

# Ladies' National Fives Championships: Shrewsbury 2nd pair win Festival Competition

Sunday 2 March 2014

*In one of the major events in the Eton Fives Association calendar, Shrewsbury 2nd pair Charlotte Perkins and Eliza Woods played outstandingly at Eton College on Sunday 2nd March and won the Festival Competition of the Ladies' Nationals – a tremendous achievement and the first time Shrewsbury has won this title.*



*L to r: Eliza Wood and Charlotte Perkins*

Competing in a field made up of the best senior women, university graduates and Highgate School National Champions, all our girls' Fives pairs did extremely well – despite the fact that many of them are relative newcomers to the game and lacked competition experience.

1st Pair Jo Cull and Charlotte Harris were promoted to the Main Ladies' Championship Competition, where they were competing against the best pairs in the country. To their great credit they came 2nd in the Plate competition, beating their great rivals Wolverhampton Girls' School 1st Pair along the way.

With a large entry in the Festival Competition and matches being played up to 15, the day proved to be a marathon event. But by 6.00pm we had achieved success as 2nd Pair Charlie Perkins & Eliza Woods won the Festival 15-8 against Bould & Lo from Cambridge University.

3rd Pair Alice Sykes-Waller & Gaby Byrne (both Upper Sixth) played their best fives ever and reached the semi-finals.

4th Pair Lower Sixth Formers Esmé O’Keeffe & Ciara Murphy, playing in their first event, improved dramatically and qualified out of their group. They lost in the quarter finals.

5th Pair Elinor Dolphin & Raf Major also qualified out of their group, improved match on match, and bowed out in the quarter finals.

6th Pair Honor Turpin & Emily Wood, also playing in their first event, were brilliant in their application and concentration and will have gained much from the experience.

#### *Results*

C.Harris & J.Cull (Captain) (Pair 1) Main 3-15, 3-15, 0-15, 5-15, 3-15 Plate 9-11,15-9,15-3 - 8 matches

E.Wood & C.Perkins (Pair 2) Festival Group 15-12, 15-3, 15-0, 15-0, 15-6, 15-1,15-11  
KO Stage 15-1,15-8, FINAL 15-8 - 10 matches

A.Sykes-Waller & G.Byrne (Pair 3) 10-15, 15-2, 15-0, 15-2, 15-4, 15-1, 15-5,  
KO Stage 15-2, 8-15 - 9 matches

E.O’Keeffe & C.Murphy (Pair 4) 7-15, 15-6, 15-0, 6-15, 15-5, 8-15, 15-0  
KO Stage 2-15 - 8 matches

E.Dolphin & R.Major (Pair 5) 2-15, 15-13, 15-11, 5-15, 15-9, 15-10, 5-15  
KO Stage 4-15 - 8 matches

#### *ASB*



*L to r: Charlotte Harris, Jo Cull, Eliza Wood, Gaby Byrne, Charlie Perkins, Alice Sykes-Waller*



## RSSBC: J14 team win gold at the English Indoor Rowing Championships

Sunday 2 March 2014

*Third Formers Tom Shepherd-Cross (O), Ed Lewis (Rb), Max Craik (PH) and Boris Kwok (Ch) gave a superb display of strength, speed and teamwork at the English Indoor Rowing Championships in Manchester on 2nd March and won team gold. This is the second successive year Shrewsbury has won gold in this national competition.*

On Sunday 2nd March, a team of four Third Form oarsmen travelled to Manchester Velodrome in order to compete at the English Indoor Rowing Championships. In the individual event, both Tom Shepherd-Cross (O) and Ed Lewis (Rb) recorded personal bests to finish in fifth and eight places respectively before being joined by Boris Kwok (Ch) and Max Craik (PH) for the team event. Needing to cover 3000m on just one ergo in the shortest possible time, this involved each athlete rowing flat-out for 20 strokes before being replaced by each of the three other members of the team in rotation.

Despite having exhausted himself in the individual 4 minute event, Tom gave the RSSBC squad the very best possible start by keeping abreast of both the J14 and J16 teams from Trentham Boat Club in between whom we were sandwiched. Having spent most of the first half of term on ergos because of the floods – and having raced in a similar fashion on numerous occasions in the new Yale Boathouse – the boys' change-overs were very slick indeed, so Ed was able to pick up precisely where Tom left off. Being relatively fresh, Boris and Max were then able to provide an injection of real pace by raising the stroke rate a little before the whole cycle began again ... and again ... and again ... for the best part of ten minutes!

At the end of the race itself, there was a brief moment of confusion because the team had technically finished in ninth place but it wasn't clear how many of the teams ahead of them were direct competitors in their J14 category and how many were older J16 teams. However, when the final results were published, it soon became clear that their time of 9'58" was a full 15" seconds quicker than the J14s from any other school or club so RSSBC members were able to collect gold medals for the second year in succession.

SAAF

## RSSH: Strong performances at the Northern Championships

Monday 3 March 2014

*Last year the Hunt senior squad won an historic double victory on consecutive days in both the Northern Schools' Championships and the Midlands and Northern Schools' Championships. With both races taking place on the same day this year, the squad had to split its forces to defend their titles. Although they narrowly missed retaining their trophies, both teams achieved impressive second place positions.*



*Northern Championships, 1st March 2014*

A beautiful spring day greeted us in Manchester as a small Hunt squad arrived at Longford Park with hopes of retaining the trophy we won here last year. Conditions were perfect for a fast, flat race - a course at entirely the other end of the spectrum compared with the gritty, hilly affair awaiting the other Hunt squad who had made the journey up to Sedbergh the same day.

With only five runners, this small team needed everyone to perform well if we were to stand any chance of competing for the 'Daily Despatch' trophy - awarded to the Senior victors of the Northern Championships, which has been going since 1939. After some lengthy discussions about spreading our resources in a bid to win both this and MANISCCC in Sedbergh, we eventually settled on a team comprising Upper Sixth formers Tom Lloyd (Rt) and Roman Faithfull (O), and Lower Sixth boys Ben Smith (Rt), Theo Clarke (S) and Alex Shaw (Ch).

Though the ground was quite soft (that is to say very muddy) in places, we knew this would be a fast course, with not even so much of a hint of undulation, and this suited Theo Clarke and Roman Faithfull especially. Both these two got off to a strong start, though Roman stuck to his tried-and-tested method of beginning close to the back of the field and working his way up



through the places. I think he does this mainly to worry his coach. After half a lap, Theo had settled nicely into fifth place, and Roman was back in around 12th, with Alex and Ben working together well in around 17th and 18th. They would continue to stick together over the next two laps as they pushed on to overtake those beginning to tire. Not much further back was the implacable Tom Lloyd, fending off challenges from upstarts among the low-20s.

At the front of the field, a commanding lead was being established by St Anselm's leading runner, leaving everyone else to squabble for 2nd place. Theo kept his cool and overtook a boy from Calday Grange who had looked very strong in the first kilometre or so but who had evidently got his pacing wrong and who dropped back to 16th position by the end of the race.

Things stretched out a bit after the first lap, and Theo was largely running on his own, but he did a fantastic job of maintaining the quick pace he had established in the opening lap and it was clear that the two boys behind him were in no position to challenge. In this second lap, Roman predictably made some moves up the field, eventually engaging in an exciting battle for 5th place by the end of lap two. This continued throughout the final lap.

By the end of the second lap, Ben and Alex were still working together but at this point Ben made a brave move and broke away, taking the position of the man in front in the process. Alex battled away to hold his place and had a real fight on his hands in the closing stages. Tom continued to hold position a little further back from Alex and looked comfortable there.

As the finish line came in sight, Theo put on a good turn of pace to make a challenge for 2nd and 3rd, who were battling away ahead of him, but ultimately the distance was too great. A fantastic 4th place for him was one of the highlights of his running career though, and shows what a rich vein of form he's found in recent weeks.

Roman continued his battle for 5th to the bitter end, but was just beaten by a move around 100m from the line to which Roman couldn't quite find the answer, and come home in an extremely creditable 6th position. Ben secured a fantastic 12th place, showing what terrific progress he's made this term, and Alex came through in 15th, managing to hold off a very strong move from the boy behind him, and completing our team of four counters. Tom finished 21st, well ahead of the boy he'd overtaken earlier in the lap.

Despite a great effort from all five runners, it was clear that the trophy had eluded us this time - Lancaster Royal Grammar School had given a great show of strength in depth and placed their four counters all in the top ten, with a further four runners all in the top twenty. This was always going to be the danger of us trying to win two trophies on the same day, but reflecting on the way home we agreed it was worth going for. Second team place was secured, and hopefully we'll be back to reclaim the trophy next year. Well done to those five on a terrific day's running.

*IPH*



# RSSH: Boys and girls triumphant in Midlands & Northern Schools' Cross-Country Championships

Monday 3 March 2014

*In a thrilling day of racing in tough, hilly, muddy conditions at Sedbergh, the Hunt has set down a new marker in its long and distinguished history.*

*In a hard-fought and terrifically exciting race, Shrewsbury's Senior Girls' team battled against determined opposition to emerge victorious as team winners of the Stowe Shield - their first regional trophy and a huge landmark in girls' running at Shrewsbury - with Tory Mobley crowned individual champion. The Colts brought home the team trophy for the first time since 2011, with Freddie Huxley-Fielding winning the individual title; and the Senior boys won team silver, with an individual silver medal for Ben Remnant.*

The Midlands & Northern Championships (MANISCCC) this year returned to the hills of Cumbria as Sedbergh hosted this prestigious event, now in its 55th year. With fell-running a strong tradition at Sedbergh, we knew that the course would be tough, hilly and very muddy. Having won the Seniors trophy for the past three years in a row, it was this year the turn of the Colts and the Senior Girls to shine, with both taking their respective championship trophies, which in the case of the girls, was the first time Shrewsbury School have ever won the event.

The long journey up on the coach saw the weather steadily worsen with the almost azure sky of Shropshire erased into a somewhat more monochromatic charcoal scene. This only seemed to encourage KMW whose knitting got increasingly furious, and it seemed she had almost knitted an entire skirt by the time we arrived in Cumbria.



The first race of the day was the Colts which saw our Third and Fourth Form tackle the 2.5 mile course. An immediate lead was established by Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) whose upbringing on a sheep farm proved a useful background for this sort of running. With four to 'count' for the team event, there was excellent support for Freddie behind with Charlie Tait-Harris (S) coming up the first hill in 2nd place, and Will Hayward (R) in 5th. The team event looked to be a close run thing, with Sedbergh's home squad packing in well behind with 3rd and 4th place. It looked to be down to the fourth placed counter for both schools, but going into the final lap, Third Former Owen Mock (R) had pushed through the positions coming home in 7th place overall, an excellent performance for a young runner. With Hayward securing 5th place and Tait-Harris and Huxley-Fielding holding their positions, the Hunt's score of 15 was well clear of Ampleforth in 2nd with 38 points with Sedbergh having faded in the final stages. The team were delighted to take home the trophy – last won in 2011 – and Freddie becomes only the third Hunt runner to be crowned individual winner, following in the footsteps of this year's Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch) who won the Colts title back in 2011 when the race was last hosted by Shrewsbury.



*MANISCCC 2014*

The girls' race was second up, and on the back of their superb 4th place at the National Relays in Coventry, there was confidence in the team and a determination to challenge amongst the leading schools at the championships, despite never having placed in the medals. However, the race got off to a good start with standout star Tory Mobley (EDH) immediately establishing her position at the front of the pack and going up the first hill to the ruined bothy, she had stretched out a lead of 10m and looked strong and confident in the early stages. She was followed by Tatty Hunt (EDH) in 2nd place, though she was soon under pressure from Sedbergh, Oundle and Wrekin's top runners. In the tough conditions, the girls needed to fight hard in what was a very tight race, and with Tatty dropping down to 6th place, the pressure was on, with local rivals Wrekin in the ascendency.



*MANISCCC 2014*

However, Girls' Captain of Running Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH) and fellow Upper Sixth Former Sophie Pelling (EDH) were motoring through the field, pushing up from 9th and 12th in the first lap, to 7th and 8th by the second lap. By the closing stages of the race, it couldn't have been more exciting, or indeed closer, with Wrekin's top runner moving up to 2nd place overall in the home straight, behind Tory Mobley who 'killed' in her first ever MANISCCC race, which was an historic win as no other Shrewsbury female runner has ever taken the individual title. She dominated the race in a time of 21.15, over one minute faster than 2nd place. With Wrekin moving up one point with their lead runner, we were pleased to see Tatty Hunt coming home in 6th place, somehow hanging on despite finding the hills very tough, just behind Wrekin's 2nd placed runner.

Down the field, Sophie and Lucie came under attack in the final home straight from Wrekin's third runner, whose slight frame seemed to float easily over the muddy final hill. It looked like the lead had been transferred, agonisingly, in the final 100m of the race, however, we were not quite sure what had happened to Wrekin's fourth and final counter, who had been in 9th place. However, when the results came through, Wrekin were announced as having taken team silver with 26 points (Sedbergh were third with 39 points), with the Hunt taking the championship title with 24 points. Sadly for Wrekin, their final counter had dropped down to 12th by the end of the race, meaning that Shrewsbury's tight 'packing' had ensured victory to take home the 'Stowe Shield' for the first time ever in the race's history. This was a significant milestone in Girls' Running, with their only previous trophy being the County Championship trophy in 2012. To now move up to take a regional championship win demonstrates a terrific progression, and it is well deserved given the hard work of the girls and their inspiring coach, Kait Weston.





*MANISCCC 2014*

The Senior boys' race was the final race of the day, with an extended course of 4 miles and with 6 runners to count. It was going to be a tough ask for our runners to retain the title (won for the last three years in a row) with a depleted side partly due to injury, partly due to five of our seniors taking part in the Northern Champs in Manchester on the same day. The course, too, would be a testing challenge, with few races on the cross-country circuit even coming close to being as testing as this course. That said, the boys were determined to put in a strong performance, and our top three runners of Rory Fraser (Ch, Huntsman), Ben Remnant (Ch) and Oscar Dickins (R) packed in well in the opening stages, all working through the field in the top seven, with Charlie Godman (M), Henry Newbould (Ch) and Henry Dashwood (SH) having got off to a strong start as well, all in the top half of the field.

Newbould sadly took a bad tumble going over one of the water jumps, twisting his ankle, so unfortunately was halted in the first lap despite looking extremely strong. It was extremely frustrating for Henry, particularly given the recent form of this young and very promising new runner. In his place, the ever-impressive Alex Perutz (Rt) steadily made his way through the field, eventually coming home as our fifth counter in 18th place, with Henry Dashwood battling through to 24th place as our final counter. Up at the top end of the competition, Charlie Godman fought against a sore hip to battle through into 15th position, with Oscar Dickins coming home in 7th, Rory Fraser placing 4th in a time of 29.50, and 5th former Ben Remnant (with two years left at the School) taking individual silver in a time of 29.04, 19 seconds behind the winner from Wrekin College. Our team total of 70 points was good enough for team silver, but not enough to challenge a very strong Sedbergh first team, whose 44 points was the result of very impressive packing from their hardened fell runners.

Despite having to hand over the seniors 'Nutter Cup' (an appropriate name in this case), it was an excellent performance from the Hunt to come home with the Colts title and the Senior Girls



title, with two individual titles to boot. Particular mention must go to our ‘non-counters’ whose support running was crucial in securing such high positions. Jasmine Douglas (MSH) in the senior girls’ ran grittily to place 26th despite having forgotten her spikes (making for almost impossible running in the mud and the hills), and George O’Brien gained valuable race experience with 13th place in the Colts. In the senior boys’, rising star Charlie England (Rt) was only three places behind Henry Dashwood, and Oli Pope pushed hard in the final stages to gain three positions and take 32nd place overall, and looks to be increasingly establishing himself as a runner of considerable promise.

All in all, another good day of racing for the Hunt, including strong performances in the Northern Champs in Trafford - see report: [Northern Championships](#)  
*PJM*



## School House Play 'Our Day Out' receives excellent feedback

Tuesday 4 March 2014

*The boys put on a fantastic show for a packed house in the Ashton Theatre.*



*School House Play 2014 - Our Day Out by Willy Russell*

*Our Day Out* by Willy Russell, is a bleak and powerful, but superficially comic, play, which explores a 1970s school trip involving students from socially deprived backgrounds. The lads worked extremely hard and the play was fantastic - hilarious in parts, but sensitive to the serious underlying message.

Although the final product was excellent and the audience was thoroughly entertained, these aspects are secondary in importance to the process that they went through in order to put on the play. From the production team to the sound and light engineers, the stage management, costume design, front of house, behind the scenes, actors and of course our fantastic Director, Harry Al-Adwani, the whole play was run by the students. It was an ambitious project, which involved a significant amount of time, discipline, a steep learning curve and a good dose of fun! I want to thank Harry and all the other boys for their efforts. In addition, I want to single out and thank Helena Irvine, who bravely crossed the tracks from EDH to join the School House boys as the lead girl in the play.

HRDB



## Ingram's Fourth Form Sunday Outing

Tuesday 4 March 2014

*By Charlie Speed*



On Sunday 2nd March the Ingram's Fourth Form set out on their Sunday lunch and go-karting trip. Mr Wright had set out the guidelines "Anyone who beats me gets a shop tea!" We were all hyped up and ready go. First of all we stopped off at the Queen's Head for a delicious Sunday roast – roast topside of beef being the preferred choice of main. None of us expected how much food we would get. The beef came with all the trimmings including a gigantic Yorkshire pudding. For dessert it ranged from chocolate brownie sundaes to Belgian waffles coated in butterscotch sauce.

We left the pub feeling a lot heavier, which was good because it gave us more down force for the main event. We arrived at Rednall karting facility all very nervous but ready to show Mr Wright who was boss. As we arrived the rain started to come down and we had to change our overalls into dry suits. On a very wet track the race began. Charlie went straight out hard on the throttle and span off the first corner. However he learned from these mistakes and was able to master this winding and wet track. Thomas Scott Bell, however, did not learn the track in these difficult conditions as well as some others did. Mr Wright started off slow and steady, gradually learning the track as he went along. At the end, everyone having had at least two crashes, we waited for the results. When the results came, in third place was Michael Hoare, in second Mr Wright and the shop-tea-winning champion in first place was Charlie Speed!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wright for taking us out on this wonderful day.

