

The 151st Bumping Races

Monday 1 July 2019

The Bumping Races have been the climax of our inter-house rowing races at Shrewsbury since 1867. They have lost none of their excitement over the years.

In an excellent article published recently on the rowing blog “Hear The Boat Sing”, Tim Koch wrote about the Summer Eights at Oxford (<https://heartheboatsing.com/2019/06/12/head-of-the-river-oxfords-toughest-test-part-i/>). He quoted OS Richard Hillary who called Oxford “the city of beautiful nonsense”, concluding that rowing, and bumps racing in particular, was “beautiful nonsense”.

After the flooding on Thursday, we reached the hottest day of the year. Oldham’s and The Grove were looking good to retain the Headships, but the Bumpers Cups were all up for grabs.

Division 3

Radbrook remained Head of the Division after rowing over in every race. Mary Sidney maintained their position ahead of The Grove to finish as the highest placed girls’ house. Emma Darwin were the only crew to bump down in every race. Ingram’s continued their run of bad luck to finish at the foot of the divisions for the fourth successive year.

Division 2

The Grove successively defended the Elizabeth Cup as the highest placed girls’ house; they started the day in 4th (the highest place The Grove has ever achieved in Division 2 – including when it was a boys’ house).

Mary Sidney closed to within one place to tee things up nicely for next year. Moser’s top boat bumped every day to become the only crew to win ‘blades’.

Oldham’s took the Head of Division 2 away from Radbrook. Port Hill bumped down in every race. Ingram’s finish at the foot of Division 2 for the sixth successive year.



The Grove with the Elizabeth Cup



Moser's with the Birt Trophy

Division 1

Oldham's continued their dominance and rowed over again to win the Head of the River trophy for the second year in a row – capping off ten years of Mr Johnson's Housemastership. (When he took over as Housemaster, Oldham's were bottom of Division 1.

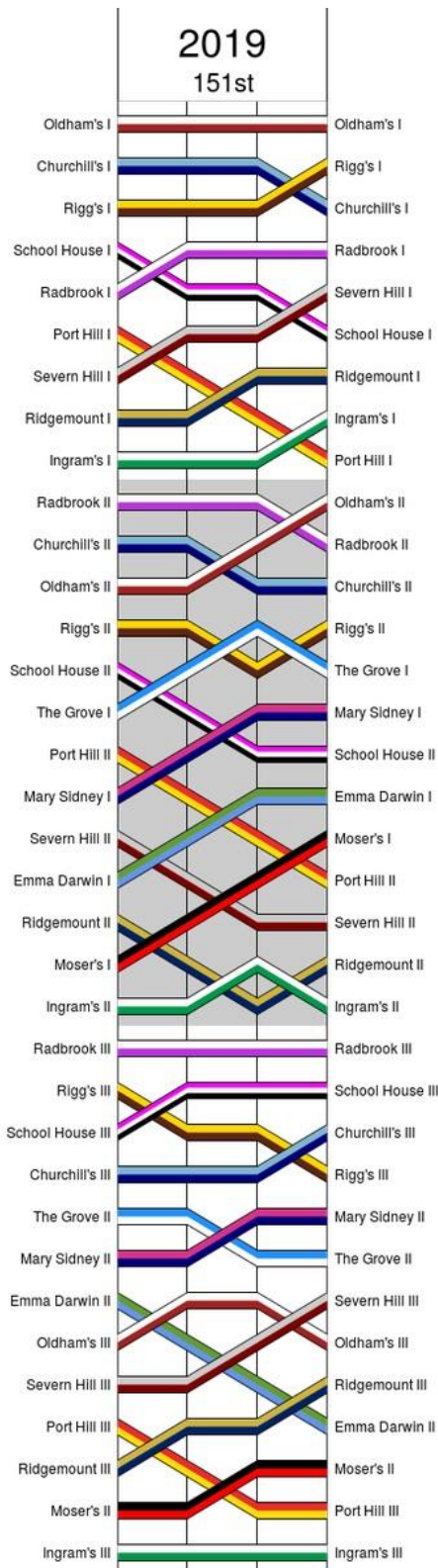
Rigg's, Radbrook and Ridgemount recovered to where they started in 2017.

Port Hill are now at the Foot of the Division (after challenging for the Headship in 2017), following a bump by Ingram's.



Oldham's celebrating after remaining Head of the River for the second year running. Cox Archie Duckworth (cox), Maarten Straube (stroke), Ali Davies (3), Petr Rostokin (2), Angus Shepherd-Cross (bow) photographed by Dr Torsten Straube.

