

Cricket: U14A XI are county champions

Monday 1 July 2013

Wrekin College hosted the Shropshire final of the ESCA/ECB National Schools U14 Competition against visitors Shrewsbury School. Wrekin won the toss and elected to bat first in the 30 overs a side final. An excellent innings of 50 from Wrekin captain Dillon Pennington and good support from Ed Hall 25, Henry Davies 23 and Steve McCartney enabled the hosts to total a competitive 134-7. Josh Malyon 2 for 18 returned the best bowling figures and he was well supported by the Shrewsbury spinners.

Shrewsbury got away to a quick start from Midlands U15 triallists Charlie Home 70* and George Hargrave 31, but the Wrekin off-spinners Davies 2-18 and McCartney bowled well in tandem to slow the scoring rate and it was not until the penultimate over that Shrewsbury succeeded in reaching their target.

The winners' trophy and medals were presented by Adam Shantry, the former Northants, Warwickshire and Glamorgan seam bowler. Shrewsbury will now represent Shropshire in the National rounds of the competition next summer.



*Back row l-r: Dan Orchard, Ollie Dixon, George Chaplin, Josh Malyon, Pat Jacob
Front row l-r: Marcus Bruce, Harry Gergson, Charlie Home (capt), Joe Thevathasan, George Hargrave, Angus Drummond*



Busy final few weeks in Rigg's

Tuesday 2 July 2013



Ed Hemmings hits another boundary

With the second half of the summer term only lasting a mere four weeks, the end of term was always going to arrive quickly, and trying to cram in a multitude of activities and festivities meant that there was hardly time to catch breath! On the sporting front, our Third and Fourth Form were in action on the cricket field, reaching the A Leagues final for the second year running. Whilst beaten by a strong Port Hill outfit, the future looks promising with a young side hoping to go one better next year.

In the 3rd Annual Sidney-Darwin Dash and Quarter-Mile Challenge held on Central, Rigg's were once again at the fore, not surprisingly given that they had earlier in the term been crowned Inter-House Athletics Champions. There were medals for Nick Douglas and Harry Tomkinson in the Senior Sprint (2nd and 3rd respectively), with Nick's younger brother Arthur taking bronze in the Junior Dash. Oscar Dickins - normally a distance man - hung on for a bronze in the

Junior Quarter-Mile amidst some challenging competition.

The penultimate weekend of term was a busy social occasion, with our New Boys' Lunch on the same day as our evening Leavers' Supper. We were delighted that former Rigg's Housemaster MAJM was able to attend, traveling down from his new post at Stonyhurst College. The evening was an extremely pleasant one, and an opportunity to reflect on the past five years for the boys here at Shrewsbury and in Rigg's. It was poignant to be sitting down to dinner with our leavers just hours after having welcomed those new boys who will be replacing them and embarking upon their own Salopian journey shortly.

The small matter of the Shrewsbury marathon followed the next morning, though the boys in Rigg's were more sensible than their Housemaster so didn't involve themselves, though plenty came out to support. Will Hayward in the Third Form (who is himself one of the School's most talented prospects in the Hunt) was, however, a key member of PJM's support team, positioning himself by the toll bridge to supply his Housemaster with water, gels, and words of encouragement over the course of the four laps. Perhaps he too may one day take to the startline of the Shrewsbury marathon...

Into the final week with the U6th all away sunning themselves in Magaluf, there was a trip for the rest of us to see the Junior play 'Lord of the Flies', haircuts from Amber on Wednesday night, and a whole-house curry at Cafe Saffron on the Thursday night. The boys eagerly took up the challenge of the restaurant owner to try his hottest 'Naga' curry, which thankfully resulted in no fatalities. The Third Form did a splendid job of racking up the bill with their prolific drinking of coke (which we only later found out were coming in at £3.15 a pint!) causing Mrs B to splutter over her Baileys when she saw the pummelling the House accounts were going to take.



The highlight of the week, however, had to be the annual Bumps races, where Rigg's have been a dominant presence over the years, not surprisingly given the history and tradition of the House in rowing, with an Olympic gold medalist amongst its Old Boys. Having last year bumped up in division 2 to secure a 'clean sweep' across all three divisions, the challenge was this year to retain our positions. With two of our top rowers away with the 1st VIII at Henley (House Captain of Rowing Judah Rand and Will Angell-James), it was going to be up to some of our younger rowers to put up the defence, knowing that the other houses were baying for our blood, and with the seers and bookmakers down at the Boat House all suggesting that Rigg's wouldn't hold on to Head of the River this year with a strong Moser's outfit looking to take top spot for the first time in decades.

Day one of the racing went to plan, with all three crews rowing over, something of a relief given that Hugo Morgan was out of school with sub-aqua and not able to take his seat in our top boat. Nevertheless, all boats looked strong, and we were particularly pleased to see our young Third Formers looking so powerful in their first ever Bumps. With three of the year group in the J14 As (Harris Huntsman, Robert Hartwell, and Bentley Moss) and Jacob Rand in the Bs but having taken a bronze medal at the National Indoor Rowing Championships, the future looks very promising indeed for Rigg's rowing, much to the chagrin of the other Housemasters!

Day Two was a particularly tense one given that there were two rounds of racing, and stamina was going to be tested. In Division One, Moser's launched a furious attack in the first race of the day, coming within inches (literally!) of a bump, but our crew held on firm. The boat was in fact the exact same crew as our famed Division Two crew from the previous year (Elliot Robinson-Boulton; Hugo Morgan; George Patterson and Charlie Johnston) who had made that inspirational bump on the final day of racing last year to overhaul Churchill's to take top spot in Division Two. Whilst perhaps lacking the bulk and power of other crews, they more than make up for it in technique and, more importantly in my book, passion, fight and drive. These boys will give it their all for the House, and will fight to the death in their Chocolate & Gold vests. This was exactly the reason why they were put in the top boat, and why their Housemaster could so confidently declare to all who would hear him that Rigg's would not be beaten at the Head of the River. We believed in ourselves, and knew that these lads would leave nothing on the water.

In the final day of racing on Speech Day, they had to do just that, with Moser's once again powering towards our boat with alarming speed. In front of a large crowd by the Boat Club tensions were running high, but as the final sweep of the river took the boats towards Suspension Bridge, and with almost the entire Third Form in Rigg's running with PJM along the bank cheering them on, the Rigg's crew pulled clear to take the win, thus retaining Head of The River for the fifth year in succession. It was once again surely one of the highlights of the year for Rigg's, and we were thrilled to pick up this trophy, along with the Bumps Cup for the most points secured in the competition (44 out of a maximum 48), and the Leadbitter Cup which is the overall Inter-House rowing trophy that awards points across all the rowing competitions through the year.



*The triumphant Division One crew who retained the Head of the River title
l-r Rigg's Housemaster PJM; Charlie Johnston; George Patterson; Hugo Morgan; Elliot Robinson-Boulton;
Jack Kinnaird (cox)*

We were also delighted to retain top spot in Division Three, although we were cruelly denied retaining top spot in Division Two by Ridgemount, who had rather unsportingly fielded one of their strongest rowers in their second boat, which unsurprisingly led to a much faster boat. Our lads were furious, but at least we know the moral victory was ours! Later that evening at the Leavers Ball, the Ridgemount Housemaster kept a low profile, avoiding his disgruntled counterpart in Rigg's, thus avoiding the inevitable Pistols at Dawn on Central.



The traditional celebratory swim!

The new Speech Day format provided a fitting close to the term and indeed the year, with glorious sunshine providing an appropriate backdrop to the final few hours. The boys departed for their long summer break in good spirits, and we wish them well until their return.