*By the champion, Charlie Speed!*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Fencing: Shrewsbury v Stone Fencing Club, Saturday 1st March

Thursday 6 March 2014

*Sabre:* Shrewsbury 45 Stone 32

*Epee:* Shrewsbury 12 Stone 4

## *Foil Individuals:*

1st Marco Lee

2nd (Stone)

3rd Scott Reynolds

4th Issy Codron

5th Alec Barnes

*Overall result:* Shrewsbury 2 Stone 0

## *Shrewsbury Teams*

*Sabre:* Ross Viljoen (PH LVI), Tom Miller (Rb UVI), Benson Chang (O V)

*Epee:* Jonty Small (M UVI), Arthur Cheng (I LVI), Tom Creamer (S LVI), Jeff Pun (O LVI), Archie Free (Rt 3)

*Foil:* Marco Lee (I V), Scott Reynolds (Rb V), Issy Codron (EDH UVI), Alec Barnes (PH IV)

## The School House Foundation makes its first £500 for charity!

Thursday 6 March 2014

With help from some very generous donations after the House Play and the success of the Brownie Baking competition, The School House Foundation has already reached the £500 mark, so we will shortly be sending off cheques for £250 to both Macmillan Cancer Support and Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you to everyone who has been involved.



## Oliver Hodges (S 3) wins runner-up prize in a national story-writing challenge

Thursday 6 March 2014



*Oliver Hodges with English teacher Des Hann*

Last November, the charity Walking With The Wounded joined forces with best-selling author Andy McNab to hold a Story-Writing Challenge. Students aged 11-15 were asked to complete a story started by Andy McNab, using no more than 1000 words.

The competition was judged by Andy McNab, who chose a winner and four runners-up (rather than three, as originally planned – it was clearly a hard decision).

One of the runners-up was Third Former Oliver Hodges (S), who received a signed book by Andy McNab as his prize.

To read Oliver's story, entitled 'A Small Seclusion', please click on the link below:

[A Small Seclusion by Oliver Hodges](#)

## Shrewsbury Relays 2014

Thursday 6 March 2014

*On the back of a successful weekend of racing up in Sedbergh with individual and team victories in the Midlands & Northern Championships, Wednesday 5th March saw further trophy successes at the Shrewsbury Relays for both our boys and our ever-impressive girls' squad.*



*RSSH - Shrewsbury Relays, March 2014*

The Hunt has dominated this event in recent years, with home advantage and strength in depth being difficult to compete against for visiting schools. At this year's relays, the Hunt won the event for the fifth year in a row, with three teams taking on challengers Wrekin College and King Henry VIII School.

Our three squads were in fact 'mixed up' to add an extra dimension of internal competition to the racing, and this proved to make for some exciting racing. Indeed, the hotly-tipped 'Team 1' captained by Whip Sean Sawyer (PH, UVI) got off to a strong start with Harry Adair (Rt, V) taking on the first 'Colts' leg of the 2-mile route along the River Severn coming home with a ten-second lead over the Hunt's 'Team 2' (captained by Mark Huang (S UVI)). Adair's time of 10.19 was an impressive effort, as was fellow Ridgemounteneer Charlie Home's 10.29, particularly since he is a year younger.

The Hunt's third team (captained by Toby Harvey-Scholes (R UVI) came in next – ahead of Wrekin and KHVIII's opening leg runners – with Third Former Owen Mock (R) posting 11.00. The second leg saw a surge from Wrekin College who opted to place their fastest runner at this point in this race. So it was Wrekin who took the lead from the three Hunt squads by the



end of this leg, with their runner Matthew Giles (fresh from his individual victory at Sedbergh the weekend previously) posting one of the fastest times of the day (9.46). Fifth former Oli Pope (PH) made quick work, however, of re-establishing the lead for the Hunt's 'Team 1', a lead that they would hold all the way into the final leg of the race.

By this point, Team 3 had faded down into fourth place, with Wrekin in 3rd. The Hunt's Team 2 looked to be too far away to catch up to the lead, with over a minute separating the teams at the start of the final leg. However, Theo Clarke (S LVI) – who has shown impressive developments as an athlete this year – got off to a lightning start and was clearly determined to catch fellow Lower Sixth Former Alex Shaw in front of him. Amazingly, as the runners came round the bend opposite the School Boat House, with 800m to go, it looked like Theo might be able to catch Alex, having worked away at closing the gap. A hugely exciting sprint finish ensued, and accompanied by the fierce cheering of their team-mates, it looked like Theo would do it. Yet a final surge from Alex in the last 20m saw him hold position and bring his team home as victors by a margin of just three seconds! Theo's time of 9.43 was the fastest of the day, and in fact equalled the fastest time from 2013 set by fellow Severn Hill runner and last year's Huntsman Ed Mallett. Incredibly, in another bizarre coincidence, our very own version of Coe/Ovett in the Fifth Form (Ben Remnant of Churchill's and Oscar Dickins of Rigg's) posted exactly the same time of 9.46 to be awarded the joint fastest Colts' lap!



*RSSH - Shrewsbury Relays, March 2014*

In the girls' race, having only just beaten Wrekin College into 2nd place at Saturday's MANISCCC championships, the rivalry was set to be resumed, with Wrekin no doubt hungry for some revenge. The interesting variation would come not just from the terrain of the race (a flat 2 miles opposed to brutally hard muddy and hilly cross-country) but also due to the fact that this would be a 6-leg relay rather than the 4 counters needed for Saturday's race. Reinforcements

were brought in from Jasmine Douglas (MSH UVI) and Alice Sykes-Waller (MSH UVI), with the latter normally to be found on a netball pitch.

Predictions of a close race were well-founded as after the first leg, the Hunt's first runner Lower Sixth Former Tatty Hunt (EDH) – was just 2 seconds off Wrekin's lead runner, coming home in 12.01. Wrekin stretched out a sizeable lead in the second leg of over two minutes, but the strength and determination of Sophie Pelling (EDH UVI) and a swift 12.18 leg saw the Hunt draw back to give us a chance again.

As Jasmine Douglas (MSH UVI) took over at the start of the third leg, we were a good 200m behind. However the flat course suited Douglas well (watch out for her during the track season), and by the halfway turnaround point, she had caught up with Wrekin's runner, and perhaps even surprising herself, she had by the end of her lap put the Hunt in the lead for the first time with her leg of 13.25.

With captain Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH UVI) next up, there was confidence in the air, and her time of 12.47 ensured that going into the final leg, the Hunt were well clear of their rivals Wrekin, and with speedster Tory Mobley (EDH LVI) to bring the Hunt home, the result by this point was never in doubt. An 11.20 from Mobley was the fastest leg of the day out of all the runners, a time that would in fact have put her amongst the top half of the boys' times.



*RSSH - Shrewsbury Relays, March 2014*

A second trophy for the girls in the same week was another fantastic achievement, and was a further milestone in cementing our ever-increasing reputation for girls' running. This group of girls have laid down extremely strong foundations for future successes as Shrewsbury looks towards full co-education, and they can be proud of their achievements as 'trailblazers' pushing girls' running to new levels.

This has been the most successful season ever for girls' running, and there are still two trophy races to come. Watch this space!



## *Lap times (Boys)*

9.43 T Clarke (S LVI)  
9.45 B Remnant (Ch V)  
9.45 O Dickins (R V)  
10.17 W Hayward (R IV)  
10.19 H Adair (Rt V)  
10.29 C Home (Rt IV)  
10.49 A Shaw (Ch LVI)  
11.00 O Mock (R 3)  
11.01 R Faithful (O UVI)  
11.06 S Sawyer (PH UVI)  
11.07 C Davis (PH LVI)  
11.14 B Smith (Rt LVI)  
11.15 T Harvey-Scholes (R UVI)  
11.28 O Pope (PH V)  
11.34 T Lloyd (Rt UVI)  
11.42 M Huang (S UVI)  
12.06 G O'Brien (M IV)  
12.38 E Chamberlain (Ch V)

## *Lap times (Girls)*

11.20 T Mobley (EDH LVI)  
12.01 T Hunt (EDH LVI)  
12.18 S Pelling (EDH UVI)  
12.47 L Cornwell-Lee (MSH UVI)  
13.25 J Douglas (MSH UVI)  
14.41 A Sykes-Waller (MSH UVI)



## Tom Shepherd-Cross wins English Indoor Rowing gold medal

Thursday 6 March 2014

Tom Shepherd-Cross (Third Form, pictured right) was one of four J14 oarsmen to travel to Manchester Velodrome to compete in the English Indoor Rowing Championships on Sunday 2nd March. Tom recorded a personal best to finish in fifth place before being joined by others for the team event over a 3000m distance.

Despite having exhausted himself in the individual four-minute event, Tom gave the RSSBC squad the very best possible start by keeping abreast of both the J14 and J16 teams from Trentham Boat Club in between whom the Shrewsbury team were sandwiched.

At the end of the race it soon became clear that their time of 9'58" was a full 15 seconds quicker than the J14s from any other school or club, so RSSBC members were able to collect gold medals for the second year in succession.

Many thanks to Mr Steve Fox for taking the boys to this event and his organisation of them.  
*MDBJ*



## Bordeaux Study Visit

Friday 7 March 2014

*The twentieth Sixth Form French Study Visit to Bordeaux took place during February half-term. Combining home-stay accommodation in French families with intensive language tuition in the mornings and lots of trips and excursions - which this year included a cookery lesson, a tour of Château Pape Clément and cheese tasting as well as theatre and museum visits - the eight days provide a wonderful linguistic and cultural experience.*



*Bordeaux Study Visit 2014*

### **A review by Sonny Koh (LVI, Ch)**

C'était samedi matin, nous nous sommes rencontrés devant l'Alington Hall pour attendre l'arrivée du car. Dix heures plus tard nous sommes enfin arrivés à Bordeaux, extrêmement fatigués à cause des retards et un long trajet à l'aéroport. Cela dit, le « séjour linguistique » était un équilibre parfait entre travail et divertissement.

Malgré les cours qui duraient trois longues heures, il y avait plein de temps pour faire ce que nous avons voulu ainsi que d'innombrables activités. Nous avons visité plusieurs musées comme le musée des Beaux-Arts qui était mon favori en raison des expositions de l'art abstrait et impressionniste. Sans parler des visites au vignoble où nous avons dégusté les vins. Si je m'étais rendu compte que nous pourrions acheter le vin, j'aurais amené plus d'argent afin que je puisse acheter un cadeau pour mes parents.

La meilleure chose de ce voyage était le fait que nous avions besoin de parler en français parce que personne ne parle l'anglais. Les Bordelais sont indéniablement sympas et ayant été plongé dans la culture bordelaise, c'était une occasion géniale pour m'évader du quotidien.

Le seul dommage était que le séjour était trop court. Mais toutes les bonnes choses ont une fin.



*Bordeaux Study Visit 2014*

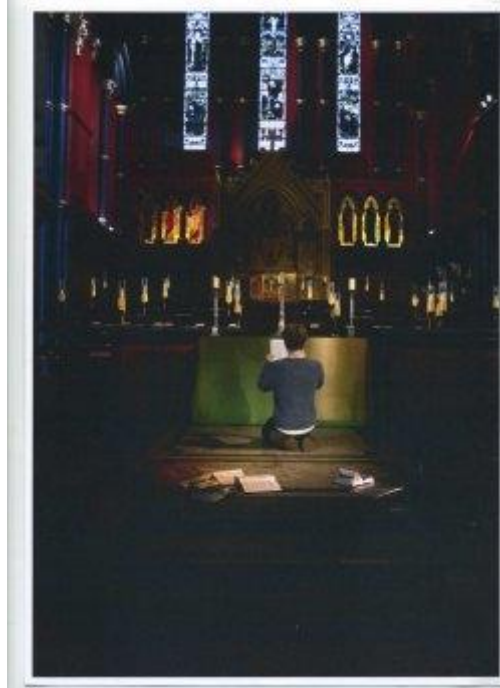
Trips and excursions during the Study Visit included:

- a trip to *L'Atelier des Chefs* for a lesson from a chef in how to cook a dish, followed by cooking and eating it
- a trip to Saint Emilion, the famous wine village with a tour of its immense Neolithic church and some wine cellars
- a visit of La Tour Michel de Montaigne, the library tower of the inventor of the essay; a popular chap
- a *soirée théâtre* to see a modern play, *Couple: Mode d'emploi*
- bowling
- a cinema trip to see *La Belle et la Bête*
- guided visits of Le Musée des Beaux Arts and Le musée de l'Aquitaine
- a visit of Château Pape Clément, the former château of the only French Pope, now a building of historical interest and a massive wine business ; we tasted three excellent wines by Bernard Magrez as part of this *industrial* visit ;
- a climb and tour of La Tour Pey Berland with panoramic views of Bordeaux
- a cheese tasting with a local cheese specialist.



## World Book Day celebrations

Friday 7 March 2014



*'Extreme Reading' by Conrad Morson (R V)*

World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) started perfectly for us when all Lower School pupils and tutors “Dropped everything and read” for 20 minutes before lessons began. Many took the opportunity to read their free World Book Day title – *Rock war: the audition* by Robert Muchamore. Feedback from this event has been wonderfully positive – with some students suggesting that we hold similar events every month.

Catering staff joined the celebration by designing a special World Book Day menu – which included Lord of the Pies (beef and onion pies), Hamlet (omelette) and Of Rice and Men (rice pudding).

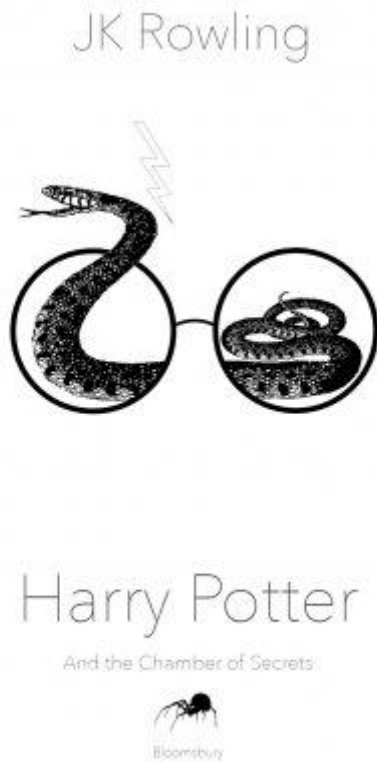
After lunch Mr Dalton shared his experience of writing the **Temples of Malplaquet trilogy** in his fascinating talk “How to make money from your writing”. He encouraged students to take opportunities now to get used to writing for and receiving feedback from an audience. His message that successful authors love words and love reading was perfect for World Book Day. Judging then took place for the two World Book Day competitions. The “Extreme Reading Photography Competition” – photographs of reading taking place in extraordinary circumstances or unusual places – received very imaginative entries including photographs of reading on top of a wardrobe, in the Grot Shop and in various elevated, outdoor venues. After much deliberation we chose two winning entries. Conrad Morson submitted three wonderful photographs. We finally chose his dramatic and carefully staged photograph of reading in the Chapel as a winner (*see right*). Niklas Amthor’s photograph of reading whilst cycling (*below*) – although not a recommended activity – was another worthy winner.



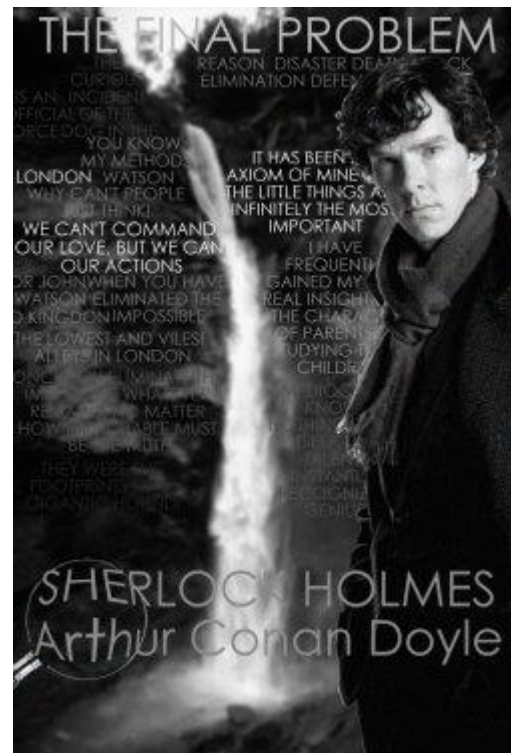
*'Extreme Reading' by Niklas Amthor (R 3)*

Equally strong entries were received in the Design a Book Cover Competition. This competition was created and organised with the help of a group of Third Form Duke of Edinburgh volunteers – who developed the concept and designed the publicity. Four winners – Andrew Spicer, Oliver Lansdell, Sebastian Ingrams and Gus Lloyd – were eventually chosen. All winning entries displayed strong designs which incorporated clear knowledge of the books.





*World Book Day 2014 - Winning Book Cover Designs*



*World Book Day 2014 - Winning Book Cover Designs*

*Above left: winning book cover design by Andrew Spicer (M UVI - one of a series of four covers for Harry Potter titles); right - winning book cover design by Oliver Lansdell (PH V)*

To view the other winning cover designs, please see the gallery below

I've asked all the winners to let me know their favourite authors, genres or subject areas and I will select a book I think each will treasure. I am delighted that the school really embraced World Book Day – I'm already planning bigger and better things for next year!

*Jo Elliot  
Head Librarian*



## Cadogan Hall soloist plays Bach on Top Common

Friday 7 March 2014

At the Cadogan Hall on Sunday 9th March, Awen will be playing the beautiful and haunting 'Kol Nidrei' by Max Bruch.

Three of the School's other Sixth Form Music Scholars will also be giving solo performances at the Cadogan Hall concert: Laurence Jeffcoate (Ch) will be playing Mozart's much-loved Concerto for Horn in E flat major; and Eric Cheng (Ch) and Calvin Chan (I) will be performing Bach's Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor with the School's String Orchestra.

We look forward to welcoming pupils of Broomwood Hall, The Pilgrim's School, St Anselm's Preparatory School and Northcote Lodge, who will be joining Shrewsbury's Symphony Orchestra in playing Walton's 'Crown Imperial' March - the opening piece of the concert - and 'Mars' from the Planet Suite by Gustav Holst.

The Symphony Orchestra will also be performing the first movement of Schubert's glorious Symphony No 9 ('The Great') and movements from Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 - a work of huge 'populist' appeal (the premiere of the full symphony in Leningrad 1937 reportedly received an ovation that lasted well over half an hour).

The School's Brass Ensembles and Wind Orchestra will also be performing works including 'Millenium Fanfare' by Francis Clifford, 'Jealousy' by Jacob Gade and Martin Ellerby's 'Prelude on Hampstead Heath'.

It promises to be a stunning evening of Shrewsbury music-making at its finest.

