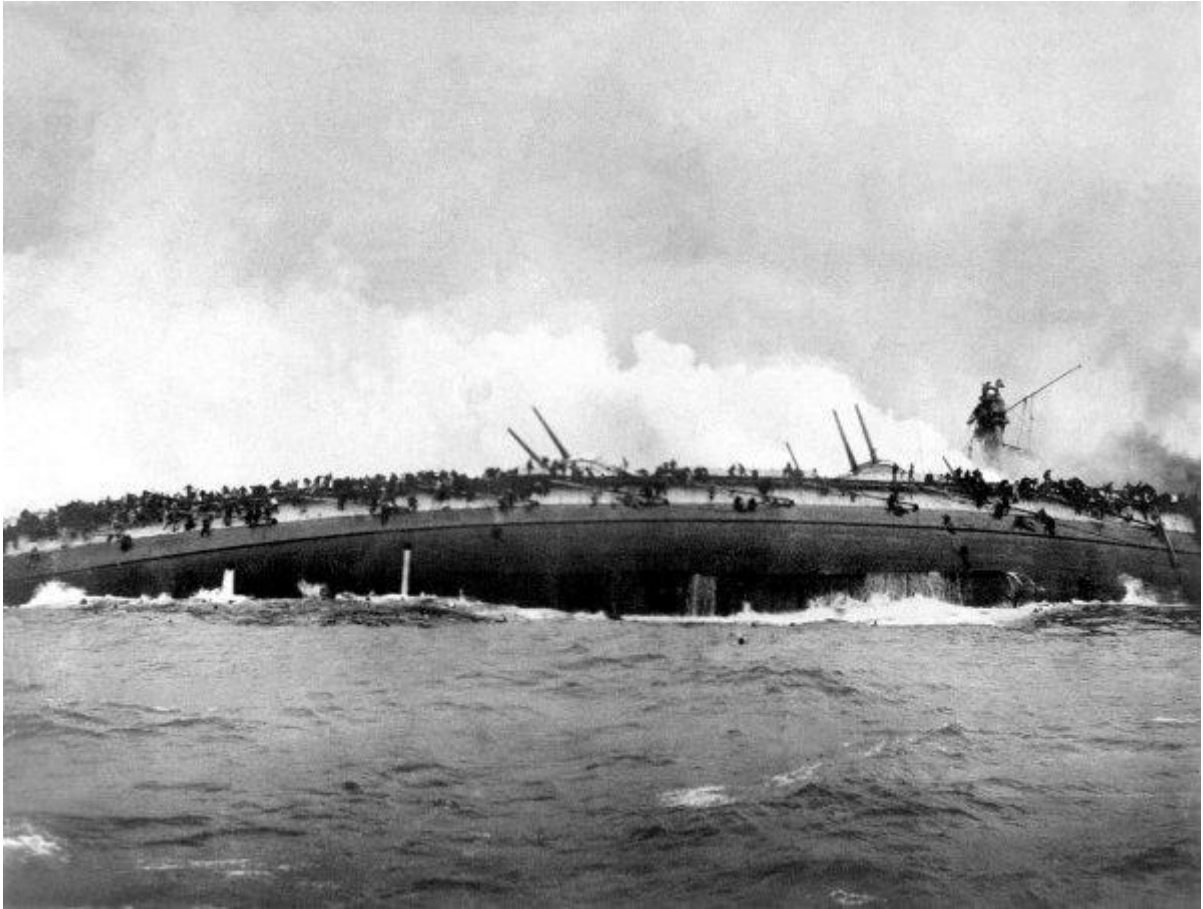
He obtained his Commission in 1911, and two years later was promoted Lieutenant. When the War broke out the Royal Irish Fusiliers were stationed in India, and he returned to Europe with his regiment to take part in it. From an interesting letter written by one of his brother officers, who was nearest to him when he fell, it appears that, while taking observations of the enemy from the trenches, Lieut. Hatch was hit in the shoulder and disabled.

*"However, at 11:15am they were fired on very heavily by the German howitzers. Some of the men went into his trench to try and move him but he ordered them back, and was alone with one other man, a Private, when the shell landed. He and the Private were instantly killed, and five other men were buried with the falling parapet, though later rescued. The men ordered back realised he saved their lives, for the shell that killed him burst before they could have moved him. They all loved him as we all did, myself particularly, and were deeply cut up at his death."*

### **The news 100 years ago: 23rd - 29th January 1915**

Just as the fighting in northern France and Belgium continued, so too did the war at sea. Learning from intercepted radio signals that a German raiding squadron was heading towards Dogger Bank, the British despatched their own naval forces to intercept it. The British met the Germans at the expected time and place and gave chase. In the fighting that followed, the German battlecruiser Blücher was sunk.

As the Blücher had been one of the ships involved in the shelling of Scarborough and Hartlepool in December 1914, news of her sinking was greeted with jubilation in England. However, while victory at the Battle of Dogger Bank served to boost British morale, strategic gains were minimal.



*the German battlecruiser Blücher sinking at sea, 24th January 1915*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Rugby news update - 26th January 2015

Monday 26 January 2015

The 1st XV beat Wrekin College (18-10) in a keenly fought match on Wednesday 21st January. Having lost twice last term, it highlights the improvements being made.

The U15s beat Thomas Adams (57-0) to progress to the next round of the County Cup.

Saturday saw a block fixture against King Edwards' Birmingham: the 1st XV lost (3-29); the U16 XV lost (3-10); U15 XV lost (10-33) and the U14 XV won (46-12).



## **Netball news update - 26th January 2015**

Monday 26 January 2015

In our fixture against King's Chester on Wednesday 21st January, the 1st VII won 18-10 and 2nd VII won 21-5.

Well done to both sets of players.

## RSSH: Midlands Independent Schools' League Round 2 - Uppingham

Tuesday 27 January 2015

*Following a robust start to the campaign at Welbeck College the previous weekend, the Hunt went into the second fixture at Uppingham lying in second place in the Senior Girls competition and the Senior Boys and top of the standings in the Colts division. Whilst the fixture clashed with Shrewsbury's Coach Weekend and we were therefore unable to take a full-strength squad, there were nevertheless some excellent performances and the Hunt remain on track to compete for the top spot in all three divisions.*

With the Hunt's Colts squad having earned a 5-point lead in the Midlands League standings following the first fixture the previous weekend at Welbeck College, the pressure was on to put in a second low score at Uppingham School, though this time round they would have to do it without the Fifth Form who were involved in the A Level Options Fair at Shrewsbury. Step up Fourth Formers Owen Mock (R) and Monty Hardcastle (I).