PJM





Cricket: Shrewsbury 1st XI win on the first day of the Silk Trophy

Tuesday 2 July 2013

After an excellent last week of term where the 1st XI reached the finals day of the HMC Schools' National Twenty20 and the Under 17s won through to the final of the national competition for their age group, the 1st XI have now moved on to Eton to compete in the Silk Trophy.

The Silk Trophy is probably the most prestigious of post-season schools' festivals and was inaugurated by Dennis Silk, former Warden of Radley and MCC President. Three English schools (Eton, Oundle and ourselves) and one overseas school, alternating between South Africa and Australia, compete annually.

On Monday, Shrewsbury took on Oundle on a warm but breezy day on Agars Plough, Eton's second ground. On a pitch that could best be described as challenging, Shrewsbury batted first after winning the toss. George Lewis and Joe Carrasco started slowly against the new ball, playing and missing often against some variable bounce.

George Lewis was the first batsman to fall, with the score on 78 in the 20th over for a well-crafted 32. Ed Pollock could not live up to his Speech Day innings and was soon out, despite getting off the mark with his 48th six of the season.

Will Cook found the going easier and was unlucky to be caught three short of his half-century. Meanwhile Joe Carrasco was quietly gathering runs at the other end and brought up his century, his third for Shrewsbury, after three hours at the crease. Having reached three figures, Joe was promptly out caught but nevertheless had batted well in testing conditions.

Shrewsbury eventually finished on 259/7 having lost a few cheap wickets in the pursuit of quick runs at the end of the innings.

Oundle started confidently and belied their earlier season form when they struggled to win many matches. Their batsmen profited from dropped catches and some wayward bowling from the Shrewsbury frontline bowlers. The introduction of Charlie White saw Oundle bring up the hundred for the loss of no wickets. However his record of breaking partnerships was maintained as he took the first wicket with a catch in the covers. He went on to finish with 3-30 from 7 overs.

Wickets then started to tumble at regular intervals, hastened by the introduction of Ed Pollock into the attack. The Oundle batsmen seemed like rabbits trapped in the headlights as they were mesmerised by the part-time spinners' flight and guile. Ed finish with remarkable figures of 6-18 from 4.2 overs, the best by a Shrewsbury bowler this year.

Oundle eventually finished on 177 all out, with Shrewsbury running out victors by 82 runs. In the other game, Eton were beaten by 5 wickets by St Peter's, Adelaide after posting 225.

Shrewsbury will have to play at their best on Tuesday if they are to beat their Australian opponents, who look a very useful and well organised outfit.



Shrewsbury maintain their winning run at the Silk Trophy

Wednesday 3 July 2013

Shrewsbury played St Peter's, Adelaide in the second match of the Silk Trophy on Tuesday. The visitors won the toss and decided to bat on a pitch that had been used yesterday and Shrewsbury knew would turn. Shrewsbury bought back Panayi and Kidson, who were rested on Monday, for Doyle and Flowers.

The South Australians looked to play positively from the start and their openers were perplexed by skipper Henry Blofield's decision to open the bowling with a left-arm spinner. The first wicket to fall however was to George Panayi, who bowled with pace and plenty of passion in a fiery opening spell that had the Aussie batsmen jumping around. He picked up the St Peter's captain caught behind in what was to be the first of Bertie Milligan-Manby's five victims behind the stumps. Charlie Farquhar soon got in on the action having their dangerous left-handed opener caught at short leg by Ed Pollock. The St Peter's batsmen were finding the Shrewsbury bowlers too hot handle and lost two more wickets before they reached 30.

When George Panayi was rested after bowling his allotted overs, skipper Henry Blofield introduced himself in to the attack and further mesmerised the Australians. In his ten overs, he returned remarkable figures of 10 overs, 3 maidens, 9 runs for 4 wickets. His wizardry combined with the artistry of Milligan-Manby behind the stumps saw St Peter's slump to 68/8.

The tail batted with more resolve and the last two wickets added nearly 60 runs as Shrewsbury used eight bowlers in total to try and get a breakthrough. St Peter's were finally all out in the 48th over for just 126; George Panayi picking up 3/38 and Charlie Farquhar 2/22.

Buoyed by their success in the field, Shrewsbury were confident of a win. However, the St Peter's bowlers had other ideas. With attacking fields, the opening pair of George Lewis and Joe Carrasco were faced with probably the most hostile attack they had encountered this season.

Joe went from hero to zero in 24 hours as he was out caught at cover off his first ball, having recorded the first century of the festival the previous day. However, his opening partner batted with more resolve and held the innings together while others around him struggled. Cook and Blofield made useful contributions of 10 and 17 respectively and at 99/4 Shrewsbury looked odds on for an easy win.

However, the Australians had other ideas and 99/4 quickly became 100/6 as first George Lewis departed for a gritty 54, scored in very challenging conditions and then Charlie White departed to a direct hit, going for a quick single. Matt Gregson steadied the ship but then chipped a ball to mid-on before George Panayi departed two balls later caught at 2nd slip. With the score at 120/8, all three results were possible, but the old heads of the two Charlies - Kidson and Farquhar - saw Shrewsbury home by two wickets, albeit aided by some eccentric field placings by the St Peter's captain.

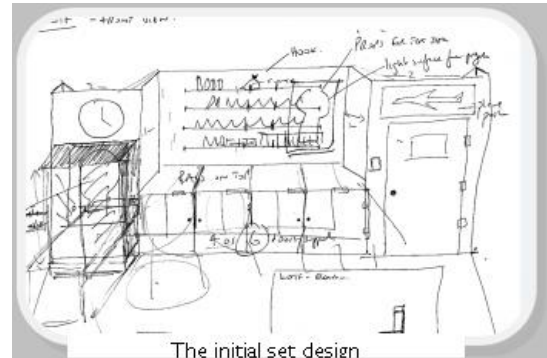
The last game will be against Eton, with Shrewsbury slight favourites for the festival title as they are the only side with a 100% record so far. Eton beat Oundle in the other fixture by 97 runs.

'How did they do that....?' Behind the scenes of the Junior School Play with Production Manager Alex Davies

Wednesday 3 July 2013

This year's Junior School Play has involved one of the most challenging sets I have had to construct and work with. From the moment I spoke to Director of Drama Brian Parsons about his initial ideas for Lord of the Flies and the set that would have to be constructed, I knew it would be an interesting one to work with, and a lot of fun for the lighting and sound designers.

The play was staged in a classroom, which in itself was a relatively simple set to construct. The more complicated parts were all the moving features that Brian wanted. These included a cabinet at the back of the set that could fold out, double in size, and act as a 4 x 2-metre raised acting area, a set of shelves that could be quickly grabbed off the back wall and used to make a fire pit, and a cupboard that could be turned into a step and could bear the weight of several actors. They all took a lot of planning, measuring and precise design for them to work successfully.



The initial set design



The set under construction; and in performance

One interesting part of the set was having two locations where the actors built a campfire. To make this look as realistic as possible, we decided that we should run smoke to each fire and put lighting underneath. This involved building two 1 x 1-metre stage risers out of wood, drilling holes through them where the fire would be, running a series of ducting pipes underneath the stage from the smoke machine location to each fire, then putting an LED lighting fixture underneath each riser. A smoke machine was set up backstage, and Harry could then swap between each pipe to send smoke to the required fire.

Brian also wanted to project a moving image of the moon onto the classroom clock during the night scenes in the play. This would create a very striking image and would work well if done properly. To achieve this, I had to work



The smoke controller

out the best projection angle and position to hang the projector. Once this was done, I had some help from a local company called MicroVideo to edit the video and crop it to fit the clock exactly. Having the moving image with clouds running over the moon created a much better effect than a still image and worked very well in the end.