The concert starts at 6.30pm and tickets will be available on the door, price £10. The bar at the Cadogan Hall will be open from 5.30pm.

The Cadogan Hall is one of London's leading concert venues, home to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. It is on Sloane Terrace, just round the corner from Sloane Square Tube Station, London SW1X 9DQ

## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 7 March 2014

*This week - Rowing.*



*Training on Lake Vyrnwy, Saturday 2nd March*

This is not an easy subject for me to tackle and I am not sure why my editor suggested it. She knows I avoid rowing and any other scenes of confrontation where possible; although I was quite tempted to have a go at her today! It was suggested that I talk to Athol Hundermark as he is apparently well qualified in rowing (as one would expect, being Shrewsbury's Director of Rowing), although I have always found him to be most amenable – unlike some other South African sports stars I could mention.

In general Shrewsbury is quite a peaceful place and there are very few rows that I am aware of. It is true that I was quite irritated with some of my Lower Sixth Form students, who recently showed more interest in the rain falling on the classroom window panes than in my exposition of the Cosmological Argument. Even then I did manage to avoid a major row. Indeed the only row I have had of late is with my five-year-old son Reggie over musical differences in terms of which Womble song should be listened to next. I found myself being quite stern with Reggie, which resulted in a walk along the river in an effort to take my mind to calmer waters; it was here I saw several other sterns and realised I had made a major error of interpretation!

The English language can be so confusing! In a flash of inspiration I have just realised that I was not detailed to concentrate on bad tempered confrontations but on what is happening on the Severn and other significant puddles, or waterways. For those blessed with the ability to catch or kick a ball, rowing has often been associated with the Severn Bore, but I hope in this article to explode that mean-mouthed myth once and for all! Rowing at Shrewsbury is fun, inclusive,

builds character and self-confidence, as well as muscle, and is a path to University entrance success – especially in America. Tom Marshall is one of numerous Salopians to have entered the hallowed portals of Harvard because of his prodigious rowing talent. Harvard, according to today's Telegraph, is the world's foremost University. Schools that do not offer rowing as a sport thus lack an extra arrow in the quiver when it comes to trying to hit the bull's eye of the University world! (Darts will be covered soon!)



I have always found the river to be a slightly stressful place when accompanied by my blind dog Ted. But with Ted safely tied up and well away from the river bank, I was able to relax to the beats that were pumping out of the Boat House stereo at quite a high decibel level. If you have not visited the Boat House recently, you should! It has been newly refurbished and is now a most impressive facility. I arrived to find that a weights session was going on. This did not mean that squad members were waiting to speak to their coaches, although some were. This was serious weight lifting and conditioning. I could have joined in but did not want to be accused of showing off. (I am afraid that it has to be said that I am closer to an East European weightlifter in look than I used to be!) There were athletes and coaches everywhere.

The first coach I collared was Nathan Williams who is in charge of the girls' crew. He was very upbeat about the chances of success this year and extremely impressed by the progress the squad as a whole is making. He told me that Francesca Molyneux (EDH UVI) and Lettie Tay (MSH LVI) have the making of an awesome pair and that Claudia Kimpton-Smith (EDH LVI) is also a very talented oarswoman. He paid tribute to the work put in by Poppy Crowe (EDH UVI) and Izzy Diment (EDH UVI) among others and said it was a joy working with such a positive group of students.



*L to r: Lettie Tay and Francesca Molyneux*

Rob Wilson was next to suffer an inquisition. He is coaching the under-16s and delighted that the top squad can now boast five crews, including two under-16 crews. He is hoping that his crews will perform well at the Schools' Head in London later this month. The event has been pushed back a couple of weeks as there has been too much water for training purposes.

I found Charlie Johnston (R LVI) looking much more alert on a bench press than in my lessons. He told me that he loved rowing as he had never been a keen ball sportsman and had now found a way of staying fit and being part of a team. He enjoys the excellent facilities and the camaraderie of the training room. He is hoping for a good season in the second boat and certainly seemed focused and inspired.



*L to r: Tom Rowe and Charlie Johnston*

Will Dodson-Wells (SH UVI) was effusive about the Boat Club. He is loving being in the 1st VIII and is hoping to win some silverware this year. He told me he thinks that Mr Hundermark likes speed and winning; he seemed to think these ideas might be important for his crew to take on board – unlike water! Will is also enjoying the prospect of rowing in a brand new boat. “It is important to be able to keep up with the others,” he suggested. And go past them, Will? Certainly Mr Hundermark is excited by the new boat. He told me it is a very high spec boat from Germany. The riggers are carbon fibre and that helps maintain a rigidity that is important. Too much flexibility is a bad thing and tends to happen to ageing boats.



*Times move on - sadly the Giles Bell is no longer the top of the tree*

Mr Hundermark has been frustrated by the weather as many have been this year. He is delighted to finally be preparing his crews for some racing this weekend at Runcorn Head, where the main

rivals will be a King's School Chester crew that are apparently flying at present – I am not convinced by that type of training! As far as the Head of the River prospects go, Mr Hundermark is cautiously optimistic... He admits to enjoying his role here as he gets his feet under the table. He has had to be imaginative with the training schedule because of the rain. The squad have been to Lake Bala and Lake Vyrnwy to row and he even had a hog roast at the Boat House to help lift spirits and thank his squads for their patience and hard work. His tip for the top is 'play the long game – rowing rewards hard work' – a mantra I suspect that could be taken into other areas of life. Henry Rassmuss would be an example of his words in action, as Henry through commitment and dedication has made it into the 1st VIII, but has not necessarily been in the A crews in the lower year groups.



Wherever I go on my travels around the School, I am certain of finding some amazing young people. The Boat Club is no exception. George Patterson (R LVI) has been selected for the GB squad and Toby Thomas (SH LVI) and Lettie Tay are currently still in with a chance of representative rowing. I always find representing GB quite a challenge!

The Boat Club is as you would imagine an oarsome place to be! Good luck to all who row in her!  
*GJFB*



## Bentley Elocution Prizes 2014

Friday 7 March 2014

*The annual Bentley Elocution Prize Competitions took place on Thursday 6th March in the Ashton Theatre. The enduring appeal of this competition ensured a large field who had survived the preliminary heats to come forward to recite their chosen poems before an expectant audience.*



*Bentley Elocution Prizewinners 2014*

For the third consecutive year Mr Sheppe was in charge of proceedings and he ensured that the evening passed smoothly and pleasantly, producing one of the most successful competitions in recent memory. The Third Form proved an attentive and appreciative audience and a supportive and genial atmosphere ensured that all the competitors, even those who found the pressure of performance a little daunting, enjoyed the event.

This year's judge was author, journalist and reviewer Susannah Herbert. Susannah is also Director of the Forward Arts Foundation, an organisation that promotes poetry for young people, making her extremely well placed to pass judgement on this event. She offered all the contestants encouragement, advice and appreciation, coming to her conclusions quickly and justifying her choices with sensitivity.

The Third Form section of the evening featured eight boys; Susannah commented on the "uniformity of confidence" across the entire group, which surprised and pleased her. She singled out three boys for particular praise: Edward Acton, Henry Mayhew and Angus Moore. However, her winner was Henry Mayhew for his excellent recitation of William Henley's *Invictus*.



The Fourth Form competition saw six boys battle for the top spot. Again, the judge found three performances particularly impressive: Max Blance, Caspian Cowan-Taylor and Fintan Simmons. She was pleased to see that so many boys “knew the power of the words” they spoke; her winner, whose performance was characterised by his “understanding and intonation” was Max Blance, who recited Simon Armitage’s *In Our Tenth Year*.

The judge found herself “very divided” over the Fifth Form group. She found Tiger Vechamamontien’s performance of *Howl* by Allen Ginsberg “immensely enjoyable”, but eventually settled upon Henry Newbould as the winner, for his outstanding performance of Philip Larkin’s *Dockery and Son*.

The final phase of the evening saw the Sixth Form competition, featuring 14 girls and boys from both the Lower and Upper Sixth. We heard a large variety of poems in this section, but the eventual winner, who the judge found “mesmerising”, was Mark Huang for his performance of WB Yeats’ *Broken Dreams*.

Of course, congratulations go to all the worthy winners. However, special mention should also be made of Sylvia Yeo and Sasha Arridge who recited poems they had written themselves. Our thanks are also extended to all the competitors, their supporters, the judge and Mr Sheppe for providing us with such excellent entertainment on an otherwise drab Thursday evening in March!

KL





## Intermediate Maths Challenge - 15 winners of Gold Certificates

Friday 7 March 2014



*Intermediate Maths Challenge 2014 - Gold Certificate Winners*

On the first Thursday of February, 200,000 pupils nationally sat the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, a one-hour paper testing their problem-solving abilities.

The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3, therefore those pictured are amongst the best  $6\frac{2}{3}\%$  in the country. Eight of them achieved high enough marks to qualify for the follow up rounds on 20th March.

Overall, 54 Salopians received a certificate (15 Gold, 16 Silver and 23 Bronze).

CWO

## RSSBC: Strong performances at the Runcorn Head

Monday 10 March 2014

*Nine Shrewsbury crews took to the water at the Runcorn Head on Saturday 8th March. It is the first racing that any of the crews have had since the Wallingford Head in December and it was a great opportunity to shake off the cobwebs of the winter's land training.*



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*

With very few rival schools in attendance, it was a low pressure event that was useful to prepare the crews for the postponed Schools' Head of the River on 26th March. All nine crews acquitted themselves well and came home with some positives to carry forward.



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*

The 1st VIII won the Elite division and came second overall by a narrow margin. The 2nd VIII achieved a respectable third place in the IM2 division only losing out to King's Chester and Liverpool University 1st VIIIs.

It was great to have a 3rd VIII competing at the event and the crew came 12th out of 14 in the IM3 VIIIs.



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*

The J16A VIII performed strongly, winning the IM3 division and in doing so beating numerous universities' 1st VIIIs including Leeds, Lancaster and Sheffield. The J16B VIII also had a good row, coming in 6th out of 14 IM3 VIIIs.



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*

A mixed quad – including the J14 coach Mr Scrimshaw making a guest appearance – put in an impressive performance, coming second out of all the quads racing in the morning division.

The J15s had three crews racing on the day, with the A & B VIIIIs racing in the afternoon in the Novice category and a four racing in the morning in the Novice four category. The four started proceedings well with an encouraging win in their event and in the process overtaking and beating numerous VIII s. The J15 VIIIIs came in an impressive 3rd and 4th out of 11 crews and have shown significant improvement in recent weeks after having very little time on the water.

*ATH*



*Shrewsbury School at the Runcorn Head, 8th March 2014*



## RSSH dominate the Midlands League at Burghley Park

Monday 10 March 2014

On the journey to Burghley Park, Huntsman Rory Fraser had told anyone who would listen – only myself and the ever-polite Alex Walker – how Stamford was one of his great stamping grounds and scene of the gruelling Christmas holiday training that has kept him at the front of our pack this season. Watched by his family, it was therefore a terrific pleasure for Rory to streak ahead to a comfortable win in the Senior Boys' race.

The surface was good for running, the sun shining and birds singing, and Rory looked on indomitable form, leading the race right from the off. He was tracked in second place by Theo Clarke who also looked light and indefatigable and with John Dempsey having a terrific run and sprinting into the finish in 8th, Roman Faithful 9th, Ben Smith 11th and Alex Shaw 15th, Mr Middleton's exhortations to 'pack it out' and see off the challenge from Oundle were fulfilled emphatically by our first six counters.

Shrewsbury A were first with 46 points, Oundle second with 62. Shrewsbury B (Sawyer 17th, Dashwood 22nd, Davis 23rd, Samuel 27th, Walker 28th, McHugh 38th) were strong enough to finish fourth and saw off A teams from Wellingborough and Bromsgrove.

With only four counters in the Junior Boys' race, Shrewsbury was the only school apart from Worksop to be able to field four teams. It must have made quite a statement for the Hunt and its future that the first, second and third positions were taken by Remnant, Dickins and Hayward respectively. Shrewsbury A's total was a mere 15 points, streets ahead of the second-placed team on 43.

Such dominance is clearly a ringing endorsement of the effectiveness of their training with the top tier but it was also gratifying to see some strong performances by up-and-comers such as Scott Hatton (9th), Charlie England (13th), George O'Brien (20th) and Ollie Pope (21st). All the boys acquitted themselves proudly and in a field of 11 teams, all three Shrewsbury teams were in the top seven places, pipping other schools' A and B teams.

Rich rewards for a five-hour round trip and a pleasure for all involved. The Midlands League title looks as if it has been secured.

*DAL*

## Football: A XI v Repton 1st XI

Monday 10 March 2014

The A XI put up a very good performance against a full strength Repton 1st XI on Saturday 8th March, eventually losing 2-1.

Shrewsbury took the lead with a fine finish from Jo Carrasco (Rt UVI) who latched onto a perfectly weighted through ball from Dan Durman (PH LVI).

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Hockey: U15 XI County Cup v Thomas Telford School

Tuesday 11 March 2014

*The U15s successfully opened their campaign for the County Cup on Saturday 8th March with a confident display of passing and movement and a 1:0 win against Thomas Telford School.*

The team distributed the ball around the field with ease and kept the ball in Telford's half for much of the match, ably supported by a very solid back four. A goal was inevitable, and eventually came from one of many short corners that was converted by George Chaplin (Ch IV) from a deftly placed strike into the bottom left corner of the goal.



## Old Salopians vs Pupils and Staff Squash Tournament on Saturday 8 March - report

Tuesday 11 March 2014



Master in charge of squash, Myles Harding, reports that the following boys:

George Bates (S), Anton Nelson (S), Tom Edwards (S), Tiger Vechamamontien(M) and Ed Graves (R) played versus

the following Old Salopians and staff:

Ben Stirk (M 1991-96) , Jonny Williams (R 2004-09), Rupert Parry (Ch 2004-09), George Carver (S 2008-13) , the Headmaster and Master in charge of Fives, Seb Cooley.

### Results:

MJH beat Ben Stirk 3-0

MJH beat Jonny Williams 3-0

MJH beat Rupert Parry 3-0

George Bates lost 0-3 to Jonny Williams

George Bates beat George Carver 3-1

George Bates lost 0-3 to Ben Stirk

Anton Nelson lost 1-3 to George Carver

Tom Edwards lost 0-3 to Rupert Parry

Tom Edwards lost 1-3 to George Carver

Tiger lost 2-3 to HM

Tiger beat SKPC 3-2

Ed Graves lost 0-3 to Ben Stirk

**Overall result:** Boys 5 OS & Staff 7

**Interested in playing Squash for the Old Salopian Squash Club?** Please contact the Salopian Club office: [oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:oldsalopian@shrewsbury.org.uk)





# Lucy Petch named as winner of the Hawksley-Burbury Science Competition

Wednesday 12 March 2014

*Winner of the Hawksley-Burbury Science Competition: Lucy Petch (MSH UVI)*

*Prox accessit: Charlie Davis (PH LVI) and Samuel Kandi (M LVI)*

The Hawksley-Burbury Science Competition is open to any scientist in the Sixth Form, testing skills of observation and scientific deduction.

It consists of three sections (Biology, Physics, Chemistry) in each of which candidates are set a number of short tasks requiring careful observation and analysis. It is not necessary to be studying these subjects at AS or A2 level to take part.

Lucy will be presented with her prize at the Academic Prize Giving during Speech Day at the end of next term.

## Harry Al-Adwani (SH LVI) wins a place in the National Youth Music Theatre

Wednesday 12 March 2014



*Harry Al-Adwani performing in (l to r) 'Antigone', 'Adrian Mole' and 'Our Day Out'*

Many congratulations to Harry Al-Adwani (SH LVI) who has been offered a place in the National Youth Music Theatre. He will be appearing in their production of *The Hired Man*, which is based on the novel by Melvyn Bragg, with music and lyrics by Howard Goodall. It will play in St James' Theatre, London from 13th – 19th August.

This is a great achievement for Harry, who also gained a place with the National Youth Theatre in 2012. Competition for places in the National Youth Music Theatre is fierce; it is described by Andrew Lloyd Weber as “the best youth music theatre in the world” and boasts alumni including Jude Law, Tom Chambers, Amy Nuttall and Sheridan Smith – all of whom are now Patrons. Jude Law is quoted as saying “NYMT gave me a sense of discipline, a sense of improvement, a sense of responsibility, a sense of playing a part in a company”.

Harry recently won accolades for his inspired work as Director of the School House Play, ‘Our Day Out’ by Willy Russell (see the report by Housemaster Hugo Besterman: [Our Day Out receives excellent feedback](#)). Last term Harry gave a striking performance as Haemon in the Senior School Play ‘Antigone’ (see review by Richard Hudson – [Senior School Play 2013](#)). He has also had leading roles in a number of other plays during his years at Shrewsbury, including the School House adaptation of Adrian Mole last year and the Junior School Play ‘The Mignonette’ in 2011, his first year at Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Grove 'Mood Boards'

Wednesday 12 March 2014

As refurbishment plans for The Grove progress, Housemistress Clare Wilson is working closely with the School's Head of Estates and members of the Works Department to choose furniture, fabrics, furnishings and colours that will create a warm, friendly "home from home" feeling for its first cohort of girls in September. She has created a series of 'mood boards' as an illustration of the kind of environment she envisages for The Grove, which were on display at a recent event for prospective families - please click on the images below to view them.



## The Great Grove Bake Off

Wednesday 12 March 2014

The Grove Bake Off took place on Sunday 9th March, involving three teams of boys and parents.

The Technical Bake was an apple pie followed by a Show Stopper in the form of Fancied Up Profiteroles, To Die For Chocolate Torte and Scrumptious Two Tier Lemon Delight. We had the pleasure of the company and expertise of Kathy Thomason judging.

Kathy showed the boys how to make some simple university meals - Toad in the Hole, Yorkshire Pudding with Prawns and Pancakes with Chocolate Sauce - all from one batter. Matron cooked a hot chilli supper which was enjoyed by all. The evening was a lot of fun and, in true Grove style, competitive too (not just the boys)!

Thanks to Tania Morris, Mary Kidson and Sarah Moulson for bravely taking part, and all other parent supporters for making the evening a lot of fun. Thanks to Mrs B for making it all happen.

SHC

## School House win badminton competition

Wednesday 12 March 2014



*L. to r. Merrick Wong and captain Darren Chin*

Following several weeks of victories in the early rounds, Darren Chin and Merrick Wong's supremacy on the badminton court culminated in a final against The Grove, which School House won comfortably (2-0), earning the partnership the coveted House Badminton trophy. They didn't drop a single set throughout the entire competition!

