

Old Salopian Freemasons Lodge

Tuesday 1 December 2020

The Covid lockdown has reduced, but not eliminated, the activities of the Lodge this year.

Our next gathering at the Schools is scheduled for Saturday 5th June 2021 (distancing and other regulations permitting). Lodge meeting in the Clubroom of the School Boathouse at 11.00 am. Followed by drinks and family lunch, open to all, from 12.30 pm. Booking in advance is essential, contact details below.

For further information on what we do, and any membership enquiries, please see
- www.oldsalopianmasons.com – or else contact the Secretary, Chris Williams (R 1978-83) on
07956 964937 or at chrisjhwilliams@yahoo.co.uk.

Futures & Higher Education Bulletin

Friday 4 December 2020

Futures and Higher Education Bulletin Edition 6 Michaelmas Term 2020 from the Futures Department, full of useful information, reminders, resources and weblinks for Fifth and Sixth Formers and their parents

Please follow the link to download it as a pdf: [Futures Bulletin Edition 6, Michaelmas Term 2020](#)

The Steeplechases Competition 2020

Friday 4 December 2020

The Steeplechases is one of the most important of Shrewsbury School's Inter-House running competitions to the history of the sport, with links to the establishment of the track discipline of the same name.

In its modern format it has been a relay race, with five legs over a distance of 2.4km and changeovers on 'Top Common'. It felt like history was being made this year too, with coronavirus restrictions meaning we had to make some alterations to the format of the race.



The last time the event was held it was just a couple of days before the national lockdown began in March, and little did we know then that it would be so long before we could meet again for a big Inter-House race of this type. Having had to postpone the Tucks and Paperchases until we have more freedom to meet in large groups, we were desperate to try to put on some competition this term in their place, and with the need to keep pupils in their year-group and House bubbles, the Steeplechases fit the requirements quite nicely. Instead of having fluid changeovers, we moved to five discrete year-group races, with the aggregate times of each collated for the team scores. With all other sports sessions cancelled for the afternoon, there was the chance for mass participation and plenty of House support from those not competing.

With each House setting off at five-second intervals, each leg offered the opportunity for lots of overtaking and it was never clear at the end of each leg what the exact race order was. Rigg's, the strong favourites for the boys' race, were at the very back of the queue, and had lots of ground to make up! The same was true of Emma Darwin for the girls, who also had good form and were expected to take the win.



In the first (3rd form) leg, a terrific battle could be seen in the latter stages of the race between Harry P-M (I) and Jack K (PH). Both these boys came to the School this year with real pedigree in cross-country running, and it was great to see them renew the rivalry we saw back in September in the 3rd form race. Though Harry managed a heroic effort in fending off Jack to the end, Jack's was the faster time having started 15 seconds back. Olivia K (M) ran the best girls' leg, some 18 seconds ahead of her nearest rival, Lyla W (G).

In the 4th form leg, Mimi G (EDH) ran an astonishingly good race with the 4th-fastest girls' time overall in 9:44, thirty-odd seconds ahead of Hattie A (G). Archie T (Rt) battled valiantly with Brad K (R) as the latter hunted him down along the home stretch of Top Common, just pipping Archie to the post in a very exciting finish. Brad had managed to break the 8-minute mark with his electric run, a feat matched by only four of the older runners in the race. It was great to see that, having concentrated on football this term, he hasn't lost any of his speed! The day boys dominated the rest of the top order, taking seven of the top ten places, with excellent performances from Hamish G and Massimo W (both PH) in particular.



The third leg was the turn of the 5th form, with Sophia U (EDH) hoping to lay down a marker in her first big House race since taking up regular Hunt training this year. Last year she won the Junior Girls' fastest leg, and this year she stormed through the girls' pack and finished very strongly in 9:27 (the second-fastest girls' time of the day), over 30 seconds ahead of second-placed Eva H (G). Will S (R) was among the favourites to set the fastest time of the day, but without anyone of his quality to work with, he struggled to find his pace and while his time was excellent (7:53), it was probably a little slower than he's capable of. It was still enough to be the fastest time in his leg however, stretching out Riggs' lead to over two minutes with only three legs run. A little further back, Johnny F (Ch) ran a very strong 8:27, and George H (O) 8:45.