Lighting

Lighting for this production was designed by Andrew Humpish. He started by attending rehearsals and talking to Brian Parsons, building up an idea of what the play was about and what lighting effects could be used to enhance the mood of certain scenes, or any special effects that could be used. He then started to think about how he would make this work. In order to set up all the effects, Andrew had to come up with a lighting rig plan. This is a drawing which details the position and type of each lighting fixture, and how it should be set up. The lighting could then be rigged, cabled and set up with the lighting desk.



The next stage was to sit down with Brian in rehearsals and start to build 'looks' or 'states'. Andrew programmed lighting for each scene, each change over, and every effect that was used throughout the production. All of this programming was stored in the lighting desk, so that all Ivan had to do during the performances was click a trigger cue, to cycle through the various lighting scenes Andrew had programmed for each scene.

The technical crew

Throughout the past few months in the run up to the production, and during the production week itself, I have received help in many different ways from a lot of people. I would like to thank the following for their involvement in the play:

Brian Parsons: Deputy Stage Manager

As well as directing the play, Brian has also stepped in to take on the role of Deputy Stage manager during the shows. This has involved giving cues to sound, lighting, projection and smoke, keeping track of the script and keeping everything running smoothly.

William Allott (Ch V): Technical Manager

Will has been in charge of tying all technical aspects to the show together. Looking over the lighting, projection, sound and staging, Will has had to keep track of what is going on in each area. Will has also helped Brian to create the master script for cueing the show, as well as sourcing and programming all sound effects and helping to decorate the set.

Andrew Humpish (SH LVI): Lighting Designer

Having been involved in lighting many of the shows in the Ashton Theatre, Andrew has had the task of designing and programming the lighting for the show. This has involved various stages of design, rigging, programming, and overseeing operation of the desk.

Ivan Shishkarev (SH 3): Lighting Operator

New to the technical side of productions in the Ashton, Ivan has had the responsibility of operating the lighting during the rehearsals and shows. Being shown how to use the equipment by Andrew, Ivan has picked it up very fast and has managed the role successfully.

Harry Marshall (SH 3) - Atmospherics/Backstage

Like Ivan, Harry is also a newcomer to the theatre from School House. Harry has been operating the Haze effects which supply the smoke streams to both "campfires" on the set. Harry has also been involved in the backstage aspects of the show, helping with the organisation of props and set.

Greg Bunting (Rb V) - Sound/Projection Operator

Taking on the same role as he did for 'The Arsonists', Greg has been in charge of operating all of the sound effects and projection for the show. He has taken his cues from Brian and made sure it was all working correctly.

I would also like to thank:

Jacob Lloyd - for helping Brian by co-directing the play

Charlie Gillow (Ch V) - for helping decorate the set, developing ideas, and help with Front of House

Andrew Spicer (M LVI) - for taking photos of rehearsals

Grace Woo - for helping out with Front of House

Carpenters John Butler, Tony Williams and Steve Quinn for helping to build various parts of the set, supply timber and other parts of the set, as well as offering carpentry advice when needed.

Charles Denscombe, Heather Denscombe and Charlie Battson from MicroVideo for hiring two Macbooks, supplying AV equipment, helping out with projection and filming the show.

Alex Davies



Henley Royal Regatta, 3rd July 2013

Thursday 4 July 2013

The first day of the Henley Royal Regatta dawned grey and drizzly, although the spectators gathered for this most English of social occasions added a welcome splash of colour along the banks of the river Thames. The Queen's barge, *Gloriana*, moored alongside the famous Leander Rowing Club added to the sense of occasion and was much admired by the crowd gathered in the Stewards Enclosure.

At 10.40am the Shrewsbury 1st VIII set off down the course against a strong King's College Wimbledon. For the first half of the race, the Shrewsbury crew maintained a good rhythm, built a short lead of half a length against their opponents. As the race entered the last 300 metres the King's VIII, slightly ahead at this point, put in a mighty effort and surged ahead of the Shrewsbury boat, opening up a length lead and by the finish this had extended to one and a half lengths. The time of 6 minutes 43 seconds was the quickest of the day at that point for a junior crew.

A lunch, hosted by the School, was held on the Henley Cricket Ground and approximately 80 parents, staff and a few Old Salopians joined the crew to commiserate. By this stage the temperature had begun to rise, although the sun remained obstinately invisible behind low glowering cloud. Despite this being the last race in Shrewsbury colours for half of the crew, the mood lightened as the champagne flowed and the boys realised that the summer holidays beckon - there is life after rowing!

So another rowing campaign is over for the RSSBC and despite the disappointment at Henley, the Boat Club can reflect on many successes across various age groups, individual success at national level and the promise of better things to come during the next few years.

ADMB



'Putting on the glad rags'...Organising the Leavers' Ball 2013 by Toby Percival

Thursday 4 July 2013

Organisation for the Leavers' Ball really starts in September, when Sara Hankin, Dawn Dunn and I sit down to have a 'wash up' of the previous ball. The format has worked pretty well for the last few years, but there are always a few tweaks needed. A Parents' Committee is elected/co-erced in January, who offer invaluable help in ideas, table planning and setting up the marquee.

I have some experience of running large events, having been President of my May Ball Committee whilst at Cambridge, though the complexities of fitting in a ball for 500 Salopians and their parents into the hectic Speech Day programme has its own challenges that are responsible for my receding hair line. I also agreed to tread the boards in the Junior School play this year, which makes things all the more hectic!

The first visible signs of the Ball appear when the marquee goes up on Central on Monday – a meeting with Andy, who runs the marquee company, sees us move some of the sections around.

On Friday, the army of mothers descend on the marquee, along with Jules and Diane from Chillie Breeze, who are supplying the decorations. Laying 45 tables, folding 500 napkins and setting up the rest of the marquee simply could not be done without them. I pop into the marquee on the way back from Bumps and on the way to the Theatre – it looks fantastic.

It is also then that I find out the flaws in my table planning – why have I placed Emily Bell of School House with a group of Rigg's boys? I'm sure she would have been fine with it, but I'd better change it. Also, why have I missed the Headmaster off the seating plan? Fearing for my job, that needs sorting – might he be happy with the gentlemen of Rigg's?

On Speech Day itself, I'm up at 6:30am for the arrival of the fairground rides. Another problem surfaces – the wine glasses have not arrived. A phone call to Tanners says that we have all 4,500 glasses they stock already; a few thoughts run through my mind – maybe I should buy straws (though would that set the right tone!)? Or maybe I can steal them from the Houses after lunch? I bump into the unflappable Sue Laister and Darren Wood, who find some.

I then need to shift the 250 wine bottles into the marquee fridges – Ian the Caretaker is a superstar in helping. Hopefully seven hours is enough time to chill the white – and I'll need some time to pull the corks out of the 120 reds. Next year, it'll be a screw top!



Following meetings with the caterers, going through timings and dietary requirements, and the bar company, all seems to be going well. After a quick shower and change into the glad rags, I'm able to grab a quick drink with Will and Sam Hughes before heading back to the marquee.

7:30pm is show time – the canapés are guzzled and champagne glugged. I grab a quick word with Charlie Farquhar (Deputy Head of School), who is giving the grace and after a few hints with Latin pronunciation, he's good to go.

Time flies (discretion is key) and soon it's 2:00am – tearful Salopians say their goodbyes as Sara Hankin and I usher them out of the marquee. We also need to blow out the thousand or so candles – good thing our Peak Flow is strong. By 3:15am, the site is clear, staff debriefed and generator switched off. The cleaning can wait until tomorrow – or rather later today!