## Success in Chemistry Olympiad 2014

Wednesday 12 March 2014

*Three gold, ten silver and six bronze medals were awarded to Sixth Form students in the first round of the UK Chemistry Olympiad 2014.*



*Chemistry Olympiad Gold Certificate winners 2014*

Twenty-two students took part in Round 1 of the UK Chemistry Olympiad in February – 19 students from the Lower Sixth and three from the Upper Sixth. The results were outstanding.

This competition is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young chemists in the country and is open to all post-16 students in the UK. There are three rounds to the competition, at the end of which the UK team is selected to train for, and compete in, the International Chemistry Olympiad. Further information is available on [www.rsc.org/Education/events-and-competitions/Olympiad/](http://www.rsc.org/Education/events-and-competitions/Olympiad/).

The paper itself is based on the core of the chemistry A-level specifications, so that students taking any of the different exam board A-levels can compete fairly. The exam lasts two hours and comprises a series of structured questions designed to stretch able students by making them apply the principles they have learned to new and often more complex situations than they would meet in their A-level course. Thus, in order to score marks, it is essential to have a very sound base of knowledge and understanding, but also have the ability to think and reason – often "outside the box" – at a high level.

The Upper Sixth students had been working at this through weekly sessions since last June, initially taking the online LVI Chemistry Olympiad and then beginning intensive preparation for the more demanding Olympiad itself.

### **Gold Medals were awarded to:**

Crystal Chan (MSH UVI)

Cindy Ho (EDH LVI)

Oliver Hope (Ch LVI)



**Silver Medals were awarded to:**

Jennifer Anderson (EDH UVI)  
Ronald Chen (S LVI)  
Sabrina Chu (MSH LVI)  
Jane Fan (MSH LVI)  
Michael Kwan (S LVI)  
Ben Quirk (PH UVI)  
Edward Sankey (SH LVI)  
Benjamin Tsang (R LVI)  
Merrick Wong (SH LVI)  
Bryan Yick (M LVI)

**Bronze Medals were awarded to:**

Ryan Cheng (I LVI)  
Billy Chu (O LVI)  
Sam Kandi (M LVI)  
Amalina Manhadi (EDH UVI)  
Charis Virgo (MSH LVI)  
Chuxi (Sophie) Zhou (EDH LVI)



## Abby Attenborough (MSH LVI) to play lacrosse for Wales

Thursday 13 March 2014

*For the third year running, Abby Attenborough has been selected to represent Wales in the Women's U18s Lacrosse Home Internationals, which take place in Newport at the end of this month.*

Abby, who trains with the Welsh squad in Monmouth each month, is looking forward to competing against the national teams from Scotland, England and Ireland and battling it out to be the best in Britain.

She also has her sights fixed on the U19 Lacrosse World Cup next summer, when she hopes to be selected to represent Wales again.





# The plaudits roll in for Shrewsbury's Cadogan Hall concert

Thursday 13 March 2014

*Shrewsbury's musicians were on dazzling form on Sunday 9th March and their concert in London's Cadogan Hall was hugely enjoyed by a warm and appreciative audience - among them former Master Martin Knox and former Music Scholar Alasdair Thomas, who both offer their impressions of a memorable evening.*

"Returning to the capital after a gap of four years, the Music Department fielded a vast array of talent in a total of eleven items, too many to cover all in depth, but here are some impressions," *writes Martin Knox.*

"The Cadogan Hall is a welcoming venue, comfortable to sit in, acoustically excellent, and while the unusually spacious platform can accommodate large forces, the auditorium is small enough for more intimate numbers to flourish. It was with a grand gesture that the concert began, the orchestra warming up in one of their regular party pieces, Walton's 'Crown Imperial'.

After this striking opening to the programme featuring guest appearances by young prep school musicians joining the School's Symphony Orchestra, Laurence Jeffcoate played the rondo from Mozart's 3rd Horn Concerto (not the 4th as in the programme) with panache and fine control of this very difficult instrument. He has been a versatile and prolific contributor to Shrewsbury School music as player and singer.

He was followed by the front desk violinists, Eric Cheng and Calvin Chan, stepping forward to give us two movements from Bach's Double Concerto, their "voices" blending and separating as required in a mellifluous account. The String Orchestra, under David Joyce, accompanied their colleagues in fine style.

Much moving of the furniture was needed before the wind ensembles were ready, but once in position, their contribution was worth the wait. It has been a feature of these items that the directors seek out lesser-known and very challenging repertoire. Adrian Williams brought out a kaleidoscope of instrumental colours from his brass players and Maria McKenzie conducted the Wind Band with her customary verve. "Jupiter" is admittedly familiar, but there remained the task of supplying convincing "cover" for absent strings. They accomplished it (with impromptu vocal intrusion from the audience in the big tune!).

It is fifteen years since the School Orchestra's triumphant appearance in the Royal Festival Hall. The work on that occasion was Schubert's "Great" 9th Symphony and on Sunday John Moore revived memories with a noble reading of the first movement. The main tempo was a good deal faster than Schubert's *ma non troppo* suggests, but the players were equal to the task and managed to sound both disciplined and spontaneous throughout, something that takes many weeks of practice.

The 5th Symphony of Shostakovich was a highlight of the St Cecilia concert in November and it was a wise move to repeat such a showpiece for the benefit of new listeners. JFM loves a rousing coda and the programme provided plenty of opportunities for indulgence, not least in the finale of this work, where the "victory" of D major is emphatic to the point of parody. Paradoxically, however, the most highly-charged moment of the entire evening came with the



pianissimo ending of Bruch's 'Kol Nidrei', in which the cello soloist, Awen Blandford, was outstanding. Her sumptuous tone and eloquent phrasing had gripped the audience from the start and the hushed serenity of the ending was profoundly moving. "Superb," murmured my neighbour; and so it was, all of it."

*Also among the audience was Alasdair Thomas (S 1993-98), a former Music Scholar who is now a City lawyer but continues to play the bassoon and sing in his spare time. He was warm in his praise for the current musicians at his former alma mater:*

"The Music Department at Shrewsbury clearly continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of John Moore and his team. It was particularly good to see the depth of talent across all sections of the various groups, whether strings, wind or brass. There was a wind band in my time, but as I recall it rarely performed even back at School, never mind in front of a London audience!

The performance of two movements from Shostakovich 5 was very impressive. This is not an easy piece, even for top amateur orchestras, so it was great to see it performed with such verve and accuracy by the Symphony Orchestra. I remember our making a pretty decent fist of Tchaikovsky 5 in St John's Smith Square in 1998, but this latest Shostakovich 5 gives us a very close run for our money!

My other personal highlights were the two beautiful solos: a clear, well-rounded even tone from Laurence Jeffcoate in a lively and engaging performance of the third movement of Mozart Horn Concerto No. 3, and a gorgeous, pitch-perfect and soulful cello solo from Awen Blandford in Bruch's Kol Nidrai. These two (and indeed all of the young musicians on show) must keep playing at university and beyond. If I had £1 for every time someone has bemoaned to me the fact that they gave up their instrument after leaving school, I'd be able to afford a better bassoon!"

*After leaving Shrewsbury, Alasdair went on to be principal bassoon in the Oxford University Orchestra, and he now performs regularly with groups including the Chelsea Opera Group, Bloomsbury Chamber Orchestra and the BBC Elstree Concert Band. Next weekend the choir that he helps to run at his law firm will be taking part in the final of Office Choir of the Year 2014.*

*We were delighted to welcome several talented young musicians from Broomwood Hall, The Pilgrim's School, S. Anselm's Preparatory School and Northcote Lodge, who joined Shrewsbury's Symphony Orchestra for some of their performance. Henry Cramsie, a pupil The Pilgrim's School and Head Chorister at Winchester Cathedral, who has recently been awarded the top Music Scholarship to the School said later:*

"I arrived after lunch slightly nervous, having rushed up to London from my morning Cathedral commitments. I went to the rehearsal and really enjoyed being in a proper, loud orchestra. As the day went on I felt more at ease. After the rehearsal we went to Pizza Express to refill. We then had the concert itself and I could go home exhausted."

*Writing to John Moore after the concert, Mrs Street, mother of Louis (a pupil at S. Anselm's) said:*

"Louis said it was the most amazing thing he has ever done, he loved being on the big stage and was only a little bit nervous at the very beginning. He said it has definitely made his mind up that that is what he wants to do – perform and play! He is full of praise for Henry Thomas who looked after him so well. We can't thank you enough for giving him such a fabulous opportunity!"

## Toast It Thursday

Thursday 13 March 2014



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and here at Shrewsbury School there is certainly always plenty to eat to start the day off. Our students can choose from a full English breakfast, a range of cereals, cut and whole fruit, toast or porridge. Fresh homemade yoghurt with various toppings are also available. So why did we feel the need to offer something else for breakfast? The answer to that question is quite simple – food needs to be different and fun as well as nutritious!

Ffiona Packwood, one of Holroyd Howe's trainee Graduate Managers, has been on site for the past few weeks learning our business and getting a feel for what we do here at Shrewsbury. We tasked her with the challenge of creating new food ideas and she came up with Toast It Thursday!

On Toast It Thursday, students can choose from a wide range of items to toast, including bagels, tea cakes, crumpets and muffins as well as the usual sliced bread. Different spreads and toppings are also available from jams, honey, cream cheese and marmalade.

We piloted the first Toast It Thursday last week and the reception was so positive that we decided to do a repeat this morning. One student said that sometimes all she wants in the morning is just a buttered toasted teacake and a cup of coffee, so Toast It Thursday was right up her street! Even some of the die-hard full English breakfast brigade swung past the counter to sample a toasted bagel or two.

It's great when food can be fun, and even better when the students leave the dining room not just with smiling faces, but smiling tummies too!

Well done Ffiona! You are welcome to come back and visit any time!

*Carrie Zeiler*  
KH

## Six Ingram's musicians perform at the Cadogan Hall, London

Thursday 13 March 2014

*On 9th March, six musicians from Ingram's performed in a stunning concert in the Cadogan Hall, London, as described here by Calvin Chan (LVI).*

Setting off half past eight in the morning, all six of us had a nice sleep in the coaches. Rehearsals immediately kicked off as soon as we arrived at the amazingly grand concert hall, for we had a long programme to run through. We had an enjoyable free time in London, especially when having our supper with our friends.



*Calvin Chan performing the Bach Concerto for 2 Violins*

The concert started off with the Walton's *Crown Imperial* and Mozart's Horn Concerto No.3. The following piece was the Violin Concerto for Two Violins by J.S. Bach, accompanied by the Shrewsbury School String Orchestra. One of the soloists was Calvin Chan (LVI). Being able to perform as a soloist in Cadogan Hall, also representing as an Ingramite, was certainly exciting for me. I am very grateful to have this unique opportunity which has also given me a fantastic 'lesson'.

Guy Balogun (LVI) then joined the Brass Ensemble and performed two bright pieces, Millennium Fanfare by Francis Clifford and Jealousy by Jacob Gade. The Wind Orchestra impressed the audiences with a Prelude on Hampstead Heath and the famous tune of Jupiter from The Planets, composed by Gustav Holst. Henry Kennedy (UVI), who will start studying music in the Royal Music Academy from September, is the leader of the Wind Orchestra, as well as first clarinet player in the Symphony Orchestra.



The second half of the concert began with Franz Schubert's Great Symphony in C Major, which was stunning with a slightly faster and energetic tempo than *ma non troppo* and disciplined and carefully played notes. We had Michael Cheng (UVI) leading the second violin, Jonathan Cheng (LVI) and Calvin Chan (LVI) on the first violin and Kevin Jim (V) on the cello in the orchestra. The next piece, in great contrast, a beautiful cello solo, *Kol Nidrei* written by Max Bruch, has brought the audiences to a completely new world of music. Then we went back to *The Planets*, for which Mars has raised the level of adrenaline in the audiences with all those cymbals clashes and pumping timpani rhythms. Last but not least, the concert was finished off with the second and forth movements from *Symphony No.5 in D Minor* by Dimitri Shostakovich. It was a fantastic, yet technically challenging, piece of orchestral masterpiece. Nevertheless, all of us enjoyed this unforgettable concert outside the home town and we certainly look forward to perform again with other repertoire.

P.S. Henry Kennedy will be performing in the Leavers' Concert at the end of the Summer term. Please visit <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/music-events> for the latest update of the Leavers' Concert and the Eve of Speech Day Concert.

*Calvin Chan*

## Top awards at the Haberdashers' Aske's Model United Nations Conference

Thursday 13 March 2014

*Shrewsbury's Model United Nations A Team were named 'Best Delegation' at the Haberdashers' Askes' MUN Conference in Elstree last weekend. Three of the team also won individual Outstanding Delegate awards in their respective committees, a further two were named Distinguished Delegates and two Salopians were Highly Commended.*



*Shrewsbury win Best Delegation Award at Haberdashers' Aske's MUN Conference,*

Some 400 delegates took part in the Conference from 30 different schools, the majority from the south-east but also including one delegation from Texas and one from Paris.

Ralph Wade (Rb UVI) gives an entertaining account of the weekend:

"For a school that is in the top echelons of Model United Nations, we are remarkably bad at leaving on time. Nonetheless, our favourite blue 17-seater was found, and our Vice President, Ralph, packed the minibus with all the precision that befits the son of a Chartered Architect. Arriving in Elstree with ample time to don the traditional tweed, we embarked on lobbying our various clauses, resolutions and views in our committees, armed with the usual Haribo ("diplomatic offering") and Salopian charm.

Suitably energised from the largest Premier Inn breakfast available, the Conference proper began. Debates on topics ranging from the efficacy of UN intervention to the role of Pokémon



in Conflict Resolution raged throughout the day. We all felt suitably deserving when the time came for the delegation “knees-up” at Zinco’s, our favoured establishment.

General Assembly (a gathering of around 400 delegates) followed the next morning, and Shrewsbury led the debate, watched proudly by advisors Mr Peach and Mr Barrett. Guatemala (our A team) were honoured to be awarded Best Delegation, a highly coveted award, especially at an international conference.

Ambassador Mark Huang made a moving acceptance speech, and Ralph Wade led the assembled masses in a powerful rendition of “Happy Birthday, Mr Peach”. It is, of course, Mr Peach’s birthday every time we win.

On a more serious note, the two Vice-Presidents were very proud, and humbled, to be beaten hands-down by the other members of the delegation. I know that I speak for both our Iranian and Guatemalan delegations when I say that we are immensely grateful to Mr Peach and Mr Barrett for all their support."

Representing Guatemala, Shrewsbury’s A Team comprised:

*Human Rights:* Mark Huang (*Ambassador*) – Highly Commended

*Security Council:* Sasha Arridge (Rb V) – Outstanding Delegate Award

*Special Commission:* Ralph Wade (Rb UVI) – Distinguished Delegate Award

*Disarmament:* Jonty Small (M UVI) – Outstanding Delegate Award

*Political 1:* James Ollerhead (Ch LVI) – Distinguished Delegate Award

*Political 2:* Ed Plaut (S IV) – Outstanding Delegate Award

Shrewsbury’s B Team represented Iran and also performed extremely well throughout the Conference.

*Special Commission:* Sylvia Yeo (*Ambassador*) (EDH LVI)

*Human Rights:* Krem Todorova (MSH LVI)

*Disarmament:* Akaash Patel (I LVI)

*Political 1:* Tim van der Hoeven (S LVI)

*Political 2:* Jamie Nugent (SH LVI) – Highly Commended

*Ecology and Environment:* Joe Lafferty (PH LVI)

Dan Edwards(S LVI) also gained valuable experience as Chair of the Political 1 Committee.



# Field Day, Thursday 13th February

Friday 14 March 2014

*On Field Days, held termly, there are no formal lessons and pupils from Third to Lower Sixth Forms spend a whole day on their chosen activity. On Field Day this term there were some 30 different group activities and trips. The reports below gives a flavour of what went on.*

Given the hurricane force winds of the previous day, the dawn of a cold and normally brisk February day was a relief for not just the organisers of this Field Day but doubtless for the pupils as well. We had a very diverse range of trips this year: the mountain bikers set off for North Wales; the CCF had a Biennial Inspection; art historians visited galleries in Liverpool; climbers scrambled indoors and out; and cooks visited farmers markets in the anticipation of creating an afternoon feast.

## **Third Form Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award preparation**

Third Formers undertake their Bronze D of E expeditions in June and on Field Day they were given an expedition training day, in preparation for the practice expeditions that take place early next term. Tents were put up, food choices discussed and were cooked (not a single Pot Noodle in sight), and all the challenges of the two-day walks over the Shropshire Hills were dissected. By all accounts, the pupils learned a lot and it was a useful day.

## **Photographers**

This group had tasks to complete in town and have come up with some stunning photos – see [Photography Club Field Day Photo Gallery](#)

## **Mountain Bikers**

The club donned their protective clothing and visited the tracks adjacent to the slate mines at Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales (see below).



*Mountain Biking - Field Day, 13th February 2014*

## **Combined Cadet Force**

A voluntary night exercise had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The main effort of the day was directed towards an inter-section competition (known as the Kemp Trophy) which was won by the Royal Marines (as usual). The cadets enjoyed the shooting, obstacle course, orienteering, command tasks and the other random challenges that were thrown at them. The seniors took part in an excellent exercise run over the military training area at Nesscliff.





## **Outdoor Skills**

Climbing and map reading filled the day for this group of 32 Fourth Form boys. Outdoor Skills is the Fourth Form replacement for Basic Year and is designed to give a broad introduction to outdoor educational work – map reading, conservation work, biking, climbing and canoeing have all been available. On Field Day half the group successfully obtained their Bronze NNAS (National Navigation Award Scheme) with the other half completing their NICAS (Indoor Climbing Award Scheme).

## **Conservation**

We have a link with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and over the term we have had work parties helping out at the Meres and Mosses National Improvement Area. Some work has been of a survey nature but more muscular clearance work has been carried out too – which the pupils have responded to with gusto!

## **Gliding**

Sadly it was just too windy for the small group who were due to glide on Field Day – this is a common theme at our local site (the West Midlands Gliding Club). However, we have managed to launch some pupils into the skies this term. Sick bags were gripped with sweaty palms – as a first flight can be a nerve racking activity, as some have found!

## **Riders**

The equestrians have been continuing their visits to our local riding stables at Baschurch, with some enjoyable hacks out across the rolling Shropshire countryside.