Mock has begun to show form in the past week or two, following a sluggish start to the term, and in the opening lap of the 5km course he kept pace with the chasing pack of five, who trailed the leader from Bromsgrove School. A brave run from Mock saw him finish the race in 7th overall, improving from 25th the previous weekend.



*Monty Hardcastle*

However, the standout performance of the day came from fellow Fourth Former Monty Hardcastle, who the previous weekend had placed outside of the top 10 in 11th overall. At Uppingham, Hardcastle again looked to be placing outside of the top 10 in the opening lap of



the course, but in the second lap he began his assault, making quick work of pushing into the top 5 and leaving Mock in his wake. From nowhere, suddenly a podium spot looked possible and with just a kilometre to go, Hardcastle had indeed soared through to 2nd, a staggering ascent through the positions. The Bromsgrove runner still had a considerable lead, however, and whilst Hardcastle was powering up the hills and opening up his stride, the gap looked just too big at 50m. Even with just 200m to go (a sharp climb followed by a 50m sprint to the line) the gap was 10m. Yet Hardcastle - perhaps inspired by watching the documentary on Scottish athlete Lynsey Sharp *Get Out Strong and Commit* the previous day - didn't give up, and showing both power and determination his ascent up the hill saw him draw level with the leader. At that point we knew his speed would see him clinch the victory with a kick that Mo Farah would have been proud of!

It was an outstanding performance and possibly one of the most tactically astute performances I have seen from a junior athlete. The victory - by a slender 2m - had been timed to perfection. This is an athlete to watch out for, and as the only Fourth Former in our national relay squad pool of 15 runners, Hardcastle has staked his claim to getting a debut at the relays at the start of February, and will no doubt be a pivotal squad member for the Hunt in years to come.



*Ben Henderson*



Perhaps most pleasing of all in the Colts race were the performances of our young Third Formers who, despite racing against boys mostly two years older than them, were more than able to hold their own. Ben Henderson (S) was outstanding and should be very proud to have come close to finishing in the top 10, ably supported by Port Hill duo Will Barton (14th on his Hunt debut) and Toby Pegge (16th, having placed 17th the previous weekend). Fingal Dickins of Rigg's Hall showed his growing confidence by placing 24th, improving on 32nd the previous weekend. With over 60 runners competing in the race, this was an impressive set of performance from our youngsters; no doubt they too will feature heavily in years to come in the Hunt's senior ranks. The Colts team total of 33 was 8 points behind Bromsgrove who take the lead in the League - though by just 3 points.

The Senior girls went into their race without star runner Tatty Watt, who was rested having been ill during the week. It had been a tough training week for the squad with one eye firmly fixed on the national relays, so there hadn't been the normal period of tapering going into the race. As such, some tired legs took to the startline, including the consistently impressive Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) who once again fought it out for the top places. Having placed runner-up the previous weekend and beating her old adversary Dani Rowlinson from Wrekin, this time round the places were reversed and Papaioannou had to settle for third. No doubt she will want to get her own back next weekend at Worksop for the third fixture in the series.



*Sally Joyce*

Sally Joyce (G) logged another top 10 run to go along with her 8th place the previous weekend, this time coming home in 9th, with our other two counters coming inside the top 20. Sophia Dixon (MSH) impressed in her first Midlands League outing, coming home in 16th - a terrific run for a Third Former running in the Open Girls age group. Passi Goddard (G) completed the team score with 19th place, and Susie Watts (MSH) not far behind in 23rd/66. The team score

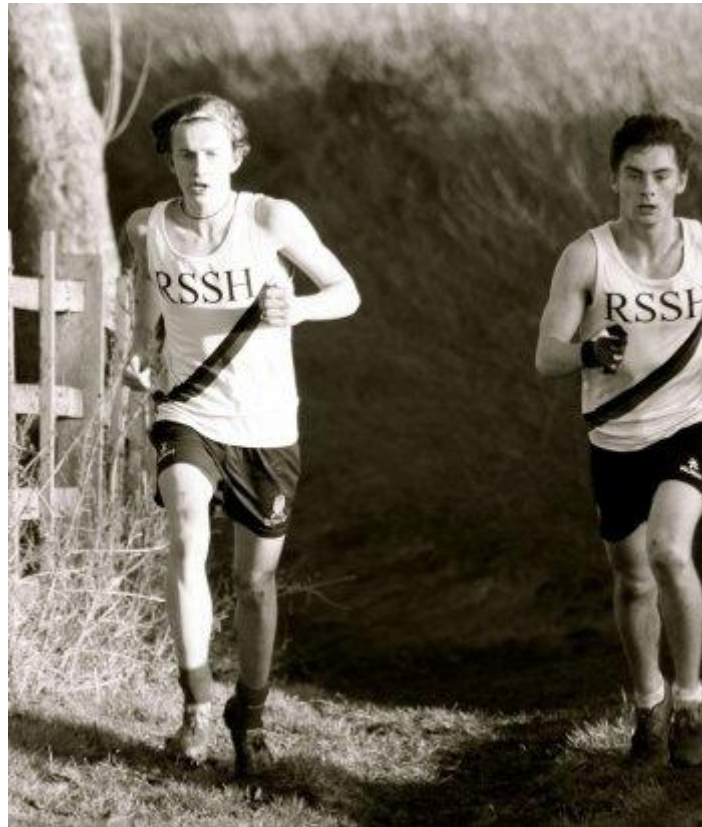




of 47 didn't challenge a strong Wrekin side who extend their lead to 18 points. It's not impossible to catch them, but it will be hard!