Prizes were awarded after racing as follows:





Bumpers Cups

- awarded for average bumping points per crew:

4th (Mill Cup) – Mary Sidney Hall

3rd (Dickens Plaque) – Oldham's Hall and Radbrook (joint)

2nd (Bower Cup) – Oldham's Hall and Radbrook (joint)

1st (Friends Cup) – Moser's Hall

Head of Division 3 medals (boys) – Radbrook

Head of Division 3 medals (girls) – Mary Sidney Hall

Head of Division 2 medals (boys) – Oldham's Hall

Head of Division 2 medals (girls) and the Elizabeth Cup – The Grove

Head of Division 1 medals and Head of the River Trophy – Oldham's Hall

Birt Trophy (overall girls' House rowing prize) – Moser's Hall

Leadbitter Cup (overall boys' House rowing prize) – Oldham's Hall

Round 4 confirmed bumps were as follows:

Division 1

R bpd Ch

S bpd SH

I bpd PH

Division 2

O bpd Rb

R bpd G

M bpd PH

Rt bpd I

Division 3

Ch bpd R

S bpd O

Rt bpd EDH



Headmaster's Commendations

Monday 1 July 2019

The aim of the Headmaster's Commendations is to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement and intellectual curiosity.

Congratulations to the following Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers who were awarded Headmaster's Commendations at the End of Term Assembly.

Third Form

Ekaterina A (EDH)
Archie B (R)
Giles B (Rb)
Archie C (Rb)
Ryan M (S)
Edward P (R)

Fourth Form

Gregor Beardsmore (Rt)
Huw Hackett Pain (SH)
Tobias Libreros (I)
Poppy Stephens (MSH)
Issy Thomassen (MSH)
Lingkai Zheng (S)

Lower Sixth Form

Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH)
Tiggy Cowan Taylor (MSH)
Owen Fung (SH)
Caspar Hamilton (I)
Jude Huffer (Rb)
Frank Kelly (Rt)
Nicholas Liu (I)
Olivia Moir (MSH)

Inter-House Athletics Competition 2019

Monday 1 July 2019

Some impressive performances, a return to summer weather, and a cheerful atmosphere of enthusiasm and house spirit made for an enjoyable afternoon of inter-house athletics on Wednesday.

House Athletics Competition 2019 - Final Standings

Overall			Junior			Inter			Senior		
	Points	Rank		Points	Rank		Points	Rank		Points	Rank
R	313	1	R	118	1	R	103	1	S	107	1
I	285	2	Rb	95	2	SH	94	2	Ch	104	2
Ch	257	3	I	95	2	PH	94	2	I	99	3
SH	248	4	SH	78	4	I	91	4	R	92	4
O	238	5	O	77	5	Rt	80	5	O	85	5
S	238	5	Ch	77	5	Ch	76	6	SH	76	6
PH	235	7	Rt	65	7	O	76	6	PH	76	6
Rt	190	8	PH	65	7	S	72	8	Rt	45	8
Rb	189	9	S	59	9	Rb	51	9	Rb	43	9

CANNON RELAYS															
Rt	I	SH	O	Ch	PH	Rb	S	R	Results of the Cannon Relay do not count towards the overall totals			G	EDH	MSH	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				1	2	3	4

Girls - Overall			Girls - Junior			Girls - Inter			Girls - Senior		
	Points	Rank		Points	Rank		Points	Rank		Points	Rank
G	352	1	EDH	112	1	G	120	1	G	124	1
EDH	328	2	G	108	2	EDH	112	2	EDH	104	2
M	296	3	M	104	3	MSH	96	3	M	100	3
MSH	262	4	MSH	82	4	M	92	4	MSH	84	4

Junior House Boys' Trophy: Rigg's Hall
 Junior House Girls' Trophy: Emma Darwin Hall
 Junior Victor Ludorum: Ben W (R 3)
 Junior Victrix Ludorum: Kitty S-P (M 3)
 Intermediate House Boys' Trophy: Rigg's Hall
 Intermediate House Girls' Trophy: The Grove
 Intermediate Victor Ludorum: Nikita Martynov (Ch 5)
 Intermediate Victrix Ludorum: Liv Usher (MSH 5)
 Senior Boys' Trophy: Severn Hill
 Senior Girls' Trophy: The Grove
 Senior Victor Ludorum: Tom Jackson (R L6)
 Senior Victrix Ludorum: Lillian Wilcox (EDH L6)