## RSSH - Spring Relays at Attingham Park: A spectator writes...

Friday 14 March 2014



*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*

Having two hours to spare, Churchillian runners out in force, Attingham Park being a glorious Labrador paradise a mere 15 minutes away, and A2 English coursework marking not an enticing prospect, my course of action seemed obvious. It turned out to be an amazing afternoon, watching the leisurely side-show at a relay, groups of boys and girls happily chatting, with a runner suddenly peeling away from the group, assuming a look of tense concentration, start warming up in preparation for their leg, and eight minutes later straining every sinew to remain abreast of the field.

In the company of my own erstwhile Huntsman, Peter Birch, in whose 1st VIII I was once many years ago an 'also ran', this was an opportunity to view at first hand wonderful camaraderie which PJM and IPH have built up in the RSSH, and the spectacular results of their totally professional training programme, with the RSSH dominating the field in every category. But it was Ben Remnant's run, overtaking the LGS leader in the last 100m of the final leg, which will most stick in my mind, a dream moment for a proud Housemaster who found his own eyes pricking.

Some of you will remember a literary device from your English lessons called a 'pathetic fallacy', where the weather matches the mood. For much of the race the sun was hidden in thin mist, the pleasant cool producing perfect conditions for the runners. As it became clear that the RSSH was dominating in every category, the sun broke through to match the exhausted smiles on the faces of the runners.

RTH



## Books by Acclaimed Old Salopian Author now available as e-books

Friday 14 March 2014

Books by the Old Salopian acclaimed novelist and literary critic, Francis King (SH 1936-40) have now been re-released as e-books and print-on-demand by Bellow Books.

Old Salopians may be aware that Francis King, who died in 2011, was an award-winning novelist - winning the Somerset Maugham Prize, the Katherine Mansfield Prize and was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2003. He was also long listed for the Lost Booker Prize. He was drama critic for Sunday Telegraph and reviewed fiction regularly for The Spectator. Bello Books, responsible for the re-release, aims to bring modern classics and lost books back to the public attention and that is what they endeavour to do with King's books.

The books are available from

here: <http://www.panmacmillan.com/author/francisking>



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



# Ali Webb's Cycle Tour round Annapurna - for Cystic Fibrosis Charity

Friday 14 March 2014



This April Ali Webb (S 2008-13) will be cycling through the Nepalese Himalayas, raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Ali says, 'If you watch this quick video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQTGREyFoc>, you

can find out more about it!

I am writing to you to ask if you might be kind enough to support me and this amazing charity. I am raising money on my Just Giving: <http://www.justgiving.com/round-annapurna> page - whatever amount you can donate, I will be extremely grateful.'

# Thomas Davis - running the 2014 London Marathon for the Outward Bound Trust

Friday 14 March 2014

Following an offer to run for The Outward bound Trust, Thomas Davis (R 2004-09) will compete in the 2014 London Marathon on 13 April and he reports that he is training hard!

The Outward Bound Trust provides the opportunity for young people who are less privileged to unlock their potential through adventure in the wild! thomas says that any donations however large or small will be greatly appreciated.

More details at: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/ThomasDavis3](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/ThomasDavis3)





## RSSH: Clean sweep at the Spring Relays, Attingham Park, Wednesday 12th March

Friday 14 March 2014



*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*

Last year, the annual Spring Relays relocated from its traditional setting in Sutton Park to the grounds of the nearby National Trust property Attingham Park. It is a stunning setting for what once again proved an exciting series of relays over the 2.3km course, with the Hunt hopeful of a strong showing in all three races at U16 level, Senior Boys and Senior Girls. Having won the U16 trophy for the past three years and the Senior trophy for the past two years – but never the Girls' trophy – we were hopeful of achieving an historic 'treble' at the 2014 running of the relays.

Despite having shown dominance in the U16 race since 2011, this year it would prove to be the most competitive of all the races, with a very strong outfit from the ever-improving Loughborough Grammar School challenging the best of our junior runners. Indeed, after the first leg, Fourth Former Will Hayward (R) had to do all he could to stay level with Loughborough's lead-out runner, with our opponents three seconds ahead at the end of the first leg. On debut, second leg runner Luke Lloyd-Jones (Rb) managed to assert himself and put the Hunt ahead, albeit by only a matter of a few seconds.



By this point in the race – despite being in the early stages – there were only two teams really in it, with the likes of Wrekin, Adams’ Grammar, Dudley College and Lucton School trailing, and the RSSH ‘B’ team pushing through the places after solid opening legs from relative newcomer Naveen Garikipati (Rb) and Severn Hill’s Scott Hatton. In the middle stages of the race, the ‘B’ team pushed ahead to challenge for a medal position, sweeping aside the other schools’ ‘A’ teams with excellent laps from Port Hill duo Oli Pope and Dan Orchard, a late replacement for an injury.

In the ‘A’ team race, the Hunt looked to have asserted an unassailable lead through Charlie Home (Rt) and Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) with Loughborough trailing by 20 seconds going into the penultimate lap. However, the 5th leg runner for our opponents mounted a terrifyingly swift challenge to Third Former Owen Mock (R) who had no answer to the ever-decreasing gap. In fact going into the final lap, the positions had been reversed and the gap was now 20 seconds in our opponent’s favour.



*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*

Ben Remnant of Churchill’s had it all to do, though there was confidence in the camp given that Ben had recently won the Hunt Club Championships, so despite being a Fifth Former, is generally rated as being one of the top runners in the entire School – if not *the* top runner. However, the job of hunting down the race leader proved a harder job than we had hoped, with the Loughborough anchor runner proving no slouch. But by the hill climb, the lead looked to have narrowed to 15 seconds, and by the top forest section it was down to 10 seconds, but the course was running out by this stage. It was 5 seconds going down the hill coming in towards Attingham House, and by the bridge with just 100m to go, incredibly Ben had managed to level

with the Loughborough runner. To the mad cheers of his team-mates and his watching Housemaster RTH ([see his account: A spectator writes...](#)), Ben somehow managed to find one last final kick, and pushed ahead with just a matter of metres to go before crossing the finish line first and promptly collapsing in an exhausted heap. It was a truly heroic performance, possibly the bravest run I have ever seen, and it made for an incredibly exciting relay race, made all the more special because we had won!

As the final leg runners came through a number of minutes later, it was the Hunt's 'B' team that took team bronze with solid laps from third former Niklas Amthor (R), watched by his parents visiting from Oman, and final leg runner Ollie Lansdell (PH).

The girls' race looked to be equally competitive, with a field of ten teams, including a strong outfit from Shrewsbury High School and our close rivals Wrekin College who we had beaten the week before at the Shrewsbury Relays. By the end of the first leg, nobody seemed too willing to take on the pace, with six teams all packed in at the front. Sophie Pelling (EDH) ran a well-judged lap to keep the Hunt in the mix in 4th position, just behind Wrekin in 3rd, and Shrewsbury High School 'A' and 'B' in 1st and 2nd respectively. Captain of girls' running Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH) made quick work of pushing us into the medal positions, however, with probably her best run of the season. Lucie looked strong and fluid and ensured that the Hunt were in a good position going into the final two legs of the race where we were holding back our top runners. Indeed, Lower Sixth Former Tatty Hunt (EDH) promptly sped off in pursuit of the lead runner and by the half-way stage had flown right past her to take the front for the first time. A gap of 20 seconds between the Hunt and the chasing pack had emerged going into the final lap, and with Tory Mobley (EDH) on the anchor leg (having placed in the top 30 at the weekend's UK Inter-Counties) the result was never in doubt. Tory crossed the finish line comfortably ahead, with the girls securing their third trophy of the season, an exceptional haul given that our previous best had been one trophy from the 2012 season.



*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*

The final race of the day was the senior boys, and with Marling unable to field a team, it looked like the hat-trick of trophies would be secured. Indeed, opening leg runner Oscar Dickins (R) brought the Hunt home first at the end of the first leg, getting his revenge over Wrekin's top runner Matthew Giles who had taken the MANSICCC title at Sedbergh a few weeks before. Oscar's time would in fact be the fastest of the day, and he gave Charlie Rogers (Rb) and Charlie Godman (M) an easy job in the middle stages of stretching out the lead.





*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*

Once Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch) got the baton, the race was done and dusted with an extremely impressive lap that pushed the lead out to nearly 30 seconds. Adams' Grammar, Wrekin and Dudley College were all battling it out some way behind us, but it was in fact the RSSH 'B' team who were now comfortably in the silver medal position after strong opening laps from Alex Shaw (Ch), Ben Smith (Rt), Charlie Davis (PH) and Tom Lloyd (Rt). With strong final laps from John Dempsey (Ch) and Sean Sawyer (PH) the silver medals were assured, and this was a 'B' team which most schools would be delighted to have as their 'A' team. The gold medals, however, were snapped up by our own top team with Roman Faithful (O) and Theo Clarke (S) doing their job and bringing home a commanding victory, securing the title for the third year running.

It was an excellent afternoon of running, and having taken a total of 28 runners to compete, it was wonderful that every single won of them returned with a medal.

*PJM*



*Spring Relays, Attingham Park, 12th March 2014*



## Stunning inaugural performance on the School's new Steinway piano

Friday 14 March 2014

*A capacity audience in the Alington Hall on St David's Day were treated to a dazzling recital by Welsh pianist Llyr Williams, performing on the School's newly acquired Steinway Model D full concert grand piano – as John Moore describes.*



*Llyr Williams*

There is something quite unique about a piano recital. A single performer, often a massive feat of memory, interpretation and technique, and at the heart of it a concert grand piano, an instrument which, since the mid-17th century, has been subjected to constant refinement and development for the changing nature of public performance spaces and musical styles. In the mid-19th century, Steinway patented the process for casting one piece solid cast iron frames for concert grands, and in so doing, changed the nature of the power and impressiveness of the instrument and gave us what we now associate with the modern-day grand piano.

A Steinway Model D full concert grand is some nine feet in length and is an instrument of extraordinary refinement and complexity in its manufacture. Shrewsbury has had a fine instrument for some 30 or more years, but in recent years it has started to show its age and is now in need of some refurbishment, although still a potentially very fine instrument for years to come. So it was fortuitous when one of our long-serving Governors, Sir Algie Heber Percy, who retired from the Governing Body at the end of last year, suggested that, with a bit of generous help from himself, the School might like to think about acquiring another more modern Model D.

Together with support from the School, we have been able to purchase a truly wonderful second Steinway Model D Grand, which means now that the School has in total five Steinway Grands of

various sizes and ages, but all wonderful pianos for our students and visiting performers to benefit from playing.

And so, on St David's Day, our new Steinway received its inaugural recital from one of the UK's leading pianists, Llyr Williams, who has established himself as one of the most exciting pianists of his generation and whose playing career has taken him to the Carnegie Hall and all over the world, both as a solo performer and with our top orchestras.

We have a well-established tradition of welcoming distinguished piano recitalists to the Alington Hall. Freddie Kempf, Nicolai Demidenko, Stephen Hough, John Lill, Peter Donohoe, Pascal Roge, Joanna MacGregor, to name but a few, have all played to large enthusiastic audiences beneath the portraits of generations of Salopian Headmasters, holding their audiences in rapt attention. And these have all been made possible by the spirited generosity over the last 12 years or so of one Salopian family, Mike and Fleur Bradley, whose son James was in Moser's Hall in the early 1990s, and who himself was a fine musician and scholar. They were joined on this occasion as sponsors by Gareth Jenkins, a great supporter of music at Shrewsbury and further afield, and himself guardian to Galin Ganchev, Shrewsbury's rising pianistic star pupil.

The recitals are now presented almost in the round, in order to give as intimate and salon a feel as we can to each performance. Llyr had chosen a wonderfully varied programme of music from Mozart to Szymanowski, and he demonstrated from start to finish why he is held in such high regard by critics and audiences alike.

Llyr's brand of pianism is never brash or flamboyant, his subtle use of the piano's tonal registers always carefully considered and the architecture of the music always revealed in its entirety. His Mozart C Minor Fantasia was a beautifully executed, with Llyr revealing every subtlety of this, one of Mozart's finest solo piano works.

There was much else to enjoy in Llyr's programme. Beethoven's two-movement Piano Sonata No. 27 is a lyrical work, particularly in the second movement Rondo, whose gentle flowing theme Llyr judged perfectly in tempo and feel. Schubert's immense *Wanderer Fantasie*, multi-faceted and technically demanding in so many ways, was for me the highlight of the programme and brought huge applause from a packed Alington Hall to bring the first half of his recital to a close.

The second half of Llyr's recital consisted of Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, a series of eight evocative piano pieces, each with a title, miniature studies in programme and mood. Llyr captured exquisitely Schumann's intense romanticism, lyrical beauty and impetuous muscularity. These are relative miniatures in comparison to the *Wanderer Fantasie*, but no less perfect for that. And so on to some wonderful Mazurkas by Szymanowski, before finishing with Chopin's epic *Polonaise Fantasie, Opus 61*, a work which twists and turns through an enormously long slow introduction before finding the customary brilliance of pianistic writing one associates with this composer.



The whole programme was marked by flawless playing from Llyr, whose only reservation as he finished was that it had been a little long for his audience. Thus for an encore he treated them to Bartok's *Romanian Dance* – short, pithy, but just enough to savour after the most sumptuous of pianistic feasts.

The final question remains. What did Llyr Williams make of the new Steinway? I asked him that very question at the end of the evening, and after considering his response he replied, “Well, it actually could do everything I wanted from a piano, which is very unusual!” High praise indeed for our new Steinway, and hopefully this remarkable performer will be back to perform on it again many times more in the future.

*JFM*



## Giles Bell's 'Team of the Week'

Friday 14 March 2014

*This week, the boys' hockey team.*



I have just started the first leg of my world tour and spent the early part of this week in Scotland. My driver, interpreter and Scottish culture guide Miss Honeysuckle Peakes and I went to Ardvreck School where there was a serious Piping Competition taking place, at Belhaven School the final touches to the School Play were being completed and in Cargilfield the troops were just reporting in with the news that they had come third in a National Hockey Tournament. The weather has been fabulous and inspired by the beauty of the snow-capped highlands, a shopping spree at Tebay Services and the Cargilfield hockey team, I thought I would visit Shrewsbury School's astro-turf to see what was going on there.

The girls were busy dismantling the Oswestry School team's defences and securing another win on the netball courts. However, I have already reported on their triumphs and I have to say that I have to agree with goal defence Edie Whittingham who felt that the play was a touch scrappy in places. (I only have to agree with her because she knows more about netball and is a very bright young lady.) So it was that my attention was attracted by the vibrant shirts and magical movement of the Shrewsbury boys' hockey team.

Hockey is sometimes 'squeezed' by the sheer volume of sports that are on offer at a sporting metropolis such as Shrewsbury. Fives, Football, Fencing, Rowing, Running and Rugby are all keen to attract sportsmen to their teams and so the Hockey squad remains a small but perfectly formed unit. That does not mean that the sport is not taken seriously by those who enjoy a little light ankle tapping!

Manager Jeremy Lucas is pleased with the manner in which his troops train and his half-time talks are legendary. Jack Kinnaird (R LVI) told me, in a brief break from his academic studies, that from what he knew about Alex Ferguson, Mr Lucas and the former Manchester United guru

had been to the same school of management. “It is the clear manner in which he puts his tactics across that I like.” said a jubilant Jack. “Spread it wide, hit the ball, it’s a game of two halves and stun for fun!” Are all phrases that Jack has found more than useful in his development as a player. Jack also plays tribute to Coach Katie Collins. “Miss Collins has added a more tactical and sophisticated sense of stick manoeuvrability to my game,” Jack stated. After the game fellow Riggite Henry Binns, scorer of the Shrewsbury goal, dedicated his goal to the coaching team. “I could not have done that before this season,” a delighted Binns commented. “Well, it was probably statistically probable, but it had never happened!”

Captain Dan Legge (SH UVI) dropped into my office before the game to give me an insight into the club and the tactics that he was thinking of adopting in the match against King’s School Chester. Dan is the son of Bridgnorth Town Legend, Stuart Legge. Stuart has certainly been a big influence in Dan’s hockey development giving him plenty of stick from an early age! I asked Dan if his dad had been an inspiration to him and he was adamant that although this was clearly the case I should not mention it. So that fact is just between us, OK?!



*Captain Dan Legge takes aim*

Dan is clearly a dedicated captain who is passionate about his team. He was very positive about his players and is thrilled that the squad have made it into the quarter finals of the County Cup. Their next opponents are local rivals Ellesmere College. Recent results have been up and down – a 2-2 draw with Wrekin and a 5-1 reverse to King’s Chester – but Dan is very much a ‘glass half-full’ man (although not at School). He was positive that the 5-1 defeat could be avenged today.

Dan told me that the team are hard working and enjoy their hockey. He is clearly an inspirational figure himself and this observation was endorsed by left back Andrew Humpish (SH UVI). Andrew is generally to be found lurking in the depths of the theatre lighting up the stage. However, Dan has encouraged him in his hockey and he is now a key man. Andrew is not someone who is generally associated with a quickening pulse and yet he readily stated that Dan had lit up his life and had got him back into daily exercise. “Dan is the man; I will go through the pain barrier for him,” Andrew told me with a slightly scary look on his face.



In the ensuing game it was clear that the Shrewsbury team were 'up' for the game. Trailing 2-0 at half time, the game could have turned into a rout. But after an inspirational team talk by Manager Jeremy 'Lightsabre' Lucas, the team won the second half by a single goal.

Unfortunately those of you with sharp minds will have worked out that we lost 2-1, but this was still a big improvement on 5-1. (Just demonstrating that I have maths O Level.) Ollie Pattison-Appleton (Ch UVI) was in fine form in goal and made several important interventions.

On a hot afternoon, the team played well and they all deserve a pat on the back. The squad are: Ollie Pattison-Appleton in goal, Alex Bird (S LVI) 'the cruncher' at centre back, 'Fearsome' Freddie Perkins (R LVI) at right back, Andrew 'Lights on' Humpish at left back, 'Captain Dan Dare' Legge at centre midfield, George 'not Dobbie the' Chaplin (Ch IV) inside forward, Jack 'Sparrow' Kinnaird inside forward, Will 'watch my' Speed (I UVI) centre forward, Charles 'who are you kidding' Kidson ( G UVI) right wing. Ross 'not Gordon' Bennett ( M V) left midfield, Henry 'keep out of the' Binns (R LVI) super sub, Will Brownlow ( O LVI) super doopa sub.

Once again I have been impressed by a sporting excellence of the highest order and it is good to see that the team don't mind a bit of stick! Indeed they are fantastick!