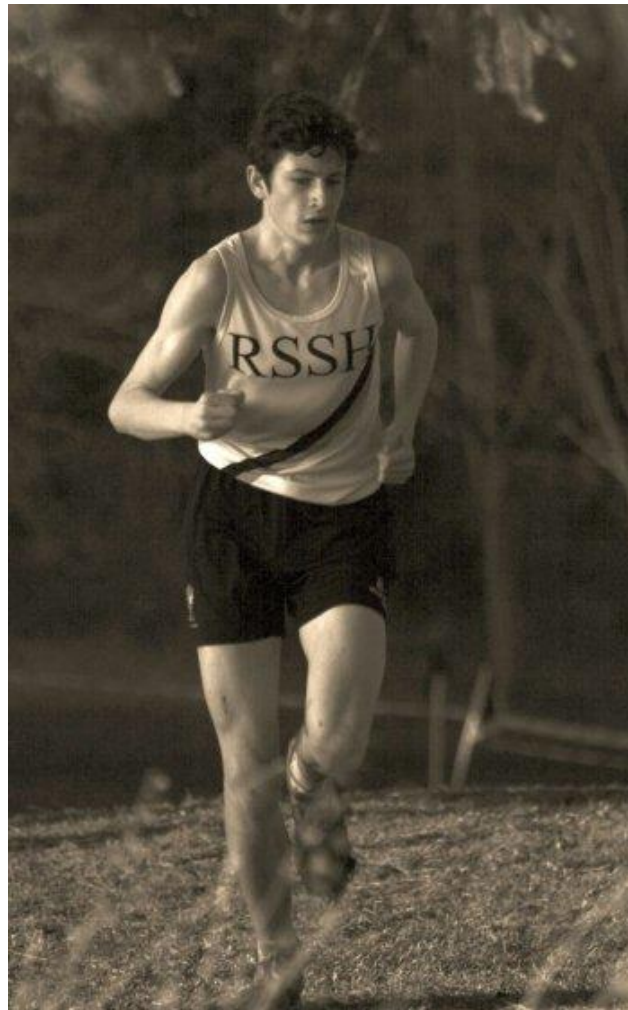
The Hunt's senior boys squad showed their dominance at this level, with their first five 'counters' coming home in the top six positions. Out in front, Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) and Lower Sixth Former Oscar Dickins (R) ran a masterclass in distance running, steadily breaking the field in the opening lap of the 7km course and then pushing on effortlessly to establish an unassailable lead.

Following a very hard training week (involving, amongst other sessions, a pretty gruelling 6x1-mile reps session three days before the race) Clarke and Dickins will have been glad to have not needed to force the pace too much and in the end looked to be treating the race as more of a training run. Whilst they pushed the pace up in the final stages, in a spirit of sportsmanship and fraternity, they chose to cross the finish line together to share the 'kill', with Radbrook runner Charlie Rogers completing the podium for the Hunt a minute or so later. All three will feature in the Hunt's national relay 'A' squad as they race in the Memorial Park in Coventry at the start of February for the famous KHVIII relays.



*Theo Clarke and Oscar Dickins*

Certainly, Saturday's race will have given confidence to a number of our Hunt runners in the senior ranks. The final stages of preparation will see the squads take to the Memorial Park course this coming Wednesday to run the route and put in a timetrial over the course before the relays themselves on 4th February. Clarke and Dickins will be aiming for quick times.



*Jake Samuel*

So too will be rising star Jake Samuel (O UVI), who in his final year with the Hunt has emerged from the shadows as a key member of the squad. He ran a tactically astute race to come from outside the top 10 in the first lap to push through the field alongside fellow Upper Sixth Former Alex Shaw (Ch), another runner in terrific form at the moment. The pair made light work of catching the chasing pack, with the Hunt trio of Clarke, Dickins and Rogers well out in front. Seemingly gaining in confidence with every stride forward, Samuel had by the end of the race muscled his way into 4th position.

Not far off Rogers in the end, Shaw finished in 6th, unable to push past a stubborn Oundle runner who refused to grant the Hunt a clean sweep of the top five positions - spoil-sport! The Hunt's final counter was Charles Wade (PH LVI) in 13th; Wade's return to competition has seen some promising runs already this season.

A team score of 29 points was well clear of next best Oundle, with 95 points, and puts the Hunt into pole position in the lead. Rivals Welbeck will nervously read the results and realise the challenge has been laid down. Next week's fixture at Worksop could prove decisive.

*PJM*



# Monty Hardcastle wins victory in the Midlands Independent Schools' Cross-Country League

Tuesday 27 January 2015

*Ingramite Monty Hardcastle ran the race of his life on Sunday to claim victory in the second of the Midlands Independent Schools' Cross-Country League fixtures at Uppingham School.*



With the Hunt's Colts squad having earned a 5-point lead in the Midlands League standings following the first fixture the previous weekend at Welbeck College, the pressure was on to put in a second low score at Uppingham School, though this time round they would have to do it



without the Fifth Form who were involved in the A Level Options Fair at Shrewsbury. Step up Fourth Formers Monty Hardcastle (I) and Owen Mock (R).

Mock has begun to show form in the past week or two, following a sluggish start to the term, and in the opening lap of the 5km course he kept pace with the chasing pack of five, who trailed the leader from Bromsgrove School. A brave run from Mock saw him finish the race in 7th overall, improving from 25th the previous weekend.

However, the standout performance of the day came from fellow Fourth Former Monty Hardcastle, who the previous weekend had placed outside of the top 10 in 11th overall. At Uppingham, Hardcastle again looked to be placing outside of the top 10 in the opening lap of the course, but in the second lap he began his assault, making quick work of pushing into the top 5 and leaving Mock in his wake. From nowhere, suddenly a podium spot looked possible and with just a kilometre to go, Hardcastle had indeed soared through to 2nd, a staggering ascent through the positions.

The Bromsgrove runner still had a considerable lead, however, and whilst Hardcastle was powering up the hills and opening up his stride, the gap looked just too big at 50m. Even with just 200m to go (a sharp climb followed by a 50m sprint to the line) the gap was 10m. Yet Hardcastle - perhaps inspired by watching the documentary on Scottish athlete Lynsey Sharp Get Out Strong and Commit the previous day - didn't give up, and showing both power and determination his ascent up the hill saw him draw level with the leader. At that point we knew his speed would see him clinch the victory with a kick that Mo Farah would have been proud of!

It was an outstanding performance and possibly one of the most tactically astute performances I have seen from a junior athlete. The victory - by a slender 2m - had been timed to perfection. This is an athlete to watch out for, and as the only Fourth Former in our national relay squad pool of 15 runners, Hardcastle has staked his claim to getting a debut at the relays at the start of February, and will no doubt be a pivotal squad member for the Hunt in years to come.

You heard his name here first!