Ridgemount winning the Senior Cannon Relay



Salopian Week Play: 'A Matter of Life and Death'

Tuesday 2 July 2019

*It's been an astonishing year of drama. Yet Helen Brown's troupe of star players had plenty of wow left in the tank to deliver the school play, *A Matter of Life and Death*, with remarkable style, accomplishment and lashings of authentic 1940s-style dash.*

Even the threat of debilitating contagion couldn't put this show off the road, when a key cast member was floored by chickenpox 48 hours before the first night. Nevertheless, with Orlando Williams heroically leaping into the breach (and Freddie Lawson safely but comfortably holed-up in quarantine), we were treated to all the hallmarks of a classic HRB production even at this nerve-shredding, immunologically-challenging stage of term. Slick ensemble, inventive set design and nuanced, witty handling of comic and sensitive affect made this Powell-Pressburger fantasy-romance – which first hit screens in 1946 – an utterly absorbing, moving and feel-good finale to yet another amazing year.

The play, a 2007 adaptation of the film by Emma Rice, contains a thrilling but complex story that the cast and crew skilfully explicated. In the final week of the Second World War, a badly shot-up Lancaster is returning from a bombing run in appalling fog. The plane is doomed and its pilot, Squadron Leader Peter Carter (Rider Hartley), is the only survivor, his parachute ripped to shreds by cannon-fire. Some of the crew have bailed out; others are dead. Alone on his crippled, blazing 'kite', Carter realises it's curtains.

With upper-lip stiff, but florid with metaphysical poetry, he talks to June (Ella Niblett): they are quite moved by the life in each other's voices.



Then he jumps and wakes up in the surf. It was his time to die, but there was a mix-up in heaven: the wheels of its bureaucracy are flummoxed by weather conditions – they couldn't find him in the fog. By the time his hapless, fog-bound soul-collector, Conductor 71 (Harry



Waterworth), catches up with him, some 20 hours later, Peter and June have met and fallen in love.

Such heavenly negligence changes everything, and since it happened through no fault of his own, Peter figures that heaven owes him a second chance. The powers-that-be in 'The Next World' agree to a trial to decide his fate. Should he die, as the Universe's law dictates, or does the power of love conquer even this so that he can enjoy the rest of his life on Earth with June?

Clearly all hinges on a convincing spark between June and Peter: and we were not disappointed with a powerful presentation of love under fire, chased down by Time's winged chariot. Rider and Ella played out the relationship with a great deal of charm and poise amid mellifluous chiming of cut-glass RP vowels. With welcome precision, their delivery deftly swerved pastiche to capture, quite movingly though briefly in their short exchanges, the pathos of an intense wartime romance – he chipper but vulnerable, she devoted yet strained to near-broken by the attrition of it all.



Expertly curated song-and-dance numbers supported this evocation of the zeitgeist with cool control. Kate W, Tabitha Winkley, Emily Hartland and Saffron Milner combined their superb ensemble work with haunting vocal pieces ably accompanied in pared-down style by Louis Street on piano. The understated choreography added a mood of quiet meditation and kept in step with the more rom-com aspects of the piece, the horrific facts that underpin it.

Well-judged comic turns further added to the pleasing variety of tone, and as these roles were largely shouldered by junior members of the cast, the future's clearly bright.

RAF doctor Laurie M was suitably madcap in exhorting wounded airman Rufus Thornhill as Bottom in an am-dram performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Ed P oozed chirpy confidence in his portrayal of Bob, Peter's fellow crewmember who dies in the bomber and waits for his skipper to join him, while Harry Waterworth, though a bit longer in the tooth, was equally diverting as the errant Conductor 71.



The final court scenes were well handled, with Dominic Inglis-Jones doing an excellent job as Shakespeare and chief counsel for the prosecution in arguing for Peter's permanent confinement

in Eternity, with Grace Anderson, an uncanny Queen Victoria, in charge. In the end, Peter's fate is decided on a toss of a coin – life is a game of chance, after all.



Dr Frank Reeves is lynchpin of the action on both this world and the next. He is the man to whom June turns when Peter begins to act peculiarly following his visitations from Conductor 71 (as one might); and he is the man who, after a motorcycle accident, finds himself as chief counsel for the defence, the man responsible for keeping Peter out of heaven and in love and alive back on Earth.