TPP





Shrewsbury 1st XI win the Silk Trophy

Thursday 4 July 2013

Shrewsbury 1st XI are worthy winners of the Silk Trophy after defeating Eton College on home soil yesterday. They are the only side to win all three of their games during the Silk Trophy Festival, having beaten Adelaide the previous day and Oundle on Day 1. This is the third occasion Shrewsbury has won the trophy but only the first away from home.

Shrewsbury chose to bat on a cloudy, humid morning and with a healthy contingent of parents watching, started confidently. George Lewis and Joe Carrasco had few alarms against a benign Eton opening attack. The introduction of spin in the ninth over provided more of a test and Joe Carrasco holed out to cover point with the score on 43. This heralded the arrival of Ed Pollock to the crease and the pair enjoyed a fruitful partnership of 83 scored at nearly a run a ball. The 'Little Master' Lewis was then adjudged LBW playing across the line to the Eton left arm spinner for a vital 69 runs. Will Cook quickly came and went after a hapless run out and Henry Blofield was caught attempting to push along the run rate.



Eton 1st XI Master i/c Richard Montgomerie presents the Silk Trophy to Shrewsbury Captain Henry Blofield

Edward Pollock was restrained in his stroke play in playing a very cultured innings and crafted a fine 72 before holing out in the deep with the score on 178 with ten overs remaining. Matt Gregson departed quickly after being clean bowled, bringing George Panayi to the crease, who played an innings of great maturity for a 15-year-old. George batted for the remainder of the innings for 32*, scored at more than a run a ball. Shrewsbury's innings eventually closed on 230/9, a total well below par, according to home supporters.

Eton started confidently against an opening attack of the two Charlies – White and Farquhar – the former pressed into service as an opening bowler due to an elbow injury to the talismanic George Panayi and was unable to bowl. On 27, the Eton number no. 2, Langen slashed at a wide one from White and was spectacularly caught at point by Ed Pollock. Wicket no.2 quickly followed as White tricked the other opener, James, into missing a straight full length ball and was adjudged LBW. The introduction of Blofield and Gregson tightened the screw even further and took the run rate below 3 an over.

Accurate bowling and keen fielding by Shrewsbury put Eton even further behind the clock as the home side failed to score a boundary for 21 overs in the middle of the innings, however wickets weren't forthcoming either. At the second drinks after 33 overs with the score on 93/3, the Eton batsmen moved to plan B and tried to increase the scoring rate. With Kidson introduced in to the attack and Farquhar bought back for a second spell, this proved difficult for the home side as they were forced into taking risks their earlier batsmen didn't take.

A fifth wicket stand of only 28, scored in only 20 balls gave Eton some hope, but the re-introduction of Charlie White in to the attack saw him pick up the dangerous Roy with only his second ball, caught at long on by Matt Gregson. A direct throw by Gregson in the next over ran



out Carleton-Smith and suddenly Eton were looking down the barrel at 129/7. Blofield came back after Farquhar bowled out and picked up the Eton no.9, Eckert caught in the deep by Pollock before White cleaned up the 8th wicket with a smart catch by Bertie Milligan-Manby, standing up to the stumps.

It was left to Monday's bowling hero, Ed Pollock to perform the last rites as he cleaned up the no.11 with another victim for Bertie Milligan-Manby, and Shrewsbury were Silk Trophy winners.

The 1st XI will enjoy a day of rest on Thursday, many of them having played ten games of cricket in 12 days, before their focus turns to the HMC T20 finals day at Arundel on Friday. Twitter updates will be available during Shrewsbury's involvement at [@shrschcricket](#).



Salopian Week and Speech Day 2013

Thursday 4 July 2013



As Salopian Week approached and the familiar green of Top Common gradually gave way to a scene reminiscent of a medieval jousting tournament, with marquees, tents and teepees resplendent in House colours, a general air of excitement and festivity spread across the School. With a packed programme of concerts, Bumpers, cricket, tennis, drinks receptions and the Junior School Play, Salopian Week flew by in a whirl of activity and celebration, punctuated by moments of poignancy as the Upper Sixth prepared to bid farewell to their days on Kingsland.



The new format for Speech Day was agreed to have been a fitting climax to the week and indeed to the year. The sun shone, the flags flew and the band played as the whole Salopian community of pupils, staff, parents and Governors gathered together under one roof to celebrate the highlights of the School year and the academic, sporting and creative achievements of many individual pupils. Exhibitions of Art, Design and Technology, Biology, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy were further testament to the School's wealth of talent and creativity.



Prizewinners

Perhaps inspired by the rousing words of Prizegiving Guest of Honour David Chance (OS), who urged each pupil to "find your passion", the cricket matches against a visiting Australian school

and in particular the exciting final round of Bumpers were closely fought contests of skill and determination played out in front of capacity crowds. (*Note: We are grateful to David Chance for allowing us to publish his speech: [Speech given by David Chance at Shrewsbury School Prizegiving, 29th June 2013.](#)*)



As the last few pupils filed past the Headmaster in Call Over and the final few strawberries were consumed in House teepees, staff moved in to position to transform the Site once more for a memorable Leavers' Ball.



The success and smooth running of Salopian Week and Speech Day was the result of meticulous planning (which began last September) and vast amounts of hard work by teams of individuals drawn from across the School community. Sue Laister, Darren Wood, Jon Taylor, Andy Richards, Alex Davies, James Bradford and all their staff cannot be thanked enough for their professionalism and dedication – without all the hard work of the Support Staff the event would not have been such a resounding success.

Rob Wilson, Master i/c Bumpers, Toby Percival, Master i/c the Leavers' Ball, and Alex Davies, Production Manager for the Junior School Play each give an insight into their respective roles and the work that goes on behind the scenes of three of the most spectacular events of the last

few days:

[How did they do that?- Behind the scenes of the Junior School Play with Production Manager Alex Davies](#)

['Bumpers: A view from the towpath' by Umpire Rob Wilson](#)

['Putting on the glad rags...' Organising the Leavers' Ball 2013 by Toby Percival](#)



'Bumpers: A view from the towpath' by Umpire Rob Wilson

Thursday 4 July 2013

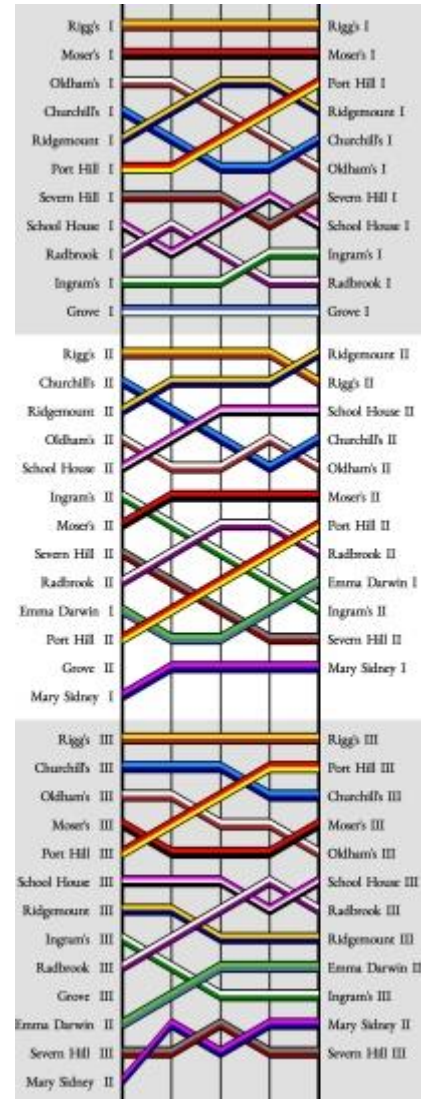
To take on the job of organising and umpiring of the Bumping Races is not for the faint-hearted. At a time in the term when many others are winding down and the evening regime of marking in the Common Room seems a distant memory, you find yourself alone in the Common Room answering more emails than normal and preparing tomorrow's programme into the early evening (normally to the strains of whatever concert happens to be taking place that evening on Top Common). On top of this you have a group of tired and competitive Housemasters hungry for one last House victory to round off the year, a form of racing which is incomprehensible to many, and this year a request for the final round of Bumps to return to Speech Day. This is a recipe for madness.