## Oldhamite Jake Samuel comes of age at Midlands Independent Schools' League

## James Hinwood wins Gold at West Midlands British Youth Fencing Championships

Tuesday 27 January 2015

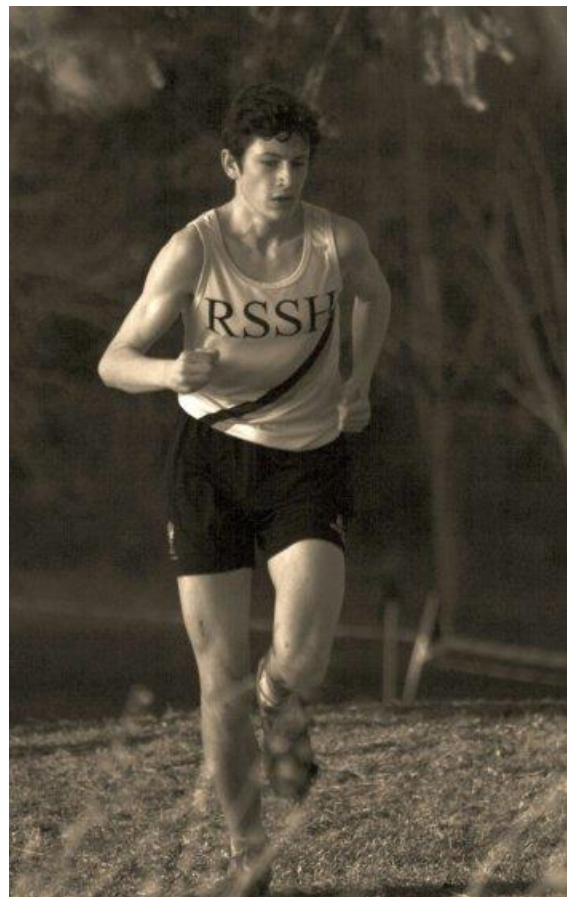
*In the opening weeks of term, many Hunt runners have shown their mettle and demonstrated considerable improvements. Amongst their number perhaps the most impressive progress has come from Upper Sixth Former Jake Samuel.*

In his final year in the Hunt's squads, Jake showed his form at our pre-season training camp in the Lake District and since then has gone from strength to strength, with a terrific run at the national Knole Run on 10th January, placing inside the top 100 (out of 350 runners) and showing considerable speed on the track during training.

At Saturday's Midlands League fixture at Uppingham School, Samuel's hard work paid dividends with a standout performance that must surely rank as one of the finest runs of his Hunt career.

Having only recently pushed himself into consideration for the top two squads within the club, over the course of the 7km course at Uppingham a new sense of belief began to shine through. During the second of the three laps, Samuel and fellow Upper Sixth Former Alex Shaw (Ch) pushed up through the positions from outside the top 10 and into the chasing pack (with Hunt runners Oscar Dickins, Theo Clarke and Charlie Rogers well out in front in the top three positions).

Into the final lap, Samuel pushed on suddenly, sensing that he could aim higher than just top 10. Indeed, as he brought the pace up and chased the flagging runners in front of him, his speed endurance kicked in and he was able to cross the line in 4th place (with Shaw two places behind in 6th), ensuring 1st-4th for the Hunt.



It will have been a big confidence run for Samuel as he aims to secure his place in the national relay squads at the start of February and certainly on this evidence, he will look to feature.  
PJM



## Theo Clarke (S) and Oscar Dickins (R) take victory at Independent Schools' Cross-Country League fixture at Uppingham

Tuesday 27 January 2015

*In the second of the Midlands Independent Schools' League fixtures at Uppingham School over the weekend, the Hunt's senior boys squad showed their dominance at this level, with their first five 'counters' coming home in the top six positions. Out in front, Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) and L6th former Oscar Dickins (R) ran a masterclass in distance running, steadily breaking the field in the opening lap of the 7km course and then pushing on effortlessly to establish an unassailable lead.*

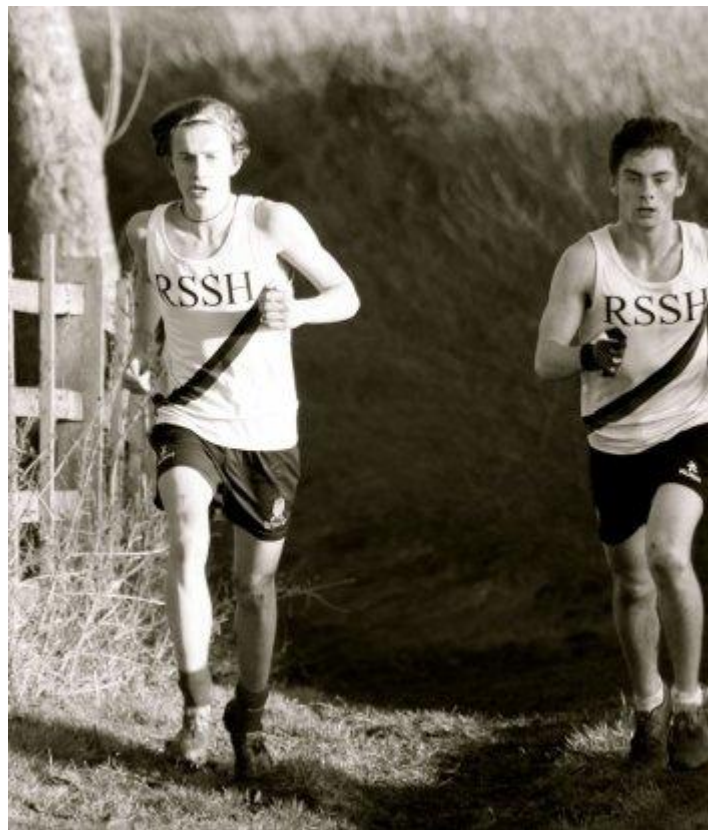
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Whilst they pushed the pace up in the final stages, in a spirit of sportsmanship and fraternity, they chose to cross the finish line together to share the 'kill' with Radbrook runner Charlie Rogers completing the podium for the Hunt a minute or so later.

All three will feature in the Hunt's national relay 'A' squad as they race in the Memorial Park in Coventry at the start of February for the famous KHVIII relays.

Certainly Saturday's race will have given confidence to a number of our Hunt runners in the senior ranks. The final stages of preparation will see the squads take to the Memorial Park course this coming Wednesday to run the route and put in a timetrial over the course before the relays themselves on 4th February. Clarke and Dickins will be aiming for quick times.