You can imagine Dr Brown's reaction when her Doc Reeves, Freddie Lawson, went down with the 'pox... To come into the production so late, Orlando Williams was truly magnificent. On stage, he performed with such presence and confidence (and made a virtue of the clipboard-promptbook with such deft camouflagerie that I had forgotten he was a last-minute replacement).





My wife went along to the final performance – in which a non-contagious Freddie was happily able to take part – and reports he was tremendous too. It must have been of some relief to the rest of the cast to have Freddie back after so many weeks of ensemble rehearsal that they delivered their most nerveless performance on this final night. But it is testament to their collective corps d'esprit that all performed, every single member of the cast and crew, so commandingly over the whole course of a testing three-night run.



Well done all for an entertaining and fitting final production in this historic building that has seen so many in its current guise. Next, cue bulldozers, and a new-look theatre to enter stage-left by next summer.

Mr Fraser-Andrews

The GMR Cricket Centre

Tuesday 2 July 2019

We are delighted to announce that the Cricket Centre has been officially renamed in honour of a major charitable contribution received by Shrewsbury School from the Grandhi family. Their son, Ritesh, has been in the Upper Sixth in Ridgemoor this year.



The Grandhi family, who are the principals of the GMR Group in India, have a tremendous love of the sport of cricket and in fact own the Delhi Capitals of the IPL.

Headmaster Leo Winkley said, "Shrewsbury School has a cricketing soul and this love of the game is matched by that of the Grandhi family and indeed the sub-continent of India. We are delighted to have

formed such a close relationship with GMR and thank the Grandhi family warmly for their support."

The official ceremony to rename the GMR Cricket Centre took place on Speech Day, when a statue designed by the School's Design and Technology Department was unveiled by Speech Day Guest of Honour and former international cricketer Lucy Pearson.

Following the ceremony, Ritesh Grandhi then went on to play in the Speech Day Exhibition Cricket Match between the Upper Sixth and the Rest of the School XIs.





Shrewsbury 1st XI regain the Silk Trophy

Saturday 6 July 2019

Congratulations to the Boys' 1st XI, who defeated Eton and touring sides from Australia and South Africa to regain the highly coveted Silk Trophy.



The three-day competition took place at Eton during the first week of the summer holiday.

On Day 1, Shrewsbury beat South African tourists Grey College by 50 runs. Having been 82-6 after 16 overs, the contributions from Captain Dan Humes (34) and Ludo Litchfield (30) were vital and meant that they finished on a more respectable 144. They then went on to bowl Grey College out for 94, with Peter Clark taking 5 wickets for 18 runs and Archie Mobbs taking 3 for 12.

Shrewsbury more than doubled their run-score in their match against Wesley College on Day 2, finishing their innings on 323-5 with a sensational 108 from Captain Dan Humes and 50s for Harry Cooke, Peter Clark and Morgan Bevans. In reply, Wesley College were dismissed for 172.

The final match against Eton began with Shrewsbury losing the toss and Eton electing to bat first and going on to score 184-8. After a sensational partnership under pressure between Morgan Bevans and Lewis Evans, Shrewsbury defeated Eton by 4 wickets to regain the Silk Trophy.

Hordes at Henley

Monday 15 July 2019

To have one Shrewsbury boat at the Henley Royal Regatta is standard, to have two shows promise, to have three is phenomenal, to have four is unprecedented.



But no fewer than three School crews and the Sabrina crew took to the water in mid-week of Henley, which saw the 1st VIII reach the quarter finals and the Girls' Quad the semi-finals of their respective events.

Consequently, the Sabrina Club lunches at the Henley Cricket Ground on Wednesday and Saturday of the week were packed, with an overall net total of 500 Salopian attendees over both days.

A huge vote of thanks to James Russell (PH 1990-95) for organising the feeding of the 500!





Name a Seat in the Ashton Theatre

Friday 19 July 2019

An exciting opportunity to be part of Shrewsbury School's history



With increasing numbers of pupils taking Drama GCSE and Theatre Studies A Level, our current theatre provision is no longer adequate for the rigours of today's syllabus and our own high ambitions of creating the best learning environment for our students. Essential improvements such as a new grand foyer, green rooms, sprung dance floors, washrooms, dressing rooms, and new sound and lighting are urgently needed.

Not only will our new theatre be important to those studying performing arts but it will also be a focal point for school life. Activities such as School Plays and Dance Showcases, House Plays, Open Days, lectures, the Bentley Elocution Competition, debating, community events and teacher training will be held in the theatre.

Shrewsbury School is offering a unique opportunity to support this exciting project by offering the opportunity to name a seat within the Ashton Theatre. This is a fantastic chance not only to support Shrewsbury School but also to be a part of its history for years to come.