When Paul Pattenden was appointed to Moser's Hall in 2010 having run Bumpers for a number of years, the finger of fate/madness turned to me. PP had much experience of Bumps, having raced and umpired at Oxford. Coming from Durham, where we concentrated on what many would call "normal rowing races", I was certainly thrown in at the deep end. I remember my first experience of Shrewsbury's races in 2008 - I was enthralled by the tactics and the hypnotic effect of looking at the Bumps charts for too long.

Now in my third year, I reckon that I'm mellowing into the role - but still not mellow. Managing races between some rowers and coxes who only find their way to the river during Bumps is interesting to say the least and it certainly raises the blood pressure, especially when the Sabrina river cruiser is sailing. This year I had the pleasure of introducing Bumps to our departing Graduate Sports Coach, David Cooke. I think he was sceptical at first but he quickly learned, as I did, to love the randomness of the event, and that the fastest crew doesn't always win (in fact this is often the case). The final round on Speech Day with hoards of people crowding onto the pontoons was very special indeed, particularly the noise as Rigg's and Moser's went toe-to-toe at the Head of Division 1.

Given that the races began in 1867, I'm already looking forward to 2017 and considering how to celebrate the 150th anniversary - ideas on a postcard (or email) please!

RMW





Below: Moser's chase Rigg's for The Head of the River in front of the Shrewsbury Roar



Shrewsbury 1st XI are HMC U18 National T20 Champions

Friday 5 July 2013

Following their victory in the Silk Trophy on Wednesday 3rd July, on Friday the 1st XI moved to the picturesque Arundel Castle ground to compete in the HMC National Schools Under 18 Twenty20 finals day. Shrewsbury were representing the East and Midlands region having only squeaked through the regional stages by net run rate after losing to Denstone College. Other region representatives were Bolton School (North), St Bede's School, Hailsham (South East) and King's College, Taunton (South West).

Shrewsbury were paired against Bolton in the first semi-final and were delighted when Bolton invited them to bat on what looked like a very good batting pitch. This proved to be an interesting decision by Bolton, as the Shrewsbury openers Ed Pollock (92 from 39 balls with 10 fours and 6 sixes) and Joe Carrasco (68 from 44 balls) launched into Bolton attack with relish, bringing up their first 50-run partnership from only 17 balls. This partnership was eventually broken in the 12th over, but the pair had amassed 147 by this time. With this platform in place, it was easy for the later batsmen to post a massive total; Will Cook (16*) especially plundered the shell-shocked Bolton attack, including a straight-driven six that cleared the sightscreen. Shrewsbury eventually finished on 231/6 having lost a few cheap wickets at the end in the pursuit of runs.

Faced with scoring at nearly 12 runs an over, Bolton would always find this an uphill struggle. Despite losing Towers in the first over, Bolton attacked the Shrewsbury bowling and at the end of the six-over powerplay were up with the required run rate. Once again, the introduction of Shrewsbury's spin trio of Blofield, Farquhar and Gregson put a break on the scoring, especially in the period in the middle of the innings. Medium-pacer Will Cook picked up three vital wickets and a run out, including the Lancashire Academy members Matt Parkinson and Hasseb Hameed, the latter scoring 50 at nearly two runs a ball. Losing regular wickets, Bolton were not able to maintain the momentum and were eventually bowled out in the final over for 171 and Shrewsbury running out victors by 60 runs. Will Cook with 3-27 and MattGregson (2-29) were Shrewsbury's most successful bowlers.

In the other semi-final, St Bede's easily accounted for King's Taunton by six wickets, having rolled the Somerset side over for 101.

The final was to be played between the 2011 winners and the 2012 runners-up, with the Sussex side favourites. St Bede's attracts many fine young cricketers and their team featured a number of the Sussex Academy side and also two of the England U19 squad.

Shrewsbury lost the toss and were put in to bat on a surface that was showing signs of wear. The loss of the prolific Ed Pollock for 23 in the 5th over did little to dampen the Shrewsbury spirit



and Joe Carrasco took over, scoring a solid 55 in 51 balls. Against an attack that included bowlers with county 2nd XI experience, a huge total was always going to be difficult and Shrewsbury eventually amassed 135/7. Henry Blofield nudged and nurdled well, scoring 15 singles in his 21, while Charlie White (11) played a few lusty blows at the other end. St. Bede's initially found run scoring difficult against the left-arm spin of Charlie Farquhar (0/30) and the pace of George Panayi (3-14), who bowled with great maturity for a 15-year-old and will surely be a fixture in the Shrewsbury 1st XI for a long time to come. At the end of the powerplay, St Bede's had scored 37/2 were behind the clock and once again, the spinners applied the stranglehold in the middle overs.

While England U19 wicketkeeper Jackson and opener Wells were at the crease, there was always the chance that Bede's would get over the finishing line, but Jackson was lured down the pitch by Gregson and glove-man Bertie Milligan-Manby did the rest. Will Cook quickly mopped up the late middle order with three wickets in an over and it was left to skipper Henry Blofield to take the last wicket with the first ball of the 17th over, leaving Shrewsbury victors by 52 runs.



Bertie Milligan-Manby stumps St Bede's batsman Callum Jackson (Photo: Patrick Eagar)

Shrewsbury's performance was all the more remarkable given that their captain and outstanding performer, England U19 all-rounder Ed Barnard, was unable to play in the second half of the season due to injury. His absence has spurred his team mates into some outstanding performances.

Shrewsbury's Under 17 side also have the chance of silverware in September when they face either Portsmouth Grammar School or King's Taunton in the final of the National Under 17 cup sponsored by School Sport Magazine.

The Under 15 side face Malvern College in the last eight of the National Under 15 T20 competition when term resumes in September. The winners will represent the Midlands in the finals day which will also be played at Arundel Castle.

RHM



photo: Rob Morris



Saracens through to Quarter-final of Cricketer Cup after Exciting Win against Oundle Rovers

Monday 8 July 2013

Our correspondent reports:

'Following a fine showing away from home in round one, the Saracens entertained the Oundle Rovers last Sunday on a blustery day at the Schools. Despite the loss of several players to the Shrewsbury CC National Knockout Twenty20 Regional Finals, the Sarries were boosted by the return to the ranks of several other players, including James Taylor (pictured, below - *photo, BBC website*) who pulled on a Saracens shirt for the first time since his test debut last summer.

The Sarries won the toss and decided to bat. With the warm words of the President ringing in their ears openers Williams and Chapman started pleasantly, cashing in on anything short; it therefore came as a surprise when Williams miscued a pull shot to midwicket. Taylor took a little time to get going, and was briefly unsettled by a ball that leapt from a length to strike him on the arm (waist-height to most normal adults). This seemed to wake him up a little, and these two took the Saracens to drinks without further alarm. Chapman in particular was showing more resolve than normal, and was even to the slight consternation of the spectators favouring the off-side wherever possible. This was a remarkable departure from his usual hoick-based approach, and was both more effective and pleasing on the eye. Taylor at the other end continued to accumulate classily, manoeuvring the ball at will into the vast open-spaces of senior as the Oundle fielders tired. It was a superb partnership - one of the finest in the Saracens' recent history. Both batsmen got their hundreds within a couple of overs of each other, having put on over 200 together. When Chapman finally succumbed (to a hoick to deep-midwicket) he did so selflessly for a superb 106. Despite losing his partner Taylor carried on, and began to pepper the Allington Hall with a succession of slog-sweeps. With the help of violent cameos from Nick Bevan and Ali Pollock he led the Saracens to a total of 289-3 from 50 overs, and remained unbeaten at the end, 135 not out.