Onto the Lower Sixth leg, and again we were treated to another exciting finish along Top Common, as Harrison C (R) chased down Jonny P (I) with about 100m to go, and from there extended his lead powerfully in the final straight. His time of 7:35 was the fastest of the day, and though the course was about 20m shorter than usual, it should probably go down as the fastest Steeplechases performance in recent years, the previous record being held by Oscar D in 7:44 back in 2016. Jonny's time of 8:03 was also among the fastest of the day, and kept Ingram's in the hunt for second place. Livy E (EDH) – having made the switch to training full-time with the RSSBC this year – showed that she's still got plenty of pace in her legs, running the fastest L6 time of the day and third-fastest overall, with 9:45. Kate R (EDH) also ran extremely well for the EDH B team, clocking 9:49.



As the Upper Sixth lined up for the final leg, it was clear that Rigg's had already secured a massive and essentially unassailable lead, and all the RSSH Huntsman Oscar H-R had to do was jog round and the victory would be theirs. Oscar was hungry for a place on the individual leaderboard though, and powered round in 7:49, the second-fastest time of the afternoon. Senior Whip Will O (Ch) was not far behind, just pipping Will Singleton for 3rd-fastest time overall by 0.1 seconds, clocking 7:53.6. Sam F (SH) was just outside the 8-minute mark with 8:01, but in doing so showed what excellent progress he's made this year. Francesca H (EDH) won back her Steeplechases title which injury prevented her from defending last year, in a time of 8:59, over a minute faster than her nearest U6 competitor.

Rigg's then took the overall boys' victory by just over four minutes, with Ingram's putting in a great effort to claim second, only ten seconds ahead of Radbrook in third. Special mention should go to Port Hill for fielding 9 teams – surely a record of mass-participation from one House in this event! In the girls' race, Emma Darwin claimed the overall victory, ahead of Grove in second, with Emma Darwin's B team claiming second. Well done to Mary Sidney Hall for putting out five teams, more than any other girls' House.

I often make reference in these reports to House spirit, but today's was truly exceptional, both from those running so competitively for the honour of their House, to the hundreds of supporters noisily willing them on. Congratulations to everyone who competed.

IPH, Master in Charge of The Hunt

Virtual Regatta Race 2 Report

Friday 4 December 2020

On Saturday the Fifth form and Upper Sixth boys took on crews from Eton, Radley, Shiplake, Abingdon, St Edwards and Monmouth in our second virtual rowing match.



As with the first match each crew raced with a mobile phone in the boat linked to the mobile tracking application Strava. After the four 1000m runs the average speed was calculated for comparison between the schools.



The Upper Sixth VIII recorded the fast time of the day out of eleven J18 crews. The J16 crews were equally impressive with the first of the two RSSBC crews coming home a significant margin ahead of its closest competition from Shiplake. The second of the J16 eights came in third of the five crews racing.



J18 VIII's

1	RSSBC	12:20.4
2	Shiplake 1	12:26.5
3	Shiplake 2	12:29.9
4	Eton 1	12:32.0
5	Radley	12:34.9
6	St Edwards 1	12:37.4
7	Abindgon 1	12:50.3
8	St Edwards 2	12:53.7
9	Monmouth	12:56.0
10	Abingdon 2	12:56.2
11	Eton 2	13:18.0

J16 VIII's

1	RSSBC 1	13:16.7
2	Shiplake	14:12.1
3	RSSBC 2	14:13.3
4	Radley	14:40.7
5	Monmouth	14:52.0

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a play must be in want of a glitter cannon

Friday 4 December 2020

This week the ladies of The Grove brought a joyously irreverent Pride and Prejudice to the Barnes Theatre that saw over half the house treading the boards.

The spirited cast lead us on a side-splittingly-funny feminist romp through the Regency, condensing Jane Austen's classic novel into 70 minutes of crisp dialogue and wry asides.

Bonnets were banished in this gutsy update, traded for glitter canons and mirror balls in a production anchored by an assured and comically brilliant performance from Georgina C as a thoroughly modern Elizabeth Bennett.



As the action opens against a backdrop of pastel ballgowns and a neo-classical set in refined cornflower blue, the audience is greeted by a bevy of servants. Cleverly transformed into a wry chorus, throughout the evening the mob-capped maids nudge the plot along and help put matters in perspective. Played with energy and commitment by Sapna C, Eve L, Eva H, Eva and

Clara G, and Melissa R, as the maids point out they really are vital; after all, “you can’t have a whirlwind romance without clean knickers.”