As an update and following a telephone campaign earlier this year, which ran from 25th February to 5th April and raised £70,000, all Premium Seats have now been named, but a limited number of Standard Seats are still available for naming.

If you would like to take part in this project by naming a seat, please contact jhutchinson@shrewsbury.org.uk or telephone 01743 280889. Alternatively please click [here](#) to download a Giving Form with further information.



Rowing season's historic climax at Henley Regatta 2019

Monday 22 July 2019

This year's Henley Royal Regatta will go down in the annals of the Royal Shrewsbury School Boat Club for an exciting series of historic and significant firsts.

For the first time ever, three school crews qualified for the Regatta - a rare achievement. The Boys' 2nd VIII had to go through the qualifying races for the Temple Challenge Cup, which includes University crews. They put in their best performance of the season to be the only 2nd VIII to qualify for the regatta. The Boys' 1st VIII and the Girls' 1st Quad were both selected crews due to their strong performances through the season.

The alumni crew, Sabrina, were also delighted to qualify for the Thames Cup.



On the eve of the Regatta all three school crews got together for a wonderful dinner at The Crooked Billet. The dinner was a great opportunity to acknowledge the significance of their achievement and inspire them to relish the racing to come.

The first day of the Regatta saw the 2nd VIII take on Edinburgh University in the first round of the Temple Challenge Cup. Despite a spirited display, they couldn't catch the pre-race favourites.



The 1st VIII took on Abingdon School in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup just after the lunch interval and justified their selection with a convincing win in a race that they controlled from start to finish.

The win put the 1st VIII into a match against Monmouth School on the Thursday - a repeat of their encounter in 2018. The Monmouth crew had put in strong performances over the season and the race was expected to be a tight contest.





The 1st VIII put in one of their most impressive races of the season to dominate proceedings from the very first stroke and set up a quarter-final showdown with event favourites Scotch College.

The Scotch crew came into the quarter-final unbeaten through the season and the 1st VIII knew they faced a challenge.

Once again they produced an outstanding row, but they couldn't overcome the Australians and finished three-quarters of a length down in a closely-fought race.

The Girls' 1st Quad had to wait until Friday to start their campaign for the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup, having avoided the first round as one of the selected crews. They took on a local crew from Henley Rowing Club and were keen to get racing, having had the build-up of nerves that come from competing at the most significant event of the season.

They won in impressive style – and made history as the first Shrewsbury girls to win a race at the Henley Royal Regatta.



The racing format for the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup meant that, if successful, the girls would have to face two races on the Saturday. The Saturday at Henley can draw crowds in excess of 100,000 spectators and the added challenge of significant river traffic and TV crews.

The girls raced in the second race of the day against Lea Rowing Club and dealt well with the spirited challenge posed by Lea, to set up a semi-final against Headington School at the end of the day.

There was an electric atmosphere around the event on the Saturday evening, unlike anything the crew had experienced before. The girls had won silver at the National Schools' Regatta and were facing off against the bronze medal winners from Headington School.



The tension was palpable as the crews took to the water. Both crews made a strong start, but Headington moved into the lead after the first 400m and controlled the race extremely well to deny the girls the opportunity of a shot in the final. Nevertheless, the crew of Olivia Moir, Abby Adebisi, Maggie Page and Maddy Hollins can be extremely proud of their achievement.

The Regatta was a tremendous celebration and fantastic finish to the year for all the crews. We wish all the best to the departing Upper Sixth who have made a significant positive impact on the Club in their time at the School.



*Athol Hundermark
Director of Rowing*



Shrewsbury School Summer Telephone Campaign, 2nd – 18th July 2019

Tuesday 23 July 2019

The Foundation's annual summer telephone campaign has just finished and has again been very successful, raising over £125,000, primarily for bursaries for pupils who could not otherwise afford the fees to come to Shrewsbury.



Our calling team of 14 Sixth Formers and recent leavers spoke to 550 Old Salopians and parents. They provided updates on developments at the School, had many memorable conversations and benefitted from the advice that alumni and parents offered.

We are delighted that this campaign has been so successful, and combined with our Seat Naming Campaign earlier in the year, our phone campaigns have raised almost £200,000 this year.

We would like to thank all those who took the time to speak with our Callers and those who made a gift. Although the campaign has now finished, it is still possible to make a donation at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/shrewsburyfoundation> or by downloading a copy of our Giving Form [here](#).