After an excellent lunch the Sarries took the field keen to secure a quarter-final berth. However, the Rovers were in no mood to just roll over, and they set about their reply with gusto. Both openers went for their shots, and cashing in on any width on offer were entitled to any good fortune going their way. It took a fine piece of bowling from Pollock to break the partnership - a sharp bouncer which rattled the batsman was followed by a fine delivery that the batsman, blood pumping, could only lob gently to mid-off. However, the breakthrough did not bring much respite; whilst the Sarries' bowling was generally accurate the Rovers were still able to find the boundaries often enough to stay in the game. The second wicket was finally broken when the other Oundle opener drove a well-flighted delivery from Henry Lewis firmly to the captain, who was relieved to hang on. This wicket brought to the crease the Oundle captain, who immediately looked in very sure touch. Despite a further wicket to Lewis the scoring rate did not abate, and



the Saracens' bowling began to look ragged. With two 'set' batsmen at the crease nerves were beginning to fray, and the score reached 180-3 in the 37th over; and so with just over 100 runs to win from 13 overs the captain threw the ball to Ben Williams. The Oxford University captain rose the challenge admirably, removing both batsmen within two overs with fine, intelligent pieces of bowling, thereby swinging the game back in the Sarries' favour. This was an advantage that we would not let slip, and despite some lusty blows from the Oundle rearguard we ran out winners by 29 runs, removing the final wicket to the last ball of the 50th over. Henry Lewis fully deserved his 5 wicket haul for an accurate spell of bowling, and two pieces of fielding really stood out; a superb catch from Ali Pollock at long off back-peddling, and a horrible drop by James Taylor in front of the grot shop.

Thank you to all who attended what was an exciting day's cricket. The quarter-final tie against the St Edwards Martyrs will be held at home on Sunday 14 July - all support as ever will be hugely welcome, as the Sarries continue their title defence.'



Robin Brooke-Smith plans to take 'Storm Warning' to Washington, Durham and Cambridge

Monday 8 July 2013

Old Salopian author and former Shrewsbury School master (1986-1995), Robin Brooke-Smith (S 1961-66) is planning a lecture tour for his recent book, 'Storm Warning' in the autumn. Robin, whose book has excited a great deal of interest, is hoping to carry out a lecture tour to Washington think-tanks and to Durham and Cambridge Universities.



Storm Warning provides a new perspective on Northwest Pakistan in this first-hand account of Robin Brooke-Smith's years in this troubled region (as Principal of Edwardes College, Peshawar). Tracing the build-up to '9/11' and the upheaval that has followed, this is a captivating behind-the-scenes look into the regional fulcrum of global jihad and provides a unique and close-up view into this fascinating area. This book is illuminating reading for all those interested in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the turbulent recent history of the borderlands of the 'AfPak' region.

North-West Pakistan and the Afghan Borderland is one of the most fascinating and ruggedly beautiful places I've ever visited. It is also a place of great political tensions and one, which I feel we should all know and understand much better. Robin Brooke-Smith's book Storm Warning is an invaluable account of life among the people of the region by someone who knows and understands the subject at first hand. Michael Palin.

To order Storm Warning with the extended 30% discount (Code 7NR) provided by the publisher (now valid up till 31 October), please see this flyer, which you can upload [here](#).

Bumps photos

Tuesday 9 July 2013



Bumps I: Alex Lawson (c) (Thurs/Sat Luke Koch de Gooreynd), Charlie Duckworth (s), Dmitry Lesnenskiy, Jamie Robertson, Charlie Clarke



Bumps II: Charlie Clarke (c), Angus Gordon Banks (s), Guy Hunter, Kit Crabtree, Henry Carter



*Bumps III: Reuben Arkenwright (c), George Lechmere (s), George Young, Bertie Gilliat-Smith, Alex Lawson
Ropes and Poles: Max Kimpton-Smith, Harry Lonergan, Anthony Koch de Gooreynd
All photos courtesy of Dr Mike Wade*



Always Look on the Bright Side of the Trenches!

Tuesday 9 July 2013



Michael Palin (R 1957-61) is returning to television drama to star in the story of how British soldiers in the First World War trenches produced and published their own satirical newspaper.

When Captain Fred Roberts, of the 12th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, discovered a printing press in the ruins of Ypres, Belgium in 1916, he decided to publish a satirical magazine called *The Wipers Times* – 'Wipers' being army slang for Ypres. Full of gallows humour, *The Wipers Times* was poignant, subversive and very funny. Produced literally under enemy fire and defying both authority and gas attacks, the magazine proved a huge success with the troops on the Western Front. It was, above all, a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Just like the original, this new history drama will be filled with jokes, spoofs and amazing examples of courage behind the laughs.

This is an extract from one of the magazines:

'We regret to announce that an insidious disease is affecting the Division, and the result is a hurricane of poetry. Subalterns have been seen with a notebook in one hand, and bombs in the other absently walking near the wire in deep communication with their muse. Even Quartermasters with "books, note, one" and "pencil, copying" break into song while arguing the point re "boots, gum, thigh". The Editor would be obliged if a few of the poets would break into prose as the paper cannot live by poems alone.'



This is Michael's first acting role since 1991 when he played a school headteacher, intimidated by a newly-elected city council leader, in Alan Bleasdale's 'GBH'.

Earlier this year, he revealed in a BAFTA interview that he would consider this new role as one of the highlights of his career.



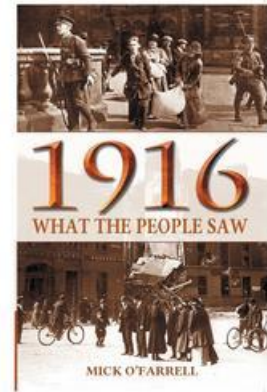
1916 - What the People (including Old Salopian, Nevil Shute) Saw

Tuesday 9 July 2013

The Salopian Club, with the help of the School Archivist, Mike Morrogh, has recently contributed to a new book about the 1916 Dublin 'Easter Rising' by Dublin author, Mick O'Farrell. The book, '1916: What the People Saw' contains an eye-witness account of the uprising is believed to have been written in May 1916 by Old Salopian, Nevil Shute Norway (O, I 1916). Later known as the author, Nevil Shute - *A town like Alice, On the Beach etc* - he is understood to have written the account after he returned to School after holidaying with his parents in Dublin.

Mick O'Farrell's book is available from Mercier

Press <http://www.mercierpress.ie/irish-books/1916-what-the-people-saw/> and other booksellers:



'When the rebellion of 1916 had ended, more than 400 people were dead and over 2,000 wounded. More than half of these were civilians, but even for those civilians who were not direct casualties, the Rising was one of the most momentous experiences of their lives. The accounts that Mick O'Farrell has collected come from letters, diaries, extracts from otherwise unrelated biographies, and contemporary magazine and newspaper articles. Complimenting the many historical accounts of the rising and statements from the participants, this book gives a real flavor of what it was like to live through history in the making.'