*PJM*





## RSSH impress in the Midlands Independent Schools' League

Tuesday 27 January 2015

*Following a robust start to the campaign at Welbeck College last weekend, the Hunt went into the second fixture at Uppingham on Saturday lying in second place in the Senior Girls competition and the Senior Boys and top of the standings in the Colts division.*



*L-R: Ben Henderson, Jake Samuel, Monty Hardcastle*

Monty Hardcastle (I) won the Colts race in outstanding fashion, coming from 11th on the final lap to win with a final sprint finish.

Despite missing all Fifth Form runners, many Third Formers 'stepped up' and ran brilliantly – in particular Ben Henderson (S). The Colts team therefore finished 2nd on the day to Bromsgrove, keeping it very tight at the top of the table; we are now just 3 points behind Bromsgrove.

The girls also put in some impressive performances with Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) finishing 3rd and the team overall finishing 2nd to Wrekin.





*Sally Joyce, Theo Clarke and Oscar Dickins*

The senior boys dominated the race, with Oscar Dickins (R) and our Huntsman Theo Clarke (S) crossing the line together in 1st place. Highlighting the strength of the team were Charlie Rogers (R) 3rd, Jake Samuel (O) 4th, Alex Shaw (Ch) 5th and Charles Wade (PH) 15th.

## From Eton to Everton

Wednesday 28 January 2015

### *A week in the life of Mr Barrett*

My life as a teacher at Shrewsbury School is rarely boring, with lessons in the classroom balanced against sports practices, my role as Assistant Housemaster in School House, and tutoring pupils in Fifth and Sixth Forms. However, my activities over the last week have been particularly wide-ranging, taking me, as they have, from the playing fields of Eton to The Shewsy in Everton.



### **Saturday, 17th January**

I head off at 8am with my overnight bag to meet the junior Fives players for a quick breakfast in KH before embarking on the coach for London, where Mr Cooley has organised two fixtures later today. The first sees the boys face a more experienced contingent of players at Highgate at lunchtime. This is always a difficult early season fixture, as our lads have only just started to learn about the game. But they always gain hugely from matching up against stronger pairs.

As I watch, I realise I had forgotten how frustrated I feel during this fixture, as almost every rally reveals mistakes which I will need to address in training over the coming weeks. I begin to wonder if we'll be ready in time for the National Championships in March... In fact I know we have some very good prospects this year, so even though we lose the fixture 4-0, I relax a little on the bus to Harrow where we are due to play another fixture at 4pm.

In this fixture the U14 pairs manage two wins and two losses, which is altogether more encouraging – for me, and for the boys! Still, they have enjoyed their matches, which is the main objective.

Another bus ride delivers us to the infamous Slough Travelodge. Pizza Express for dinner, then bed.

### **Sunday, 18th January**



*Eton College*



I always think I'll sleep well on trips away (without small children climbing into bed in the early hours), but the radiator is jammed on full power, frustrating my hopes. The regenerative power of a Travelodge breakfast improves my mood and energises the boys, who seem keen to do better than yesterday when we head off to Eton.

This is always a big fixture for the beginners; Eton are our main rivals and have been playing for a term already, so we usually find out what ground will need to be made up before the Nationals.

The top pair of Dan Humes and Joe Kynaston give a good account of themselves and the 5-12, 5-12, 3-12 scoreline does not reflect how close the match was. I am encouraged by what I have seen and let the boys know. The other matches were also lost. However, the experience of the three fixtures across two days will have been invaluable in the learning journey.

The bus journey back seems endless... I try marking but am too easily distracted by the film. I get home at 6.30pm, in time to put the girls to bed, have some dinner, then finish my marking and lesson-planning before bed.

## Monday, 19th January



A busy day means lots of rushing around. The need to photocopy reams of material before lessons means a quick prayer to “Kyocera”, the photocopying god, as I walk to into school. Fortunately my prayers are answers and all the copiers are available and working!

Morning lessons go well and then I have to attend a School Council meeting over lunch, where issues as wide-ranging as Sixth Form snacks and girls' sports are considered. Three afternoon lessons is strenuous, followed by more Fives coaching, which pleasingly proves that the boys who went away over the weekend had learned from the experience. I make a quick stop to see the Art Exhibition and head home for 6.30pm to put the girls to bed.

At 7.15pm I make a trip to School House to catch up with my Fifth Formers and check that they are responding to the trial exams by working harder during Top Schools. Mostly they are, and I



only have to give a couple of boys short shrift for their lacklustre mock results. Back home via the Third Place Curry House to arrange the Quod meal on Tuesday night, then marking and bed.



### Tuesday, 20th January

After getting the kids breakfast, I just make it in time for Chapel at 8.30am. I'm glad I did, as the hymn lifts my spirits and Mr Cooley speaks eloquently on the subject of knowledge.

I teach two double lessons and get work together for the lessons I will miss while I'm away at the Shewsy. Shrewsbury House (for those of you who are unfamiliar with it) is the youth club in Everton, Liverpool, which the School has been helping to support since two Shrewsbury teachers helped to set it up in 1903. Each year we send five residential trips to the Shewsy, so students in the Lower Sixth can learn more about what happens there and connect with the people who make it so valuable. This will be my first trip.





I pick up the bus at KH at 3pm and meet the group of five girls and six boys who have volunteered to go. There is an excited buzz of anticipation and trepidation as we set off into the unknown. When we arrive at about 5pm we are welcomed by Henry Corbett, the parish vicar and Warden of Shrewsbury House. He gives a brief introduction to the modern history of Liverpool and the area and talks about the role of the Shewsy in the community. Then we enjoy tea, unpack and head into Senior Club for 7pm.

As Liverpool are playing Chelsea at Anfield, many of the kids are out 'working', collecting bottles or selling programmes etc. But the few who remain size us up, before tentatively accepting us into their club. I end up playing a couple of frames of snooker with a quiet 14-year-old called Francis. He says he hasn't played in ages (nor have I), but he gives me a good match. At 9pm the whole group congregates in the hall for 'circle time', where we hear from a local man called Damien who fondly remembers his time at the club in the 1980s and his trips to Shrewsbury School. He also offers more practical advice to the Shewsy kids about careers in construction. The kids clear off at 9.45pm, we put on a film for the Shrewsbury pupils and there is time for an hour of marking before bed.