GJFB

## Churchill's Hall/Malvern St James link flourishes

Friday 14 March 2014



Six Churchill's Upper Sixth formers enjoyed the company of six of their counterparts from Malvern St James at the annual 'black tie' wine tasting dinner hosted jointly by Rachel Huntley, a former Churchill's parent who runs the wine society at Malvern St James, and Richard Hudson, Housemaster of Churchill's Hall.

This is an opportunity for the boys and girls to savour the atmosphere of a formal dinner with fine food and wine in the most convivial company in the Victorian elegance of Churchill's private side. This is the sixth year that the dinner has been held and it has become an event to which both schools greatly look forward.

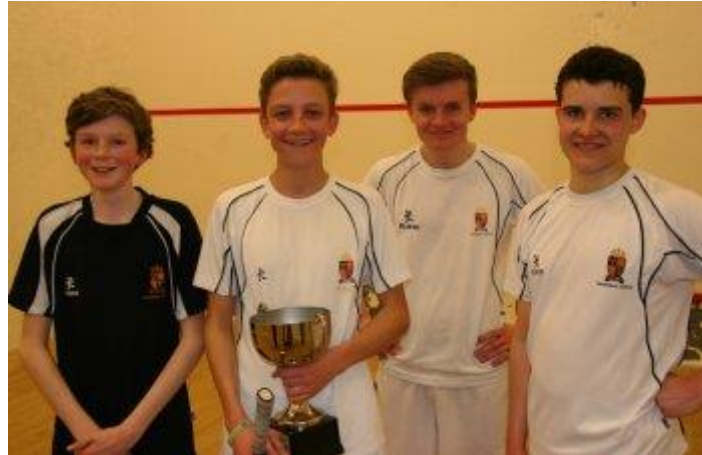
This year the pupils enjoyed Château d'Angludet and, appropriately, Churchill's Vintage Port.



## Squash: Rigg's win House Squash Competition

Monday 17 March 2014

*Cheered on by a very partisan crowd, Rigg's Hall deservedly won this year's House Squash Competition.*



*L to r: Ali Harris, Jack Francklin, Ed Graves, Alex Webb*

Having been sluggish and complacent in the semi finals, Rigg's put the hammer down from the first minute of the final. The format of the final is for the four players from each House to play 20 minutes of point-a-rally scoring against their respective opposition. The overall aggregate score of 217-138 was more comprehensive than was thought possible before the match.

Alex Webb (R IV) beat George Bates (S UVI) at string 1; Ed Graves ( R LVI) beat Anton Nelson (S V) at 2; Captain Jack Francklin (R UVI) pushed through injury at string 3 against Cameron Bates (S IV); and in the battle of the Third Formers Cameron Anwyl of Severn Hill overcame Ali Harris.

For the last two years, the House Squash Competition has been won by Severn Hill. Rigg's will be favourites again next year, pushed by Ridgemount and Severn Hill.

*MJH*

## Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival finalists

Monday 17 March 2014

*Shrewsbury's Senior Saxophone Quartet have been chosen to perform in the finals of the prestigious Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools on Sunday 23rd March at the Birmingham Conservatoire.*



*L to r: Henry Newbould, Alexander Bird, Ben Sansom, Henry Kennedy*

They were one of four chamber music groups from the School who won through to the semi-finals of the competition, which took place at Shrewsbury on Wednesday 12th March.

The quartet comprises Henry Newbould (Ch V), Alexander Bird (S LVI), Ben Sansom (PH V) and Henry Kennedy (I UVI) and they will be performing *An American in Paris* by George Gershwin.

Twenty-seven groups will be taking part in the Finals on Sunday and a selection of them will be invited to perform in the Champions Concert at the Royal Academy on 25th April.

## Golf success

Wednesday 19 March 2014

*Shrewsbury defeated North Cestrian Grammar School in the Independent Schools' Golf Association regional plate final on 13th March. Shrewsbury will now go on to represent the region in the National Final at The Shire Golf Club, London on Wednesday 2nd July.*



*L. to r: Ben Oswald, James Walker, Jonty Robinson*

A warm welcome was found at Oswestry Golf Club and the course was in great condition, for the time of year, with fast greens and some narrow fairways. Shrewsbury's team consisted of Ben Oswald (S IV), James Walker (Rt V) and Jonty Robinson (Rt V).

Ben was up against a big hitting 2 handicapper and was able to play to his own 6 handicap, which proved enough to win by 5 shots. James put aside some driving worries the day before and managed his game well to be a couple clear by the 18th. Jonty took on a big hitting 5 handicapper and played to his strengths to again be a couple ahead at the finish.

The same North Cestrian team made the final of the tournament 'proper' last year, so this was an excellent scalp by the three Shrewsbury golfers. Both teams were gracious and excellent ambassadors for their respective schools and we hope to add North Cestrian to our golfing Fasti next year.

*Mark Schofield (Master in Charge of Golf)*

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Forthcoming Events in Kingsland Hall

Thursday 20 March 2014

### Wednesday 26th March 2014

Cupcake decorating (and tasting!) demonstration in Kingsland Hall from 6.00pm.

### St George's Day – Wednesday 23rd April 2014

On your return from your Easter holiday a traditional spring English menu will be served to you this lunchtime.

### Thursday 1st May 2014

Portuguese experience.

Taste our 'petiscos' – Portuguese tapas from the tasting buffet in Kingsland Hall from 6.00pm.

### Wednesday 14th May 2014

Enjoy a Caribbean themed menu in Kingsland Hall this evening.

## 'An excellent evening' in Birmingham at the St Paul's Club

Thursday 20 March 2014



Over 50 diners assembled at the St Paul's Club, Birmingham, for the annual Birmingham and West Midlands Branch Old Salopian Dinner on Thursday, 13 March.

Superbly organised and orchestrated by Richard Woodgate, the Branch Chairman, and his committee, those present were treated to a five-course dinner with accompanying wines, together with speeches from Tim Cox (DB 1968-73), Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire (pictured left) and the Headmaster, Mark Turner.

The evening reached its climax with some superb singing by current pupils, James Ollerhead (Ch L6), George Holder (Ch 4), Henrike Legner (MSH L6)

pictured, right, with guest, Henry Kennedy (I U6), accompanied by Director of Music, John Moore, and a hearty rendition of the Floreat.

The Club office has received many appreciative emails from guests following the dinner, which is fast becoming one of the high points of the Salopian Calendar. It will be repeated in 2015.

The Birmingham and West Midlands Branch is also planning several further events in 2014 and details will be published on this website as soon as they are made final.





# Old Salopian Cricket Match and Barbecue in Dubai on Saturday 29 March

Thursday 20 March 2014

Rupert Connor (S 1992-97) has organised an Old Salopian cricket match in Dubai on Saturday 29 March, followed by a barbecue for supporters, family and friends.

The OS Saracens (Dubai contingent!) team which will take on the 'Loose Cannons' has just been announced:

Charlie Barlow (c)

Rupert J Connor

Iain Jones

Duncan Pickering

Dominic Taylor

Nikhil Sampat

Tom Keep

Ed Bevan

Jimmy Graham

Mark Towers

Charlie Marlow

Also attending - Edward Singleton and Andrew Hudson.

Including opposition, partners, children and guests - Rupert tells the office that 39 people have confirmed to attend.

## Rugby: Semi-finalists in Stonyhurst Rugby Sevens Tournament

Thursday 20 March 2014



*Back row l to r: Jack Hodges, Charlie Adams, Rufus Litchfield, Max McClure, Rob Treasure Front row l to r: Roan Kirkeby, Ben Lyster-Binns, Ollie Brown, Stuart Brown, James Plaut*

Shrewsbury's 1st VII boys bowed out of the Stonyhurst Sevens today after reaching the semi-final of the main competition. Their performance was outstanding, with exceptional effort coming from all ten players.

Earlier in the day the team narrowly came second in the group of five, beating a powerful Rydal side. They then went on to beat a strong and very fancied Oratory side in the quarter-final, with some remarkably committed defence, before losing in the semi-final to a very balanced Giggleswick team.

This is the School's best U18 sevens performance to date.

Great thanks go to our supporters. The squad is now looking forward to the National Schools' Rugby Sevens Tournament at Rosslyn Park next week.

*MDBJ*



## Support Rory Griffiths in action for Cambridge in 6 April Varsity Football Match at Fulham

Friday 21 March 2014



Rory Griffiths (I 2004-09), currently studying Modern Languages at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, will be playing in the 130th Cambridge vs Oxford football match held at Craven Cottage (Fulham) on Sunday 6th April, 3pm KO.

Rory says that the match will be followed by the Boat Race at

6pm, and will be a fantastic day.

NB: Tickets must be purchased in advance from the link below as Fulham are only opening one stand and it is already on the verge of selling out. Tickets may not be available on the day!

<http://www.fulhamfc.com/visit/experiences-and-events/the-boat-race/terrace-ticket>





# Schools' Clay Pigeon Shooting Challenge

Friday 21 March 2014



*L to r: Caspian Cowan Taylor, Charlie Clarke, Elias Harrison, Marcus Bruce, and Peter Evans with Coach Tom Rylands in the background*

Led by shooting coach Tom Rylands, Marcus Bruce (PH IV), Elias Harrison (SH 3), Caspian Cowan Taylor (Ch IV), Charlie Clarke (O UVI) and Captain Peter Evans (I UVI) enjoyed an excellent day of clay pigeon shooting, competing against schools from all over the country.



*L to r: Peter Evans, Marcus Bruce, Elias Harrison, Caspian Cowan Taylor, Charlie Clarke*



## Giles Bell's 'Team of the Week'

Friday 21 March 2014

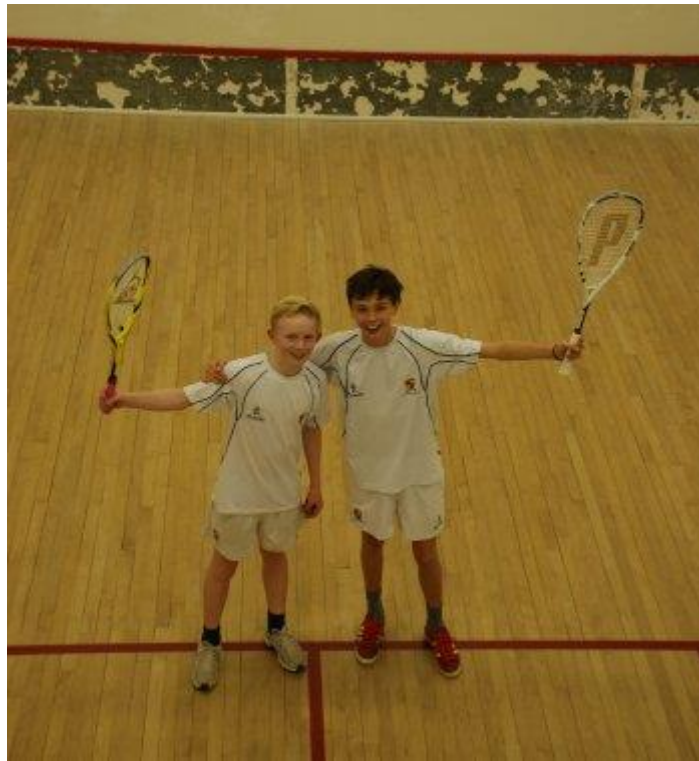
*This week - Squash.*

I would like to thank the Royal Horticultural Society for their kind assistance in researching this article. This will particularly please my mother who feels that I do not show enough enthusiasm in the garden; which reflects badly on her. I certainly bow to her superiority, as she recently won a third prize at the Upper Beeding Spring Show with nine different flower blooms. She is currently wondering where to invest her winnings; the entry fee was 25p and she won 30p! If you do not know Upper Beeding very well; it is a large city near Brighton. If you have heard of my home 'city', you may have just spotted an example of literary exaggeration! Inspired by the matriarch, in the past I have entered the Shrewsbury Flower Show in the single rose bloom category; this gained me entrance to the show as an exhibitor and was considerably cheaper than paying for a two-day pass. That loop-hole appears to have been shut now!

*"Squash come in all kinds of shapes and sizes," according to the RHS "from massive pumpkins to tiny patty pan squashes. There are winter squashes (such as pumpkins and butternut squash) and summer squashes (such as yellow crookneck, yellow straightneck, and scallop, which are harvested when immature). They are all relatively easy to grow from seed."*



It is clear from this picture that squash players at Shrewsbury do indeed come in all shapes and sizes. They also cover a vast range of abilities, from the casual social player to those who are willing to push themselves to the limit to win a point. Generally our squash players are of the winter variety, as I have heard that squash in the summer can lead to heat exhaustion; although I am quietly wondering if this applies to Shropshire even in these days of climate change. Therefore you may find it hard to spot a yellow crooknecked player, or indeed a scallop!



*Pip Moulson and Luka Mattinson*

The man responsible for nurturing Shrewsbury squash is Myles Harding. In an in-depth and very honest interview I learnt a lot about the man who puts the ‘squish’ into Shrewsbury Squash! A man of faith, it is not surprising to learn that at an early age young Harding was dominant at St Faith’s Prep School, winning the tennis tournament and reaching the final of the squash championship. (Myles is still bitter about losing, as he usually beat his opponent – who I will not name for fear of raking up past angst.) Then the competitive young man went on to a minor public school you may not have heard of called Felsted, where he made quite a name for himself with his racquets. From there it was on to Nottingham University and various other clubs.

It was clear from talking to his current squad of players that Mr Harding does not like to lose. I asked the senior squad what they had learned from playing the ‘Harding way’. They would rather not be named, so we will use their ‘secret codes’. ‘Yellow straightneck’ told me that Mr Harding tells them, “Never lose”; and ‘Butternut’ said he has been inspired by comments such as, “We win and that’s the main thing”. ‘Pumpkin’ told me that he loved hearing Mr Harding relating stories of his triumphant past and that he had developed a winning philosophy as a result, even if he did not always win the actual match!

The rising star of Shrewsbury squash is Alex Webb (R IV). Alex is not pictured here as he had been given a day off for good behaviour! He is somewhat feared by Mr Harding as a pupil who could perhaps one day challenge the master! He has already beaten him at tennis – a feat that has only been achieved by one previous Shrewsbury pupil (see Myles’ article admitting this fact, published on the website a few weeks ago – [Squash news: Rising star Alex Webb](#))

When I visited the courts, the senior squad were being put through their paces by their coach Mr Rutter, who was Captain of Shropshire Squash and stills plays at a very high level. There was a great spirit among the players and they are rightly proud of the fact that they are unbeaten this year (not counting adult opponents). Indeed even here there are stories of chivalrous defeat

when victory could have been theirs. Tiger Vechamontien told me that he had recently lost a match to the headmaster 3-2. He went on to say that he felt he had to be diplomatic in the last game as he valued his school future!

The top five players at the moment are Alex Webb, Anton Nelson, George Bates, Tom Edwards, Ed Graves and Tiger. They are all in business in the under-19 and under-17 County Championships this week, so good luck to all the squashes! Make sure you squish your opponents!

*GJFB*

(P.S. For more on 'squish', do YouTube the Two Ronnies - Squash Match!)

## Shrewsbury's heroes of the wettest term on record: the Grounds Staff

Friday 21 March 2014

*Famously described by Neville Cardus as “the most beautiful playing fields in the world”, Shrewsbury’s sports pitches are still in first class condition despite having just experienced the wettest winter on record. How is that possible?*



*Andy Richards*

The answer is that they are looked after by an extremely skilled and dedicated team of grounds staff, led by Grounds Manager Andy Richards. Andy joined the School in 2010, having previously worked at Christ College Brecon, the British Airways sports ground and Birmingham City FC, where he was their youngest ever Head Groundsman.

Hugely respected among his peers and colleagues for his expertise in what is increasingly a very scientific and technical industry, Andy says the secret to maintaining top class pitches in the face of the relentless unpredictability and extremes of the British weather is to be pro-active. So when the forecast for much of the term was wall-to-wall rain, he and his team worked hard to make sure that the sports pitches were as aerated as possible – to enable as much of the water as possible to pass into the ground rather than lie on the surface of the grass.

The priority, of course, is to keep pupils playing sport – whatever the weather. While many sports grounds had to shut for two months this winter with waterlogged and completely unplayable pitches, Shrewsbury managed to survive the term with only ten days of no competitive fixtures and just two days with no training on the pitches. Andy works closely with the Heads of Sport, meeting daily this term with Head of Football Steve Biggins, Head of Rugby Duncan Kirkby and Senior Sportsmaster Will Hughes to discuss their training and fixture requirements. With careful rotation of training areas, they work together to ensure that the pitches are protected for matches.



“Shrewsbury’s 1st XI pitch is as good as most premier league football pitches,” says Andy Richards. “I’m not sure that all the boys are fully aware of just what high quality surfaces they are playing on.” Recently the School has hosted Shrewsbury Town FC training sessions. Manager Mike Jackson was extremely grateful to be able to use such top quality facilities – particularly at a time when the club’s own pitch and other local grounds were in relatively poor condition. “The conditions at the School, the pitches, the setting are excellent. It’s a great help to us, so we thank Shrewsbury School for that,” he said. (See the feature on the Shrewsbury Town website: [Former striker helps Town out with use of training facilities](#))



*Head of Football Steve Biggins with Shrewsbury Town Manager Mike Jackson*

In between the School’s rugby and football training and fixtures, the grounds staff are nevertheless looking well ahead to the summer and have been busy preparing the pitches for cricket for weeks. “Usually the pre-season rolling begins in February. This year that just wasn’t possible, so until recently we were almost a month behind,” says Andy. “But the good spell of weather we’ve had in the last ten days has meant that we’ve caught up and are on schedule again now.”

The team enjoy the the challenge of working on multi-sport pitches. Over the course of the next few days, they will be preparing the pitches for the final few rugby matches, followed immediately by a series of football matches. Then they will be transformed almost immediately into cricket pitches, ready for the 1st XI and U15 XI pre-season festival in mid-April, just before the start of the Summer Term. Meanwhile, the team have been marking out a lacrosse pitch in

readiness for hosting Shrewsbury's first ever lacrosse match this Saturday. As with the vagaries of the British weather, variety for the grounds staff is the spice of life.



# Cricket display

Friday 21 March 2014

*As we near the beginning of the cricket season, new display boards have recently gone up in the Cricket Centre celebrating Shrewsbury's triumphs in the Twenty20 National School Championships 2013 and 2011.*







## National Junior Sculling Head at Eton Dorney

Friday 21 March 2014

*On 14th March, 27 Third Form rowers competed in the National Junior Sculling Head at Eton Dorney on 14th March, one of the biggest events on the Third Form rowing calendar.*

It was a fantastic achievement to have such a large number of boys competing, especially as the bad weather we have had to face this winter has resulted in only a handful of water sessions since December. The arrival at Dorney Lake was a shock to some, as the sight of a lake 2200m long by over 100m wide was somewhat more daunting than even the flooded River Severn.