The irrepressible Mrs Bennet enters, played with superb comic timing by Daisy S, tearing her hair out at the prospect of marrying off five daughters with no fortune. Her husband Mr Bennet is precious little help (in fact he’s a teddy bear) but hope resides with the eldest, the beautiful and kind Jane (Tabitha W), who might be their meal ticket out of the gutter.



And Mrs Bennet has just the match lined up: the new tenant of Netherfield Park, the wealthy bachelor Mr Bingley. Better yet, Bingley has brought his best friend Mr Darcy with him from London, an even more eligible marriage prospect who brings home twice Bingley’s annual income. Darcy’s £10,000 a year might sound meagre to modern ears- but as the perky servant-chorus helpfully explain, in today’s money that’s around £5million; no wonder Mrs Bennet is all aflutter at the thought of sending one of her daughters down the aisle with him.

At first all goes to plan, as Bingley is instantly bowled over by Jane’s charms. Head of House Charlotte R channels Hugh Laurie in a delightful performance that paints Bingley as a thoroughly good chap. The object of his affection is equally smitten, and Tabitha W winsomely captures Jane’s tender-heart and sincerity. The only fly in the ointment is Bingley’s snide sister, Caroline, played with Grecian poise and icy sang-froid by Rose F. Horrified to find herself surrounded by country bumpkins, she clings to Darcy, the man she is hell-bent on snaring for herself. And we can see why.



Striding across the stage with flashing eyes and thigh high boots, Imogen M is every bit the brooding heartthrob. Her nuanced performance is a masterclass in the raised eyebrow and she fully conveys first Darcy's snobbish disdain, then his bewilderment at falling head-over-heels in love with Elizabeth.

The plot rollicks along with sight-gags aplenty as we watch Georgina's witty and astute Elizabeth do battle with a host of characters determined to manoeuvre her into matrimony. A scene-stealing Hattie A had the audience in stitches as the strutting egotist Mr Collins, who is due to inherit Mr Bennet's estate. Desperate to persuade him to marry one of her daughters "You can have any of them – or all of them – whatever!" Mrs Bennet is deaf to Elizabeth's refusal to wed the oafish Collins, until an unlikely figure rides to the rescue – Mr Darcy.

Under the spell of a slow dance and disco lights, we see Darcy's heart melt. It's an impressively nuanced moment in two tour de force performances from Imogen and Georgina.



There's still both pride and prejudice to overcome, however, and in swaggers Morgan S as the dashing Wickham. Elizabeth's head is turned by his charisma, and along with the whole town she falls hook-line-and-sinker for Wickham's tall-tale that the 'villainous' Darcy deprived him of his inheritance. Meanwhile, Jane's romance comes to a dramatic halt as Caroline whisks Bingley back off to London, leaving a forlorn Jane waiting at home, every day, by the door, in case someone (anyone) should write.

Saved from Mr Collins' clutches only to see her best friend Charlotte Lucas marry him, Elizabeth visits Rosings Park, home of his patroness Lady Catherine de Burgh. In an evening of grand entrances, Hetta H took us to new heights as Lady Catherine, swooping across the stage in

voluminous panniers that matched her Wagnerian tone. Every bit the Grande Dame, Hetta captured the character's imperiousness to a 't', oblivious to the effect she has on Elizabeth when she reveals that it was Darcy who tore Bingley from Jane by convincing him that the Bennets are gold-diggers.

The evening had more in store with in-jokes aplenty for Austen aficionados with a refreshingly original take on Darcy's proposal to Elizabeth and a sequence where the servants cheekily try to coax Darcy to take a dip in the lake. At last, love reigns triumphant when Darcy redeems himself by rescuing the youngest Bennet sister, Lydia, from an elopement with Wickham.



With both Jane and Elizabeth happily hitched to their true love, the final showstopping moment of the night comes from Victoria K as the studious Mary. Banished to the side-lines for her poor form at the piano forte, Mary returns to close out the show, resplendent in sequins and transformed from hapless helpmeet to husky jazz singer.