**Wednesday, 21st January**



At 8am Emily Skelton and Jake Morris appear to cook bacon and eggs for breakfast and the others emerge half an hour later. We are all fed and watered and ready to go by 9.30am and Henry meets us outside the club. I drive us around the area Henry has known throughout his adult life and he tells us stories about the people who live here and the events that have shaped the community. There seem to be so many plans to rejuvenate the area; for a parade of shops here, a cafe in Everton Park, a new supermarket and redeveloped housing. Henry also tells us about the community services that have been withdrawn following the austerity cuts of recent years. I begin to wonder what the implications of the next general election might be for this community. When we get to Anfield, we find the Hillsborough Memorial has been moved, which Henry is concerned about. He tells us about two people he knew through the Shewsy who died on that terrible day 25 years ago.

After the tour we leave Henry and head into Liverpool city centre for some free time. The pupils head off into town while I get coffee and visit the Maritime Museum with my partner for the trip, Adam Morris (an OS, who stepped in at the 11th hour to ensure the trip could go ahead). After meeting up with the kids, there is time for a quick lunch at Jamie's Restaurant before heading back to the Shewsy for Junior Club.



The younger kids are brimful of energy and enthusiasm when they meet us. Firm friendships are immediately established and the boys get some football practice! A short break at 5.30pm before tea. A quick trip to Asda with one of the Shewsy staff, Julie, who also works shifts at a children's home, to pick up some supplies. Then back for more football, table tennis and snooker with Francis and the rest of the Senior Club. The kids head off again at 9.45pm and there is time for a quick drink with Henry before bed.

## Thursday, 22nd January



### *Navigating the Mersey*

An early start today, as we must head to John Moores University to find out more about geography and business (the academic element of the trip). Phoebe Cormack and Charles Wade cook another good breakfast and everyone pitches in to clear up and ensure we leave on time. We meet a chap called John Wilson from the Liverpool Seamen's Mission, who has arranged the visit, and are looked after by Phil Russ who runs a business connected with maritime training and port planning consultancy. Unfortunately the first hour is basically a sales pitch for undergraduate courses in nautical science and merchant vessel operations (seeds which fall on stony ground), but the trip is rescued when we head down to the simulators. LJMU has three simulators they use to train their students and our pupils get to have a go at navigating the Mersey in a cargo vessel. After thanks we had back to the Shewsy for lunch.

In the afternoon we spend some time talking to Shewsy staff members, John and Duffy, who as kids benefitted directly from the existence of the Shewsy and who now dedicate their time to helping the next generation. They reveal their concerns about the prevalence of drugs in the area and the acute funding cuts which have been imposed by the local council, but also their hopes for a brighter future.

Then the walking bus arrives from the local primary school and the centre comes alive. By 5.30pm we're all exhausted. We have a buffet tea and a chat with Henry to reflect on our visit. Goodbyes are said and we head back to school with greater appreciation of the fortune we share in leading such privileged lives. I get home around 9.30pm and am asleep not long after!



## Friday, 23rd January

I get an early wake-up call from my middle daughter at 5.30am, which I could do without, and I lie in bed thinking about what I need to get done before the impending Coach Weekend.

Lessons whizz by as I catch up with what the pupils have been working on in my absence. I manage to get an hour at home for lunch with my wife, which is welcome, then Fives training at 3pm before Lower Sixth Business Studies and a graveyard shift in the final lesson with my Fourth Form PHSE set. We have a good discussion about legal highs, as part of the drugs topics we have been covering recently, and I feel it has been a really useful lesson.

After a quick bite to eat, I help get my girls to bed and head into School House for the evening to do my weekly duty. This is the part of the week I usually enjoy most and it is good to catch up with the goings on in the House since I've been away. Will Street, who was in Liverpool with me, explains what the Shewsy is all about in Dix and a few of the current Lower Sixth ask how they can sign up for the next trip.

Thankfully it is a quiet night. (I expect the boys are just as much in need of the Coach Weekend as I am!) All the lights are out by 11.30pm and after a quick check, I head home.

*MWDB*



## Shrewsbury's Head Chef and Commis Chef scoop top awards at National Graduation Ceremony

Thursday 29 January 2015

*Shrewsbury School's Head Chef Mark Johnson and Commis Chef Zoe Bradshaw had the rare opportunity to swap their chef whites and safety shoes for smart evening wear, glitz and glamour on Monday 26th January. The occasion? The prestigious BaxterStorey Chef Academy Graduation Ceremony, held at 30 Euston Square in London, where Zoe not only received her official Chef Academy graduation certificate but also discovered she had been awarded the top prize. Much to his surprise, Mark found he had been given a top award too.*



Zoe, widely regarded by Holroyd Howe as one of their “rising stars”, has produced a phenomenal amount of course work over the last 12 months as part of her chef training. Some of it was recently displayed on a large notice board in the passageway near the Batchelors’ Dining Room in Kingsland House for all to see. Her enthusiasm and dedication has known no bounds (she has also been studying for a Level 3 NVQ at the same time as her chef’s qualification), so it was no surprise to the rest of the team in KH to learn that she had been nominated for an award. In fact, she went on to receive the top prestigious “Spirit Award”, much to the delight of



Shrewsbury's Head Chef Mark Johnson and Sous Chef Helen Prevett, who also attended the ceremony.



*Zoe with her coursework folders*

The Spirit Award is given to the top graduate in the Academy programme each year and Zoe managed to beat off competition from over 30 other graduates from around the country to win the prize, which includes a day working with Michelin Starred Chef of the Year Alyn Williams at his Westbury Restaurant in Mayfair.

Mark Johnson, who has been Zoe's mentor and trainer during her time with the Academy, commented: "Her determination has been outstanding. All of the hard work that she put into this last year was phenomenal and I can honestly say that she has been a model student. I am very humbled and proud of her achievement. And for her to scoop a top award – what else could one possibly ask for!"

The excitement, however, did not stop there because out of the blue, Mark was himself presented with the "Trainer of the Year" award for the work and support that he had put in whilst mentoring Zoe!

All of the hard work that Zoe has produced over the last few years has resulted in her promotion to the role of Team Leader in the kitchen here at Shrewsbury School. This is a challenging role that will enable her to grow, but with the support of Mark, Helen and the rest of the amazing team, we are certain that Zoe's star will continue to rise.