After a quick lunch and boat-rigging session, there was a bit of time to kill before the J14 octuple event started to get on the water. The nerves started to build as crews were called to start boating. This hectic part of the day ran very smoothly for all the boys involved; they conducted themselves very professionally and didn't let the chaos of the situation phase them in any way. Once on the water it was a paddle to the warm-up channel before getting into number order before the start. This event is run in a head race format: crews race one by one against the clock in hope of achieving the fastest time.

There were over 50 crews entered into the J14 category, many of these having had much more time on the water than the RSSBC crews, due to their training stretches of water not being vulnerable to flooding. The first of the Shrewsbury crews set off and looked very strong into the slight headwind going up the course. Passing the warm-up channel outlet, the crew got a great cheer from the third of the Shrewsbury crews waiting to race, a great thing to hear from their fellow Third Form team mates.

The second leg of the race was with a slight following wind, a relief to some of the boys after the effort they had put in to the first 1800m section. Reaching the finish line they were greeted with many cheers from the large group of parents who had made the trip down to watch all three crews race.

The second of the Shrewsbury crews set off with huge determination and energy. They put on a very good show, only catching a few crabs (where the oar gets stuck in the water), which they recovered from quickly and showed some extremely positive rowing. As the event was run in alphabetical order, the final boat from Shrewsbury was the last of the day to race. The third octo showed amazing purpose to overtake crews and put in a controlled, consistent row – a display which made me as a coach, very proud.

After a quick de-rig of the boats, whilst feasting on homemade flapjacks and brownies, the event was over. The results were that the three boats from Shrewsbury came 20th, 38th and 41st out of 50 finishers. This result is a fantastic achievement and all three boats finished ahead of many other schools' B team boats.

The results of this event are very promising for the J14 rowers in the Summer Term. The boys now have experience of an event on this scale and have plenty to build on and develop going into the future.

*Chris Scrimshaw*

# Public Schools' Fencing Championships 2014

Friday 21 March 2014

*Our fencing squad achieved outstanding results in the Public Schools' Fencing Championships, which took place at Crystal Palace last week.*



In the Boys' Senior Sabre, Ross Viljoen (PH LVI) gave a consistently exceptional performance throughout the day, just missing out on a medal by one hit!

Arthur Cheng (I LVI) and Charlie Godman (M LVI) gave top class performances in the Senior Epee, finishing 8th and 15th respectively in a strong field of epeeists



*Scott Reynolds and Lucy Petch*



In the Senior Foil, Marco Lee (I V) was disappointed to miss out on a medal position, losing 10-7 in his final direct elimination fight and finishing in 11th place. But this was still a very creditable performance.

In the Junior Foil, Scott Reynolds (Rb V) fenced consistently well throughout the day and raised his game to finish in 20th place, losing his direct elimination fight 15-13.

Lucy Petch (MSH UVI) also fenced extremely well and was unlucky to lose her direct elimination fight 15-13, taking 10th place in the Girls' Senior Sabre.

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On Sunday 23rd March, Ross Viljoen and Charlie Godman gave outstanding performances in the West Midlands Boys' Under-18 Sabre qualifier for the British Youth Championships, gaining 2nd and 3rd places respectively. They have won through to the National Finals, to be held in Sheffield in May.

Earlier this term Marco Lee and Scott Reynolds secured places in the National Finals of the Foil, and Arthur Cheng and Jeff Pun won through to the National Finals of the Epee.

## Public Schools' Championships Results

### *Boys' Senior Foil (96 entries)*

11th Marco Lee

### *Boys' Junior Foil (130 entries)*

20th Scott Reynolds

65th Matti Owen-Sinclair

76th Alec Barnes

### *Boys' Senior Epee (94 entries)*

8th Arthur Cheng

15th Charlie Godman

69th Tom Creamer

### *Boys' Senior Sabre (62 entries)*

5th Ross Viljoen

23rd Jonty Small

42nd Benson Chang

55th Tom Miller

### *Girls' Senior Sabre (18 entries)*

10th Lucy Petch

*Ken Holding*

# OSFC in the final of the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup Plate

Sunday 23 March 2014

The OSFC Vets have once again won through to Final of the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup Plate.

The match will be played against the Old Brentwoods at The Bank of England Sports Ground, Roehampton, on Sunday 27th April.

Kick-off to be confirmed, but likely to be 11 am / 12 noon.

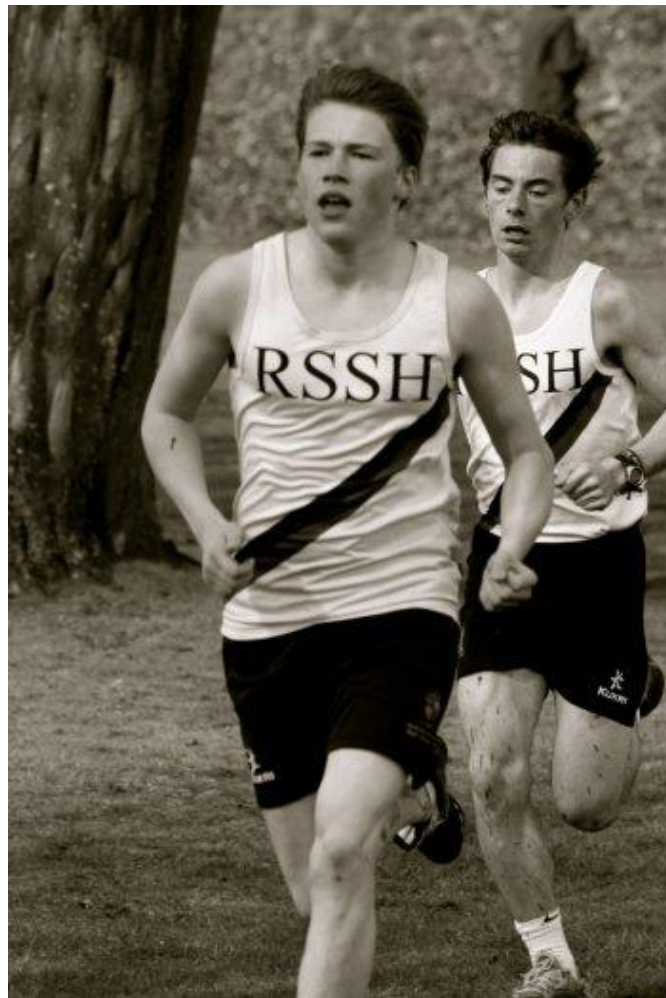


## RSSH: Winners of the Seniors and Colts Midlands Trophies

Monday 24 March 2014

*In a fittingly triumphant end to a very exciting season, the Hunt secured both the Colts and the Seniors Midlands Independent Schools' titles at the final race of the League on Saturday 22nd March.*

Saturday 22nd March saw the Hunt make the relatively short trip to Bromsgrove for the final race of the Midlands Independent Schools' League, and indeed the final race of the season. Having dominated the Colts age-group throughout the term, the title had already been decided in the younger year group, but there was all to play for in the Seniors, with our squad trailing Oundle School by 18 points going into the final event. The League has becoming increasingly high-profile in recent years, with over ten schools competing – Uppingham, Rugby, Oundle, Wrekin, Wellingborough, Welbeck, Worksop, Stamford, Nottingham HS, Repton, and of course the Hunt.



*Ben Remnant and Oscar Dickins*



After a long hard season there were tired legs on board the coach, and on arrival, we were greeted with an icy cold downpour of wintry rain. However, with the race start looming, the rain thankfully abated and the sun broke through, lighting the way over the flat and fast course. The Colts would be tackling a shorter than normal 4km route of two laps, and from the off, the expected tussle between Ben Remnant (Ch) and Oscar Dickins (R) resumed, with Will Hayward (R) from the year below not far behind. The team were packing well, with Scott Hatton (S) making a strong start and settling in to the top ten, and a strong start, too, for Ollie Lansdell (PH) who now seems to be back to some of the form he has shown in earlier years.

With the team trophy already secured (and in fact the 'B' team medals already secured) this race was more about laying down yet another marker and demonstrating the significant depth that the Hunt have enjoyed at this age group in 2014. Indeed, at the end of the Bromsgrove race, our four 'B' team counters were all in the top 20 – Scott Hatton (S) in 8th, Owen Mock (R) in 9th, Naveen Garikipati (Rb) in 16th after a storming run, and Charlie England (Rt) in 18th. Naveen's run in particular was exceptional given just how new to the Hunt he is, and we are certainly expecting big things from him in the next two years.

Up at the top end of the race, after a long hard battle, Ben Remnant exerted control over the race stretching out on the top fields of the course, with Oscar Dickins unable to respond. Ben came through for his fourth 'kill' (win) of the League, with Oscar just behind in 2nd. Will Hayward (R) – with a year to go at this age-group – was 4th, and Charlie Rogers (Rb) back from injury came home in 7th, marking a welcome return to competitive racing after a somewhat frustrating season.

The Seniors race was set to be a tense affair, and in anticipation we had drafted in some of the Old Guard in Ralph Wade (Rb) and Tim Atkins (M). Given that Oundle had logged their lowest score at a race in which the Hunt hadn't competed, we were determined to be crowned champions, particularly since we had beaten Oundle every other time this season. However, as it was the last race in the League series, we knew that it would be a big field with most of the big names there. Indeed, from the very off, the scramble for positions was fierce, with Rory Fraser (Ch) and Theo Clarke (S) having to start quickly to secure places amongst the lead runners in the first lap.

At 5km, the course was again shorter than normal, perhaps playing into the strength of the track specialists, and indeed, for a time, it appeared that Theo might fancy a crack at taking on the Huntsman. However, Rory was engaged in his own private battle with Wrekin's Matthew Giles (who had won the Midlands & Northern title up in Sedbergh but had lost the previous week to Rory at the English Schools' Championships). With Bromsgrove's lead runner in a league of his own (and having placed top 10 the week before at English Schools), it was a battle for second place, with Theo battling it out for third.



*Rory Fraser (l) and Theo Clarke*

Behind our lead pair, Ralph Wade was doing a sterling job of keeping in the top 10, with Charlie Godman (M) struggling a little with a hip problem that has hampered the second half of his season. We had reinforcements coming through, however, with Ben Smith (Rt) continuing his rich vein of form that this week saw a sub-8 minute benjy for the first time, and some strong running from Roman Faithful (O) in his last ever race for the Hunt.

It looked set to be close if we were to secure a team total low enough to beat Oundle, but we knew that if we had three in the top 10 and our other three counters in the top 20, we stood a good chance. The closing stages of the race were therefore very tense, firstly seeing Rory Fraser engage in a final lung-bursting sprint only to be overhauled in the final home straight and pushed into third. Theo Clarke had also dropped down with severe pain in his ear that had affected him the previous week at English Schools', meaning he faded down into 7th. However, Ralph had moved up to 8th by the finish, with Ben Smith and Roman Faithful posting 12th and 14th respectively. Godman manfully pushed through to come home as our final counter in 16th, securing a team total of 60 points. Would it be enough, though? As Messrs Middleton and Haworth furiously scribbled out some sums, it looked possible that the seniors had in fact done enough. Just. Their team total (based on your best three scores across the League) had now been lowered to 178, two points lower than Oundle's 180. However, there was a tense wait to see if Oundle had in fact lowered their score, but when the announcements were made, there was a huge sigh of relief when the Hunt were named as the 2014 Senior Champions, bringing home the trophy last won in 2012, and 2010 before that. It was a fitting finale to what has been a very exciting season, and we were delighted to return with both the Seniors shield and the Colts shield (last won in 2011 and 2012).

# Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



An individual silver medal went to Huntsman Rory Fraser in the Senior Boys and to Oscar Dickins in the Colts, with the individual titles going to Ben Remnant in the Colts championship and Tory Mobley in the Senior Girls, with both Ben and Tory notching three 'kills' (wins) during the campaign. Congratulations to these four, but let me close by pausing to mention all the many runners (numbering over 50) who have competed for the Hunt in this League over the course of the season. They have been terrific ambassadors for Shrewsbury School, and I have been proud to see them all run in the Hunt vest, running with pride, determination, and focus. On, on!

*PJM*



## RSSBC: Excellent performances at the North of England Head

Monday 24 March 2014

Six Shrewsbury eights raced on Saturday at the North of England Head. The crews used the event as preparation for the Schools' Head of the River on Wednesday.



*Top - J15A VIII; below - J16A VIII*

There were encouraging results, with wins for the J15 and J16 A crews in their events. The 1st VIII were the fastest school eight at the Head, coming in fourth overall behind crews from Agecroft and Durham University.



*Top - 1st VIII; below - 2nd VIII*

The 2nd VIII, 3rd VIII and J15Bs executed their race plans well and were the fastest crews against their respective opposition.



*Top - 3rd VIII; below - J15B VIII*

Schools' Head should provide some exciting prospects, as with little information available after numerous regatta cancellations there is everything to play for.

*ATH*



## Fencing: British Youth Championship finalists

Monday 24 March 2014

*In the West Midlands Boys' Under-18 Sabre qualifier for the British Youth Championships on Sunday, Ross Viljoen and Charlie Godman gave outstanding performances, gaining 2nd and 3rd places respectively. They have won through to the National Finals, to be held in Sheffield in May.*

Earlier this term Marco Lee and Scott Reynolds secured places in the National Finals of the Foil, and Arthur Cheng and Jeff Pun won through to the National Finals of the Epee.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Rugby: Good wins against Repton, Saturday 22nd March

Tuesday 25 March 2014

Many congratulations to the U15A Rugby team, who ended the season with a resounding 51-10 victory over Repton on Saturday. Over the season, they amassed a 286 points difference, with 379 points for and 93 against. Well done boys!

The 1st XV and the U14As also enjoyed comfortable victories against Repton on Saturday.

# Hockey: Good wins against Ellesmere College, Saturday 22nd March

Tuesday 25 March 2014

Our hockey teams gave excellent performances against Ellesmere College on Saturday.

The 1st XI won 3-0, with goals from Jack Kinnaird (R LVI), Henry Binns (R LVI) and Dan Legge (SH UVI).

The U15 XI won 2-0, with goals from George Chaplin (Ch IV) and George Holder (Ch IV).

# Shrewsbury's Senior Saxophone Quartet are National Pro Corda Chamber Champions

Tuesday 25 March 2014

*Shrewsbury School's Senior Saxophone Quartet are one of just nine ensembles in the country that have been named National Pro Corda Chamber Champions. They have been invited to perform in the Pro Corda Champions Concert at the Royal Academy in London on 25th April.*



*L to r: Henry Kennedy, Ben Sansom, Alexander Bird and Henry Newbould with Maria McKenzie*

Henry Newbould (Ch V), Alexander Bird (S LVI), Ben Sansom (PH V) and Henry Kennedy (I UVI) gave a sparkling performance of 'An American in Paris' by George Gershwin in the finals of the prestigious Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools, held in the Birmingham Conservatoire on Sunday 23rd March.

The Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival is an annual competition that celebrates the best chamber music-making from ensembles in schools across the country. Overall around 900 young musicians took part in the festival this year from schools across the country. Four groups from Shrewsbury School made it through to the semi-finals, held at the School earlier this month.

Shrewsbury's Senior Saxophone Quartet were among 27 ensembles who won through to the national finals on Sunday, which were judged by Guest Adjudicator Alexander Baillie and Chief Adjudicator Peter Esswood. Alexander Baillie is recognised internationally as one of the finest cellists of his generation, and Peter Esswood is Head of Strings at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.



John Moore, Director of Music at Shrewsbury School, is delighted with their success: *“This represents a wonderful achievement from these four young saxophonists, who under the excellent coaching of Head of Wind, Maria MacKenzie, have mastered such difficult repertoire and through their wonderfully musical performances have deservedly gained recognition in this year’s Pro Corda Competition. We are hugely proud of them of course.”*

## Easter Eggcitement

Tuesday 25 March 2014

*School House had another victory to celebrate before the end of term, but this time luck had more to do with it than talent...*



*Yu Qi Miao and Vardan Hambardzumyan with the winning egg*

Yu Qi Miao and Vardan Hambardzumyan (both Fourth Form) had the winning ticket for the School's Easter charity raffle. The prize was the biggest Easter egg I've ever seen!

The great thing about this most recent success is that the boys wanted to share the egg with the rest of the House. This is partly because it would have taken them over their luggage limit on an aeroplane and partly because there was more chocolate than they could have eaten before the end of term, but mostly because they actually wanted everyone else in School House to enjoy it.

The chocolate was so thick that it required mallets to smash the egg up. This happened in front of the rest of the House; the fact that there was still enough chocolate left to fill four ice-cream tubs after 70 teenage boys had descended on the spoils, is testament to its magnitude.

*HRDB*



*Left - Pre-demolition; right - Eggsterminated; the gannets descend!*





## Paintballing - a report by Joe Mosley (3)

Thursday 27 March 2014

*On Sunday the 24th March we went paintballing after brunch, in the oldest clothes we had. I wasn't sure that I would enjoy this trip... Sundays are for resting! But at the end of it all, I had a huge grin on my face....*



Exactly half the people on the coach were from Moser's, so we formed one army against everyone else from the rest of the School.

Doc Case especially enjoyed the trip when he was informed that he could have a few grenades. He was ready to kill!! But he didn't realise that exposing your whole body in paintball to do a crazy run was a very bad idea indeed! He left the arena with bruises everywhere. I then saw him sneak in and throw flash bangs at the unlucky players still in the midst of battle. It was hilarious, there was so much confusion! Who was this mystery player who was flowing flash bangs at us?

Doc P and Mr Simper were delighted to be given machine-guns for the first game, much to the awe of Doc Case and the rest of the kids on the trip. They soon swapped them for normal guns as they wasted tons of ammo through the rapid fire.

We played six games in all, but no-one seemed to care what the scores were - it was such good fun.

Overall I would say that this trip to the paintball was the best Sunday of the term, purely because of the amount of fun and giggles that I had. Also the paintball place was absolutely AMAZING !

*Joe Mosley (M, 3)*



## Shropshire Squash Championships

Thursday 27 March 2014

*There were some very strong individual performances in the Shropshire Squash Championships last weekend.*



*Alex Webb and Harry Wasdell with Ian Dimwhiddie*

In the U19 Championships, Alex Webb (R IV and aged just 15) won through to the final, where he was beaten 3-1 by a very strong opponent. This was a great effort from Alex, who has already shown himself to be the second best player at Shrewsbury in my seven years at the School and probably of the last 20 years.