The article about the uprising originally appeared in 'The Salopian' in 1916 and can be read at <http://www.nevilshute.org/uprising.php>

RSSBC: The Old School Ties - Henley's OS representation

Wednesday 10 July 2013

River Master Philip Lapage writes:

What a pleasure it was to see so many of the usual suspects hauling on an oar handle at Henley this year. True, some of the oldies were absent, but an infusion of younger blood ensured that the representation on the water was good and it kept the RSSBC legacy vibrantly alive. For the first time for a while, Sabrina was directly represented, albeit as part of a composite named in the programme as 'Robert Gordon and Aberdeen University' in the Ladies' Plate (space in the programme only allows up to two clubs to be named, I gather). But a closer look at the 2 and 3 men revealed the blue Maltese cross rhythmically swinging down the course. What a great tribute to the coaches and their successful programmes over the past decade to have such continuing depth represented.

Pride of place goes to Ben Spencer Jones, who in his year as Captain of Imperial, London, was part of the winning coxed four in the Prince Albert Cup. What a fitting reward for hard work over many years – Ben was Captain of Boats at Shrewsbury in 2010 and has stuck with his rowing (and medicine) ever since. Will Robins, Tim Perera and Fred Gill were spotted, Tom Marshall was regrettably subbed out due to illness at the last minute, and the bearers of the Maltese cross were Sam Lapage and James Scott; their boat being a corral of US oarsmen eligible for and desiring to represent GB, having previously raced well at the Holland Beker regatta.

RSSBC wishes to thank the Salopian Club and Sabrina for its hospitality to the current crews and coaches, and all others who, invited or not, partook of their unstinting generosity. Henley is at its best in the sun; this year's was a classic rendition of a timeless event, an annual meeting of the Shropshire Goddess with Old Father Thames. Floreat Sabrina!

PHL

Below: Ben Spencer Jones (at No. 3), Captain of Imperial, London, with the winning coxed four in the Prince Albert Challenge Cup, Henley 2013



Junior School Play, June 2013: 'The Lord of the Flies'

Wednesday 10 July 2013

A review by Des Hann.

How thin is the veneer of civilisation? This central question of Golding's thesis in *Lord of the Flies* was powerfully translated to the Ashton Theatre stage. Even as one enters the auditorium the audience are faced with the trappings of a civilisation fully recognisable: a classroom, modern symbol of an advanced society – desks, chairs, shelves, books, students in uniform – even the dishevelment of the scene is familiar, a bit crooked, a bit untucked, piled high.

The coup of this production is the fact that its director, Brian Parsons, astutely preserves the classroom as the basis for his action. Rather than crashing us on a tropical island as Golding does, desks are swept aside, shelves and books are used to create fire, reach poles become spears, the rugby bag become the pig, the quotidian is transmogrified into the threatening. In the novel, we can too easily blame the island for the descent into the primal – Parsons stipulates that the cause is much closer to home – an instinctive failure within us to trust rules, leadership, system. As we watch it is difficult not to think about riots, fissures of dissent around the globe. Therein lies the intensity of this production, maintained magnificently by this young cast.



Without the teacher, attempts to establish order, led by Piggy, played with a complex amalgam of intelligent bullishness and vulnerability by Jamie Eccleston, fail. Ralph – the sympatico Alec Barnes, possessed of a resonant voice and mature stage skills - tries gamely to keep the gang as one but deep down knows that brutish power, in the form of Jack and co, awaits to thwart any level-headedness. Dan Iles is edgy as Jack and, even when not moving, has the sort of kinetic energy that draws our gaze. The 'visionary' is Simon, whom Alex Bennett plays as a latter day Tiresias, horribly sacrificed by Jack and his hunters, deployed with textured menace by Scott Reynolds, Joe Davies, Nick Entwisle and Ed Plaut.



Under siege, the innocent, as in life, retreat to the margins. Sam'n'Eric, Harry Russell and Michael Schützer-Weissmann, and Ralph Assheton's Perceval, handle the change from the cheeky youngsters of the opening to primal survivalists very well indeed, physically morphing to enable them to recede to the dark corners.

This was the type of set and technical support one would expect of a professional show. The set withholds many of its secrets until deep into the performance. The clever creation of fire – sub-stage trickery – produced an audience gasp, the moon projected onto the clock was inspired, the sudden appearance of caves and rocky heights was proof that shows still have the ability to make the audience collectively imagine. Subtle ambient music and deft lighting changes were the work of an experienced director and tech crew. *(Please see the report below 'How did they do that...?' by Production Manager Alex Davies, which gives a behind-the-scenes view of the play from the technical crew's perspective.)*



Piggy's end, when it comes, was simply moving. With an utter inability to believe that reason has left the classroom, he is blindly led downstage on a rocky ledge – cleverly shifting desks – to his doom. When the teacher, Toby Percival, wonderful in his ineptitude, and his subordinate, the confident Pip Moulson, take charge at the end, one is not convinced that their 'leadership' is not similarly fated.

DMH

Photos by Andrew Spicer (M LVT)



Malcom McMullan, Champion Trophy 2012 Winner - in 2013!

Thursday 11 July 2013



As a result of the atrocious weather in 2012 the final of last year's Champion Trophy did not take place until June 2013. The protagonists were Mark Ferguson (Rt 1992 - 1997) and Malcom McMullan (I 1958 - 1962), conqueror of such luminaries as Richard Barber, Ben Chesters, Jonty Campion and Will Campion. Quite a few scalps!

Eventually, mostly thanks to the kind efforts of Barry Campion - brother of the late Ian, Past President of OSGS and donor of the Trophy - the final was played on a balmy morning at Royal

Birkdale.

Mark Ferguson has Halford Hewitt experience, and 30+ years age advantage, so would start as favourite to win. Sure enough he marched into a three hole lead by the 5th hole, and again after 9 holes. From the tee Malcom's driving was far straighter, his ball never troubling the 'Birkdale' rough. Conversely Mark's iron play and in particular his putting was much superior. It was Walter Hagen who famously said "you drive for show, but you putt for dough". Malcom had opportunities to win four of the next five holes, but could only claw one back. He did win the 16th, so Mark was one up with two holes to play, but sadly Malcom from another good teeshot encountered some difficulties on the 17th, and lost both the hole and the match. The spirit of camaraderie was much in evidence, and the chance to play on one of the best Open Championship courses was much appreciated by both players.

Photo: From left; Anthony Smith (President OSGS), Malcom McMullan (runner-up), Mark Ferguson (winner 2012) and Barry Campion.



Shrewsbury Saracens Narrowly Win through to the Semi-final of the Cricketer Cup

Monday 15 July 2013

Congratulations to Shrewsbury Saracens, who have narrowly won through to the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup after beating St Edward's Martyrs at home, yesterday.

Batting first, the Saracens scored 197 and St Edwards Martyrs capitulated for 191.

In the semi-final, on Sunday 28 July, The Saracens will play Old Cranleighans at home, start-time 11.30am.

Supporters welcome, phone Tom Cox on 07786 587 425 for more details.



Pictured: Ben Chapman and James Taylor in Round 2 of the Cricketer Cup, 2013

Two Shrewsbury J16 oarsmen in winning GB crew

Tuesday 16 July 2013

Two Shrewsbury boys - George Patterson (R) and Toby Thomas (SH) - were selected to race in the GB under-16 eight in the annual fixture against France, which appropriately took place this year on Bastille Day.

The eight was a composite with boys from Hampton School and Eton College. The boys met up at Dorney Lake a week before the match for five days of intensive training to try and maximise the speed of the boat in the short time available.

Despite coming from three different schools, the eight bonded quickly and were soon producing promising times. They were also treated to the best weather of the year, which made Dorney feel like the South of France. Many thanks to Eton College, particularly the staff of Eton College Boat Club and Housemaster Mr Nick Sellers for kindly hosting the boys during this time.