*Carrie Zeiler*



## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 30 January 2015

*This week, the Rugby 1st XV...*



Before I begin to discuss the exploits of our senior rugby side, I must issue an apology to my loyal reader for the absence of an article last week. Sorry Mum, but I was entreated by the Foreign Office and the School Governors to visit Malaysia to ensure that democracy was in rude health and do something about it if it were not.

The Bursar (*pictured right*) was particularly pleased to hear upon my return that no action was required.

I was, however, shocked to hear that the Malaysian Prime Minister was an Old Malvernian! I did point out to those I met that had he been an Old Salopian, the Malaysian economy would undoubtedly be in better shape.

I would like to thank the accounts team here at Shrewsbury for entrusting me with large amounts of school cash. I of course used it sparingly and wisely, hence their smiling faces when I returned with a profit!





*The Accounts Dream-Team*

Of course working in such a professional environment as Shrewsbury School, there is never any jealousy expressed towards someone who has just spent four days in temperatures of just about 30°C. With temperatures here hovering around zero, Mrs Warburg thought it would be a 'good idea' for me to spend the afternoon watching the 1st XV play against the mighty Hartpury from deepest darkest Gloucestershire.



I arrived on the touchline to find that Shrewsbury were already in the ascendancy and their powerful display was warming the cockles of the crowd's hearts. "I am feeling quite warm actually," Mrs Birt (*pictured right*) told me. But then she was wearing a very furry hat. Mrs



Schofield was also wearing a very warm and furry hat but she did not tell me whether she was warm or not. I think she may have been warmer than myself, as I had forgotten my hat and my natural covering has diminished to such an extent that every hailstone leaves its mark.

Such was the cold, there were fewer Shrewsbury pupils watching than usual. Mimi Hawley-Green was doing a good job of psychologically boosting the confidence of super-subbs Harry Schofield and Ladi Okusanya. "I am working closely with the coaching team to help inspire our subs," she told me. "These two boys do not often find themselves talking to girls as they are very shy and retiring. I am prepared to help them realise that they can talk politely to girls and this will boost their all round confidence making them more effective on the pitch." Mimi confessed she found rugby aesthetically pleasing. "I find rugby aesthetically pleasing," she told me.



Another spectator was Hamish Partington who has recently become temporarily wheelchair bound as he was squashed by some 'fat guy' in a recent match. Hamish's injury reminded me why I have always appreciated the game from the touchline and why I have great admiration for the courage and bravery on display. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Having enjoyed watching the Shrewsbury team romp to a 50-7 victory, it was time to catch up with a few players after the game. Sam Mitchell told me that although he enjoyed rugby, it was not quite as much fun as an RS lesson. Rory Free told me he was cold but that he loves rugby almost as much as painting. "I am an expressionist and rugby fulfils my need to express sides of my personality that I find it hard to transfer on to canvas."





Everyone else was too cold to speak and so I felt compelled to follow coaches Sean Perry and Duncan Kirkby to the staff bar to eat chips, sip a Peroni and pick over the bones of what we had just witnessed.

Sean Perry was delighted to see the boys enjoying their rugby and making progress. A recent win against Wrekin after two defeats to them last term suggests that the team are moving in the right direction. “It is important to be moving in the right direction,” he told me, adding, “I would like to become a bus driver if it meant I could help the team move further in the right direction.” (I encouraged him to pursue this interest as it is always important to have a plan B in case results do not continue to be so positive!) Duncan Kirkby already has an HGV licence.



*Sean Perry and Duncan Kirkby*

Sean felt that the arrival of new players this term has boosted the squad and added competition for places. Captain Charlie Adams has returned from a broken wrist caused by a fall from his

bike whilst admiring the view, and a number of footballers are enjoying a chance to use their hands this term.



*Roan Kirkby*

I asked Hartpury coaches Leila Abedrabi and Ryan Wilden how they felt the game had gone. They bemoaned the fact that none of their team listened. Sean Perry was quick to agree with that sentiment and suggested that great satisfaction can be gleaned from a moment in a game when it is clear the players have taken on board his advice. A young man whose game continues to improve is scrum-half and vice-captain Roan Kirkby, who claims he continues to listen to the wise advice of his father and fellow coach, brother Guy. “I continue to listen to their advice for several hours a day. I have no choice; I live with them,” he told me.

Both the Shrewsbury coaches were very pleased with the afternoon’s work and I sensed a very happy camp. The emphasis is on enjoyment and teaching the Shrewsbury lads to become better players. “Above all,” Sean told me, “we want the boys to carry on playing the game after they have left and getting enjoyment from the sport.”

It seems rugby at Shrewsbury is in safe hands – as long as the hands are well away from the wheel of a large coach!



## The 1st XV

1. Tom Bibb
2. Charlie Adams(Capt)
3. Alexander Goode
4. George Lechmere
5. Billy McHale
6. Rufus Litchfield
7. Sam Mitchell
8. Samuel Hill
9. Roan Kirkby(Vice-Capt)
10. George Birt
11. James Plaut
12. Ben Smith
13. Max McClure
14. Thomas Barthen
15. Nicholas Pearce
16. John Dempsey
17. Leo Sartain
18. Kit Crabtree
19. Henry Craig
20. Tim van der Hoeven
21. Oladipo Okusanya





## Prep School Big Band Day

Friday 30 January 2015

*We were delighted to welcome nearly 80 keen and talented young musicians from Birchfield, Packwood Haugh, Prestfelde, Shrewsbury High Prep and Winterfold Schools for a loud and fun-filled day of quality music-making at Shrewsbury School's Prep School Big Band Day on Friday 23rd January.*



They began their day with an improvisation workshop led by Director of Music John Moore. With Mr Moore on piano and Brooke Plumptre (SH UVI) on drums, the children had fun learning the art of playing by ear and creating their own music – five of them even volunteering for a turn in the spotlight with some very impressive solo improvisations .

After lunch – when the huge spread of food on offer caused huge excitement and an unofficial competition to see just how much it was possible to eat in half an hour – the children headed to the Maidment Auditorium for a concert given by current pupils at Shrewsbury School. Part of the School's regular series of Friday lunchtime concerts, the programme ranged from songs from the shows to a movement from Neruda's Trumpet Concerto performed by Henry Thomas (Ch LVI). It was rounded off with a dazzling performance of Rachmaninov's Tableau Etude Op. 39 by Galin Ganchev (M UVI), who has just been awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in September.