It makes a fittingly uplifting end to a production rich in a dazzling variety of comic performances and empowering messages.

Heather May

Futures Feature - Becoming a Sports Journalist

Friday 4 December 2020

Sam Bayliss (Rt, 2013-2018) is currently part way through his third and penultimate year studying English Literature at the University of Edinburgh.

An aspiring journalist, Sam kindly put together the following article for current pupils who share the aspirations he has with regards to this profession. It is a super read and an excellent demonstration of how proactivity combined with awareness of abilities can lead to opportunities.

Mr Wain, Head of Futures

I was lucky enough to know from a relatively young age what I wanted to do in the future. An obsession with sport and an enjoyment of writing led me to settle on sports journalism.

With the realisation that there is more to life than Plymouth Argyle vs. Accrington Stanley, this interest has since refined itself into more traditional forms of journalism.

Currently in my third year as an English Literature student at the University of Edinburgh, I have recently had my first major breakthrough into the world of journalism. Earlier this month I had an [article](#) published by a national magazine, meaning I can now claim to share a platform with Richard Ingrams OS, Peter Hitchens, and many others.

Now one step closer to the real world of journalism, and as a relatively recent OS, I have been asked to reflect on what I was doing at Shrewsbury as I sought a career in journalism. Even if you are currently only dabbling with the idea of journalism there may hopefully be some useful pointers here.

Seeing your name credited alongside your work gives you a buzz regardless of whether anybody will read it. Bylines are what motivated me. They may feel unachievable, however The Shropshire Star and Wolverhampton Express and Star provided me with my first credits. I did work experience with them in my Fifth Form and Lower Sixth summers after getting in touch over email. They are all very friendly there and give you a good amount of freedom. This [article](#) was a back-page headline back in August 2017.

Clearly this cannot be done during term time, however there is plenty you can do to further your prospects in journalism whilst on school site. From time to time I would write reports of events for the newsletter; I am sure teachers will allow you the chance to give this a go if the opportunity arises. Joining the Creative Writing Society also gave me the opportunity to write every Thursday afternoon.

I never quite appreciated how lucky I was to have access to such a wide range of newspapers everyday in house. It goes without saying that any aspiring journalist should read them. I know the library certainly used to have a subscription to FourFourTwo football magazine. Such was my interest that during my time at school I had a few letters to the editor published in the magazine. Again, this is an achievable means by which to see your name in a national publication. It serves to build up that portfolio of clippings and works that will prove so important a few years down the line.

In Lower Sixth I set up a Twitter account designated to football trivia. The day Jamie Carragher followed the account was rather an exciting one. I kept it going for about a year, and whilst it

may not have had a lasting effect on my prospects as a journalist, it provided me not only with niche knowledge, but a platform on which to engage with some of football's most famous faces.

The importance of perseverance cannot be stressed enough. You can never be afraid of chasing people up. On a few occasions now a speculative email from me to an editor after a couple of weeks of silence resulted in an article being published.

Looking back, at school it is perfectly possible to give yourself a fairly solid grounding from which to pursue a career in journalism. University has allowed me to further this: it will for you too. With ambitions of entering an industry often perceived as dying, and that has been further ravaged by COVID-19, this is the least anyone can do.

Sam Bayliss

Business 'Dragon's Den' Competition

Friday 4 December 2020

Following the success of the remote Dragons Den held via zoom in the summer term, we decided to try a 'live' Dragons Den competition very much 'not in remote' this term!

Our team of 20 L6th and 5th students have worked hard all term resulting in highly interesting and engaging concepts being presented to our judges this week.

My thanks go to our judges Mrs Katy Rink, owner and founder of the My Shrewsbury Magazine and Mr Giles Bell, Admissions Tutor and Philosophy and Theology teacher, for their keen interest and insightful questions at the end of every presentation.

In total we had 6 teams of students presenting their products on the large screen in the Haining Theatre. All students felt the pressure of the Dragons scrutiny and all students coped remarkably well with highly detailed questions, managing to supply thoughtful and at times imaginative answers!



The overall winners Jamie and Charlie from Port Hill stood out due to their high-quality presentation, innovative idea and ability to withstand difficult questioning. Their idea 'Paperlite' is a stylus projector compatible with surfaces and other tablets. A believable, yet technologically advanced idea....watch this space!!