The whole team (made up of 13 different boats) moved to Docklands in London on Thursday, and despite relatively rough water on the first day, the weather remained hot and calm from Friday onwards. The crew continued to produce ever more encouraging times in training, and the arrival of the French Team certainly sharpened the focus.

Sunday - match day. Racing got underway with the girls' eight, who beat their opposition by a canvas to start the British bandwagon rolling. The boys' eight was the last event, and by that time GB were already 10-2 up in the match overall. This mattered little to the eight, who wanted to round off their first international vest with a win. They got off the line well and pulled out a narrow lead, which they extended to a length by 500m. This remained the lead during the middle of the race as the French clung on to the stern of the British boat. Into the last 500m the strength of the GB boat shone through, and as the British piled on the power the French fell back for GB to win by 3 lengths.

Great Britain won the overall match 11-2.

All of the boys will now return to their respective schools intent on earning seats in top boats, which will see them facing each other on the start line next year. No doubt the friendships forged this week will make the racing even more fierce!



School House oarsman races for GB

Thursday 18 July 2013

Toby Thomas (SH V) and George Patterson (R V) (*pictured left to right*) raced in the GB under-16 eight in the annual fixture against France, which appropriately took place this year on Bastille Day.

The eight was a composite with boys from Hampton School and Eton College. The boys met up at Dorney Lake a week before the match for five days of intensive training to try and maximise the speed of the boat in the short time available.

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RMW





Young Old Salopians enjoy 'Superb' Night at the Kensington Roof Gardens

Monday 22 July 2013



Over a 100 Old Salopians (under 35) enjoyed an excellent party at the Kensington Roof Gardens on Saturday 20 July. Organised by the Young OS Chairman, Hugh Faith (O 1997-02) and his committee, the event appears to have been a great success and enjoyed by those attending - *'The drinks on Saturday were great fun - well organised by Hugh Faith, a super venue and good turnout'* - as one attendee put it.

Pictured, left, are Huw Vaughan-Jackson (Ch 2005-10), Felicity Davies (MSH 2008-10), Charlotte Finley (MSH 2008-10) and Bertie Carter (O 2005-10). Many thanks to Charlotte for sending the photo.



Third Former Will Hayward achieves second place in the Gwaestedy Hill Race

Thursday 25 July 2013

On Tuesday 16th July I raced in the Gwaestedy Hill Race in Rhayader, which is a small town about half an hour from home.

The first part of the race is down a very flat road starting in the town, but then the pain comes; after about 600 metres you leave the road and head straight up. The hill has a lot of false peaks and you feel like you will never reach the top. As my legs seized up whilst fighting against two kilometres of hill, water was passed to me which was gratefully received in the baking heat.

When you reach the top there is an amazing feeling as you let yourself run easily again. The descent is over before you can blink but the final 600 metres on the road feels like miles.

I was fortunate enough to be in second the whole way round and finished the course in 31 minutes. And next year will be my final year in the junior category and I hope to go one better.

Will Hayward



Two more Old Salopians set to Row the Atlantic for Charity in December 2013

Friday 26 July 2013



Shropshire-based Old Salopians, Alex Bland and Harry Martin Dreyer (both Rt 2000-05) are preparing to row across the Atlantic Ocean in December 2013. Many people will be aware that another Old Salopian, Dan Howie (Ch 1998-03), is also in training for the same challenge.

Friday 19 July saw Harry & Alex doing a 12 hour row on a rowing machine in 30 degrees, in Shrewsbury's main square to raise awareness of the challenge.

Starting at 8am, they rowed alternately, 2 hours on, 2 hours off until 8pm to simulate the kind of routine they will be undergoing whilst out on the ocean, only it will be half a day rather than 60 days! The boat they are using for this amazing challenge was also on show, along with some information about the planned journey.

The gruelling 60-day adventure involves rowing more than 3,000 miles between the Canary Islands and Barbados and they hope to join the 286 people who have so far managed the feat (fewer than have managed to climb Everest).

Alex and Harry hope to raise £100,000, to be shared between Cure Leukaemia and JDFR (diabetes charity) in memory of Harry's mother, Alexandra, who recently died from leukaemia.

More information at: <http://www.cureleukaemia.co.uk/page/news/4/atlantic-row-challenge-in-shrewsbury>



Shrewsbury team, including promising newcomers, put up a good show in Halford Hewitt 2013

Friday 26 July 2013

Andy Pollock (I 1971-74) reports:

The Halford Hewitt is the largest amateur golf competition in the world with sixty four teams of ten playing scratch foursomes match play. The competition was founded in 1924 and is competed for by old pupils from sixty four public schools in England and Scotland.

Shrewsbury has had a good record over the years and been in six finals, winning three which puts us near the top of the league tables. However, we have not been in a final since 1993 and have not made it through two rounds for six years.

This year the draw matched us with Glenalmond whose results over the years are very similar to Shrewsbury's so it promised to be a tough battle which Shrewsbury won on the 18th in the last pair. The next round was against a strong Wellington side who were also defeated 3-2.

Although it was disappointing to lose to Ampleforth on the Saturday morning, overall there was a feeling that we had given a good account of ourselves and built a good foundation for the future.

Read Andy Pollock's full report, which will also appear in the December issue of The Salopian magazine, [here](#).



Cricket: Fourth Former in victorious Midlands team at Bunbury Festival

Sunday 28 July 2013

The 27th ESCA (English Schools Cricket Association) Bunbury Festival took place at Durham University from 21st to 26th July 2013. Over the past 26 years, no fewer than 60 Festival players have gone on to play for England in either Test or ODI cricket. During the week, each of the four northern regional teams play three 50 over matches, and two T20s.

George Panayi (Ch IV) was selected to play for the Midlands team, who won every one of their 5 matches, and were therefore the winners of both the 50 over and 20 over competitions.

George made valuable contributions with both bat and ball, and opened the bowling on several occasions. He took five wickets during the week, in a festival dominated by spin bowling.

George will now lead the Shrewsbury School's U15 bowling attack in the unfinished National T20 competition on Sunday September 1st. Shrewsbury take on Malvern College at home in the quarter final. The winners will represent the Midlands in the National Finals Day on Sunday September 8th at Arundel Castle CC. The U15's will be trying to emulate the success of the 1st XI who won the national U18 title at the start of July.

OS James Taylor is recalled to the England Test squad

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James Taylor (R 2003-08) has been recalled to the England squad for the Third Ashes Test against Australia, which begins at Old Trafford on Thursday.

James, who has been playing for Nottinghamshire CC since 2012 and has been on excellent form this season, was asked by the England and Wales Cricket Board to play as a guest for Sussex in a three-day match against Australia this weekend. When play ended yesterday, he was 64 not out. After

his inclusion in the England Test squad was announced this morning, he went on to score an unbeaten 121, helping Sussex draw the match.

In a short video made for Nottingham CC, James talks about his early days playing cricket, including his time at Shrewsbury School: [Back to their Roots with James Taylor](#)





Saracens Exit the 2013 Cricketer Cup

Monday 29 July 2013



The Saracens took on a strong Old Cranleigh side in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup on Sunday 28th July. With the weather forecast predicting heavy showers during the day, the home side elected to field first. The Old Cranleigh opening batsmen looked very comfortable and put on a big score prior to lunch. The Saracens did well to hold their opponents to 228 for 4 during the allotted overs, with some tight bowling towards the end of the innings.

Thereafter the match disintegrated for the Saracens. With two lively, fast and accurate opening bowlers the Surrey team ripped through the home side's batting order, skittling out a shell-shocked Sarries team for just 33 runs in 17 overs.

Cheerful in defeat - the Saracens, pictured, above.