The children then joined members of Shrewsbury's Big Band in the Alington Hall for a workshop that included the Theme from 'Mission Impossible', *Thriller*, *St Thomas* and *Puttin' on the Ritz*.





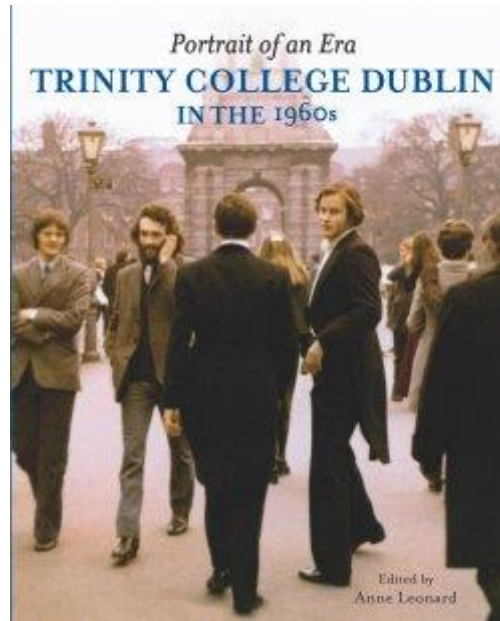
“I was really impressed with the standard of the children’s Big Band playing and understanding of the music,” said Head of Wind, Maria McKenzie, who led the workshop. “In the space of just an hour and 15 minutes, the children learned four really quite challenging pieces and managed dynamics, jazz articulations and swing. And it was great to have enough keen children to improvise over the top too.”

At the end of the day, the children had the chance to perform their newly learned repertoire to their parents in a Concert Finale. "Parental feedback was that they were amazed at how much they had achieved in such a short amount of time," said Mrs McKenzie. "And we hope that by giving the children a chance to hear Shrewsbury's Big Band playing some of their numbers too, they will have left feeling full of musical inspiration."

Shrewsbury's Big Band have recently won through to the finals of the National Concert Band Festival, which take place in Manchester in April.

## New Book: Portrait of an Era - Trinity College Dublin in the 1960's Edited by Anne Leonard

Friday 30 January 2015



This handsome hardback book containing 207 pages of high quality photographs, in both colour and black & white, shows Trinity College Dublin during The Golden Era when TCD was still 'small enough to be a college yet large enough to be a university'.

The book came into being as the result an idea formulated between the editor, Anne Leonard, and Salopians Charles Edwards (Riggs 1955-60) and Daniel Corbett (Ingrams 1955-60), who sponsored the publication.

It describes a time when everybody knew each other and the entire student body fitted easily into the beautiful Georgian buildings, situated in the very heart of Dublin. Taken by the undergraduates themselves, the scenes - within the precincts, around Dublin, at the races or in country houses - with fascinating anecdotes and memories - illustrate why it was such a privilege to be at Trinity in those days and some of the reasons why the experience would never be forgotten by those people lucky enough to 'have been there'.



## Old Salopian Dinner at the Chester City Club

Friday 30 January 2015

*A new event for this year - a Chester Club Dinner - was a great success.*



The Chester City Club provided a magnificent backdrop to the Old Salopian Chester Dinner which filled the dining room to full capacity. After a word of welcome from Nick Jenkins (M 74-78), the President of the Chester City Club and organiser of the event, over 40 Old Salopians (including the President of the Salopian Club, Sir Eldryd Parry (SH 44-48), the Chairman, Peter Stewart (CH 58-63), and the Headmaster, Mark Turner) enjoyed a gastronomic feast cooked and served by the Club staff. The toast to the Salopian Club was proposed by John Evans, the sole Carthusian present, who revelled in his role of Daniel in the Lions' Den, and the reply was given by the Headmaster who updated those present on current events at the School, as well as engaging in some light-hearted banter about Salopian/Carthusian rivalry.



# Cricket: Taylor leads England into ODI Final

Friday 30 January 2015

*Salopian James Taylor (R 2003-08) has been named England's Man of the Match in a thrilling one-day international win against India, which takes England into the ODI tri-series final against Australia.*



Batting at number 3, James Taylor was England's top-scorer, making 82 runs.

When Joe Buttler joined Taylor at the crease, England had slumped to 66-5, chasing India's total of 200. Together they put on 125, with Buttler making 67.

Speaking after being named Man of the Match, Taylor said, "I am delighted with the win and to reach the final against Australia, but credit to Jos Buttler, what a fantastic innings from him. I've been waiting in the wings for a few years to get my opportunity and hopefully today I showed what I can do. I knew if I was there at the end, we'd be there or thereabouts. Jos managed to stay with me to help us along. I'm so glad we got over the line at the end after a tough challenge."

*Congratulations to Third Former James Hinwood (Rt) who won a gold medal in the Under-14 Boys' Epée at the West Midlands British Youth Qualifiers on Sunday. He will now go forward to the National Finals to be held in Sheffield on the 2nd – 4th May.*

Held at Packwood Haugh School on Sunday 25th January, the West Midlands British Youth Championship Qualifiers Epée attracted fencers from schools and colleges from throughout the region.

Shrewsbury's Fencing Coach Ken Holding said that of James that he had given a display of excellent fencing. "Composed and totally focused, he is a born épéist."

The following weekend, Scott Reynolds (Rb LVI) won Bronze in the Under-18 Boys' Foil and Marco Lo (SH IV) won Bronze in the Under-16 Foil competition. They have also both qualified for the National Finals in May.



## Official boat-naming ceremony for RSSBC's new Empacher VIII

Friday 30 January 2015



In Norse mythology, Mjøltnir is the hammer of the god Thor, with which he slaughters his foes. Now equipped with a state-of-the-art German-built boat of that name, the current 1st VIII will have similar hopes.



This latest acquisition to the Boat Club was only possible because of the generosity of Carl Diderik and Cathrine Cappelen, parents of Ulrik (Rt UVI). On Wednesday 21st January a boat-naming ceremony took place in the presence of School crews, coaches and members of the Sabrina Club.

After short speeches by the Headmaster, Director of Rowing Athol Hundermark and Carl Diderik Cappelen, the boat was appropriately christened with champagne by Cathrine Cappelen.

Athol Hundermark expressed the sense of gratitude felt by the whole Boat Club. "This boat is a fantastic addition to the fleet, and in turn it will free up other equipment to the benefit of all the age groups."