George Bates (S UVI) and Tom Edwards (S V) both reached the semi-finals.

Fred Earlam (Rt LVI) beat Anton Nelson (S V) 3-1 in the final of plate.

In the U17 Championship, Tom Edwards (S, V) played extremely well and reached the semi-finals. And in the U17 plate final Oliver Koch De Gooreynd (O V) beat Fred Pook (Rb V).

Harry Wasdell (Rt 3) played extremely well in the U15 Championships, losing 3-0 in the final, and Cameron Anwyl (S 3) reached the semi-finals.

*MJH*

# The Headmaster's Commendations

Thursday 27 March 2014

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



The following pupils have been awarded the Headmaster's Commendations in the second half of this term:

## Upper Sixth

Stephen Chandler (Rb)  
Stanley Hau (SH)  
Chris Papaioannou (PH)  
Immy Richardson (MSH)

## Lower Sixth

Cindy Ho (EDH)  
James Plaut (S)  
Nicola Spruyt (EDH)  
Sophie Zhou (EDH)

## Fifth Form

Henry Newbould (Ch)

## Fourth Form

Will Bedson (Rb)  
Jake Elliott (Rb)  
Max Yale (S)

## Third Form

Oliver Hodges (S)  
Henry Mayhew (Ch)  
Nateewat Ruechuseh (Ch)



## Hunt Club Presentation Evening

Thursday 27 March 2014

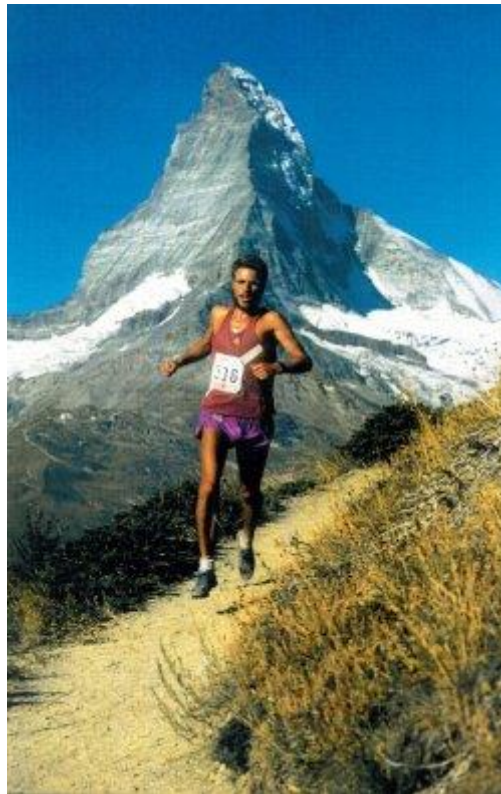
*This year's Hunt Club Presentation Evening was a particularly special and poignant event, as the recently established Will Ramsbotham Award was presented for the first time.*



*L to r: Charlie Rogers, Theo Clarke, Tory Mobley*

At Sunday evening's Hunt Club Presentation Evening, this year's Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch) handed over the ceremonial whip to Theo Clarke (S) who will take on the prestigious role for season 2014-2015. The position (described by former Master Willie Jones as "more important than the Head of School") was first established in 1831, and is a significant role in this most historic of clubs. The sterling work of Rory Fraser leaves his successor with a very healthy club and one of considerable promise and potential in its ranks.

The year ahead looks set to be equally promising for the Girls' Hunt, particularly with a strong intake of Third Form runners joining our fold. Under the captaincy of Lucie Cornwell-Lee (MSH), the Girls' Hunt has experienced unprecedented success this year, taking three titles (the Shrewsbury Relays; the Spring Relays; and the prestigious Midlands & Northern Cross-Country Championships), and placing an exceptional 4th in the national Coventry Relays, just 9 seconds away from winning a national team bronze. Lucie hands over the reins to an athlete of exceptional ability, Tory Mobley (EDH), who recently placed in the top 30 at the UK inter-counties and has been at the forefront of the Hunt's successes this year.



*Will Ramsbotham*

The Presentation Evening was particularly special this year as we welcomed a guest speaker Hugh Ramsbotham (former Housemaster of School House) to speak about his son Will, who was Huntsman in 1984-1985. Up to Under-16 level, Will was (in Hugh's words) "totally absorbed by anything with a ball – School teams in cricket, football, rugby, Fives, etc." Hugh describes the moment his son turned to Hunt running as being pivotal in the trajectory that his life took, and the combination of his two great loves – running and climbing – "dominated his life and gave him immense joy and a very full, though tragically short, life".

His involvement with the Hunt – where he arrived late but went on to become a key member of a hugely successful squad – was an extremely influential one that impacted on many of his later decisions, such as a gap year teaching in Nepal because of the trekking and climbing, and his route to Edinburgh University where there were more mountains to be climbed and an exceptionally strong university Fell Running team. In fact, had he not taken up a geology scholarship to India, he would have been competing in the World Fell Running Championships – and this was a runner who only took the Hunt up in the Fifth Form.

Tragically, the day after breaking the record on the Cader Idris Fell Race in June 1993, Will Ramsbotham was killed in a climbing accident on the same mountain. In memory of this truly inspiring Salopian, his fellow Hunt runner Oliver O'Callaghan-Brown (Huntsman 1985-1986) has this year established the Will Ramsbotham Award in order to reward and support a Fifth Form Hunt runner who has shown considerable promise, though has perhaps not yet reached the elite level of the club.

The very first recipient of this prestigious award is Charlie Rogers (Rb) who, like Will, has come to the Hunt later than some, but already Charlie has shown significant improvements and indeed this year ran sub-8 minutes in the Benjies for the first time. He is a young athlete of considerable

ability and potential, and it is our hope that the achievements and ambitious spirit of Will Ramsbotham will both influence and inspire Charlie and others within the Hunt as they progress on their own journey through the School and beyond.

*PJM*



*Hugh Ramsbotham and Oliver O'Callaghan-Brown presenting the Will Ramsbotham Award to Charlie Rogers*



## Edinburgh Model United Nations Conference

Friday 28 March 2014

*A report by Guy Cabral (Cb V) on another very successful and enjoyable weekend for our Model United Nations team.*

Mr Peach may have hoped to have been spared the customary “kittens” that he births every time we travel up to the George Watson’s MUN in Edinburgh, as he had to remain in Shrewsbury. Yet this guiding light was not spared as before we had even set out, Jonty Small, our ambassador, inadvertently struck his head against a door frame and was taken to San. Next Ivan Tivodar – another of the delegates – did not arrive at the early breakfast and could not be found, and this was only 7.30 in the morning.

Under the careful management of Dr Oakley, we managed to make it to Edinburgh with neither loss of limb nor property. We set up our diplomatic headquarters in the extremely luxurious Haymarket Premier Inn and then a few of the delegates went for a stroll around the local area. In true Salopian style, many of our delegation arrived two seconds before we were meant to depart and there then followed a frantic preparation of notes and clothes. We then crammed into the two taxis and while making last minute changes to our resolutions, we were transported to George Watson’s College.

After we arrived and had had dinner, we attended the opening ceremony which contained the usual greeting speech from the Director of MUN and some unusual speeches from the Secretaries General - one of which started with the immortal line “I like fish”. Once these preliminaries were dispensed with, lobbying began for the different committees, whereby about 50 people bustle about each other trying to show why their resolution is better than everyone else’s.

On the rest of the evening I shall not dwell but shall move on to the conference proper on the following day. Each one of the delegates now became locked in deadly verbal combat with each other, and this day saw resolutions rise and fall until the early evening when we returned to HQ. Having recovered from our cerebral and diplomatic trials, we then changed our clothes to something more compliant with dancing. For soon after we would leave for the highlight of the George Watson’s MUN: the annual Ceilidh. This is an extremely enjoyable event, in which all the delegates partake in a selection of Scottish reeling dances, one of which is called the “Danger Dance,” as the boys link arms and spin around while their partners hold on to their shoulders; this results in the girls being lifted off the ground and spinning around at nearly 90 degrees.

After a very late night, the final day crept up on us like a thief in the night and before long we found ourselves in the General Assembly and then the closing ceremony. Pleasingly half the Shrewsbury contingent won awards and there were many Facebook profiles being swapped, as friends made over the conference sought to keep in touch. On a final note, I think it is fair to say that as all of delegates left George Watson’s they were filled with a glow of satisfaction and a strong desire to return.



## School Firsts - Lent 2014 awards

Friday 28 March 2014

*Awarded to pupils during the final School Assembly of the Lent Term.*

Each term a committee of Sixth Form pupils meets to award the School's highest form of 'colours' – a 'School First'. The committee members take their work seriously, for two main reasons: firstly, this is a good example of pupil power – while teachers may make nominations, it is only those ten or so Upper Sixth pupils sitting on the committee who have the power to vote; secondly, to retain the value of the 'School First', precious few are handed out.

Nowadays School Firsts have been split into two types: sporting and non-sporting. Below is a list of those pupils who have this term been given the coveted award for their exceptional contributions to School life across a wide spectrum of non-sporting activities.

**For their unstinting work on behalf of the Charities' Committee:**

Charlie Gillow and Erika Osade

**For their commitment to and success in MUN:**

Jonty Small, Amelia Woodruff, Guy Cabral and Sasha Arridge

**For longstanding and exceptional contributions to and leadership of the Beekeeping Society:**

Daniel Lo

**For their longstanding contributions to the musical life of the School:**

Andrew Spicer, Eric Cheng, Joe Bell, Alan Yu and Michael Cheng

**For outstanding leadership of and commitment to the RAF section of the CCF:**

Chris Papaioannou



## The Richard Hillary Essay Medal

Friday 28 March 2014

*The Richard Hillary Essay Medal was inaugurated last year and ran for a second time earlier this term. It provides an opportunity for Sixth Formers to spend two hours pitting their wits against a one-word essay title. The event was modelled on the historic competition undertaken to select fellows of All Souls College, Oxford. Twenty-four pupils volunteered to take part, and each competitor opened an envelope on their exam desk to reveal this year's one-word title, "Time".*

The competition was judged by Professor Patrick Finglass, himself a fellow of All Souls College and also Head of the Classics Department at Nottingham University. He commented positively on a number of the essays, but felt that two stood out from the rest. The winner was Daniel Edwards (S LVI), with Esme O'Keeffe (MSH LVI) as runner-up. Daniel will be presented with his medal at Prize Giving on Speech Day.



*Daniel Edwards and Esme O'Keeffe*

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.



## RSSBC: Schools' Head of the River

Friday 28 March 2014

The Boat Club took a fleet of eight crews to the postponed Schools' Head of the River held in London on Wednesday. The event is a national competition that saw over three hundred crews racing over the 4.25-mile course. The Club produced some very encouraging results, with four of the eight crews winning bronze medals in their events: J15As (3rd of 26), J15Bs (3rd of 20), J16Bs (3rd of 10) and 3rd VIII (3rd of 6).

Shrewsbury were one of only two schools that had three crews inside the top 30. The 1st VIII came eighth (of 33) in a very tight field which saw 3 seconds separate 5th to 11th places. The 2nd VIII came fourth (of 12) in their event and the J16As came seventh (of 24).

The mixed quad had to endure a hail storm mid-race as they came in 4th in their event.

Many thanks to St Paul's School for hosting the Shrewsbury crews.

The full results of the event can be found at <http://www.shorr.org.uk/>



## Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 28 March 2014

*At the end of their stunning - indeed possibly record-breaking - season, Giles Bell's final Team of the Week for this term is the U15A rugby squad.*



*U15A squad with coaches (r to l) Stuart Cowper and Toby Percival*

Looking through the results of various teams, as I tried to decide who to focus on in the last week of term, I found myself drawn to the under-15A rugby team. One or two coaches have approached me of late, keen for their charges to be featured in this column. I have had to gently tell Mr Moyes that this column generally focuses on success but I found it harder to ignore Mr Parsons, Mr Cowper and Mr Percival; especially when they barred my exit from the Common Room, firmly shut the door and locked it. You should also know that this article was written in close proximity to them and that they have had 'editorial' freedom to correct anything they deemed not in keeping with the ethos and philosophy of the under-15A coaching staff manual.

Mr Parsons and Mr Cowper are known by some as Laurel and Hardy which is quite an accurate comparison although I always thought that Hardy was taller! As our current Head of Drama, I am sure that Brian Parsons would not mind being compared to a screen icon. If drama is one love of his life, rugby is the other and he explained to me how these two passions of his are linked. Brian was always in charge of props in his youth drama group and when his dad took him to the local rugby club, the coach said he needed a prop and Brian was the first person to put up his hand. But seriously, after appearing on 'Prop Idol' hosted by Gareth Chilcott, Brian began playing rugby semi-professionally for Gosport and Fareham and then Hull RUFC. He told me in those days it was £40 cash stuffed in a brown envelope. I tried to find a match report from those good old days but instead discovered that Brian Parsons is in fact still playing as full back for Sedgley Tigers. Brian has also coached rugby in America at USC (University of Southern California) and is sadly returning to the States at the end of this year to take up another dramatic position at Oklahoma University. Brian admitted to me that he will miss coaching the under-15A

squad perhaps more than anything at Shrewsbury. He feels that he has helped revolutionise their way of play by instilling method acting as part of the training schedule. “I tell the lads to get inside the heads of the current England team and replicate their moves on the pitch; it seems to be working, although Loughborough Grammar had a couple of French lads and that seemed to unsettle us.” I wondered if this might be confusing for the players, as I believe that Colonel Nick Jenkins who coached the side last year had a similar approach but with the Welsh team in mind. “There is room for both Welsh and English methods of play but probably not the Scots,” Brian told me.

Stuart Cowper was a big-hearted small-statured scrum half at Lancaster Royal Grammar School. He then went on to play for Christleton near Chester and he was transferred for a very small sum to the Galician League to play for Mareantes in Pontevedra. I cannot tell you much about Mareantes as their websites are all in Spanish; now I realise why Spanish teachers like Mr Cowper are so useful! He found rugby in Spain a little backward which is possibly why he coaches the backs, but he is described by his players as ‘forward thinking’. Stuart was keen to tell me that he felt he had successfully coached the Welsh flair out of the team and had instilled a duller brand of the game, but a brand which enabled the team to win. Stuart told me in confidence that he would prefer to be coaching, watching and playing Rugby League.

Toby Percival is the third member of the coaching trinity. Toby was educated at Loughborough Grammar School, which is one of only two teams to have beaten our talented squad of players. I see a slightly smug grin when Toby tells me this and I wonder if there was any form of communication between Toby and his previous school before the game... On further investigation and with help from some technically gifted IT experts in School House I have uncovered this email: “Hi Mike (the coach of the opposition is Mike Broadley), have done my best to weaken the Shrewsbury team at our selection meeting. You should have a chance now! Thanks for the loan of your house in the Bahamas, Toby.”



*Cameron Bates and Ed Plant*

Loughborough aside, Toby is immensely proud of his team’s feats. He regards himself as the squad statistician and told me that the team have scored 379 points over the season and conceded only 93, giving them a healthy balance of 286 which could be a school record. Toby also regards himself as the team’s motivational coach and admits “I look good in lycra”. I asked



him what he regarded as the most motivational speech the lads had received. "Anything with the words coke and pizza in seems to do the trick!" As a Classics teacher he also found great strength from the ancient thinkers. "I like to tell the lads to 'pass it on a Plato each other', 'Caesar the moment', 'Euripides when tackling!'" ('You rippa de knees' - for those struggling to work that one out. Possibly Giles' worst joke of the term. *Ed*)

The team had a great grounding in Welsh tactics last year from young Colonel Nick Jenkins, who has now become Director of rugby and all things Old Salopian. Nick's visionary coaching manual involved watching matches from the 1970s involving the mystical sidesteps of Barry John. He claimed that captain Cameron Bates glided around the 'park' in a similar fashion to JPR Williams and that Welsh winger Ed Plaut was as electric as Gerald Davies. Happy 105th Birthday Nick!

All the coaches I spoke to were quick to praise Captain Cameron Bates for his leadership and skill on the field. Not everyone was happy with the coaching staff. Ed Plaut claimed he had been dropped for supporting Wales! He was also thinking of going to see the Children's Liaison Officer after he was forced to re-enact England tries. Ed was however happy that he was brought back into the team to score twice against Repton in a 55-10 victory. Cameron thought his favourite match was a hard fought 24-24 draw with Old Swinford Hospital, although he also enjoyed the 67-0 demolition of Wolverhampton Grammar.



*Nifemi Okusanya*

I caught up with the team during the under-15 House Sevens tournament and it was clear from the rugby being played that there were plenty of talented individuals. Rory Fergusson told me he



enjoyed rugby nearly as much as RS, and Kwaku Antwi is clearly developing into a fearsome forward - although I was told he could do with adding a third daily chicken to his diet. Most improved player of the year was a closely guarded secret, but Nifemi Okusanya, pictured here showing off his guns, was the people's and coaches' choice.

It is a shame for the team that having reached the final of the County Cup, they will not be able to play it as it falls in the holidays and many of our players will be elsewhere. Still, given what I have seen, I am putting it down as a win. What a bunch of champions!

*GJFB*

The full U15A squad are:

Ben Ricks

Oliver Dixon (Vice-Capt)

Angus Inglis-Jones

Charlie Speed

Donald Hickey

Tom Atkin

Rory Davies

Guy Morris

Angus Drummond

Cameron Bates (Capt)

Nifemi Okusanya

Ben Jones

Thomas Tulloch

Andrew Kim

Rory Fergusson

Max Blance

Oliver Clarke

Ben Higgins

Edward Plaut

# School House are Runner-up in House Hockey Competition

Friday 28 March 2014



*(L to r): Joe Collings (UVI), Leo Sartain (V), Dan Legge (Captain, UVI), Jamie Elderton (UVI), Brook Plumptre (LVI), Charlie Bibby (UVI)*

On the final afternoon of term, Dan Legge captained our team to several convincing victories in the Inter-House Hockey Competition, which earned us a place in the final against Severn Hill.

It was a very close game, which we narrowly lost 2-1; the winning goal was scored with the last hit of the game and the boys had to settle for a Cadbury's Creme Egg as the prize for runner-up!

Dan led by example for the whole tournament; other notable performances came from Joe Collings, who scored a hat-trick in one of the games, and Andrew Humpish, whose injuries were testament to his defensive efforts and willingness to put his body on the line to keep the ball out!