Big congratulations to all those who took part for their creativity, determination and boldness. Certainly planning, teamwork and presentation skills were key with this activity.

Hope Simpson Ergo Competition 2020

Thursday 10 December 2020

In the evening of Monday 7th December, the Boat Club held the annual Hope Simpson Ergo Competition.

To ensure social distancing was maintained the event was limited to competitors only and the boys' and girls' houses were split between venues. This did little to dampen the competitive spirit with very exciting and close racing in all the year group competitions.

In the boy's event raced in the Alington Hall the 3rd Form competition saw the top three teams separated by less than one and a half seconds over the 2000m course. Riggs took victory on the line closely followed by Porthill and Ridgemount.



In the 4th Form race there was a close battle between Radbrook and Oldham's over the with Radbrook coming out victorious only three seconds of the record.

In the 5th Form race Ridgemount led from the start and held off pressure from Radbrook to take the win an impressive sub six minute time.

In the Lower Sixth Race Churchill's put in a dominant performance over the 3000m course to win the event. Porthill took second and Riggs and Radbrook drew for third which would prove to be a decisive moment for the overall trophy.



In the Upper Sixth Race Oldham's held an impressive 1:25 split over the 3000m course to claim victory and push themselves into second place overall beating Porthill into third and falling one-point shy of the overall winners Radbrook.



In the girl's event the Sports Hall the 3rd Form competition saw a very close battle between Moser's and Grove with Moser's claiming victory. The 4th Form competition saw a repeat of the third form race with Moser's once again victorious closely followed by Grove.



In the 5th Form event the Grove girls left nothing to chance a produced a commanding performance to seal an impressive win ahead of Moser's and EDH who fought it out for second and third accordingly.



In the Lower Sixth event Grove took 1st place with a strong performance only three seconds off the record set by the house last year. They were followed by EDH and then Moser's who were separated by 0.2 of a second after eight and a half minutes of racing.



The performance of the night came from the Grove Upper Sixth girls who produced a record breaking row to take the win nearly a full minute ahead of their nearest rivals EDH.

The overall results saw Grove taking the win followed by Moser's in second with Emma Darwin Hall and Mary Sidney Hall coming in fourth.

[Please follow this link to view the Hope Simpson Competition Results 2020](#)

Sir Martin Gilbert History Prize, Bloomsbury Publishing & The Churchill Archive

Thursday 10 December 2020

Many congratulations to Sophie Thomas (UVI, MSH) for being awarded one of only ten highly commended awards for the Sir Martin Gilbert History Prize.

Sophie worked in collaboration with Bloomsbury Publishing and the Winston Churchill Archive to produce a really impressive analysis regarding the origins of the so-called 'Special Relationship' between Britain and the USA. Sophie completed the work independently beyond the scope of her History syllabus and deserves commendation for enriching her experience of the classroom in her vital Upper Sixth year. Sophie's reflections on the competition can be found below...



Student Write-Up - Sophie Thomas (UVI, MSH)

I found this essay prize a great opportunity to improve my ability to engage with sources and am grateful for the guidance provided by Mr Mackridge. My essay title was, *'How far was the 'Special Relationship' with the USA created by Winston Churchill?'* In forming my debate, I was given access to the Churchill archives in which I selected several sources to substantiate my judgment. After critically evaluating the source's reliability and reading material beyond the classroom, I came to the conclusion that Churchill's influence has been exaggerated for this relationship was a consequence of cultural, moral and political ties that were already embedded pre-WWII: as a result of American independence. This competition has given me invaluable experience in source analysis and extended research as I begin my 4000-word Personal Investigation as part of my History Pre-U Qualification.

Harry Mackridge

UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge 2020

Thursday 10 December 2020

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students and takes place in over 40 countries.

There are 6 categories for ages 6 through to 18. Students sit a 40 minute online session with up to 18 questions at escalating levels of difficulty. Questions are based on logical reasoning, visualisation, algorithmic thinking, backtracking, pattern recognition and other disciplines that have applications within Computer Science.

The University of Oxford is, in partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the National Organising Body of the UK Bebras Challenge. The University's support for the UK section of this International competition includes hosting events for the top achieving students.

Intermediate Challenge (Age 12 – 14)

This year all Third Form pupils entered the competition during their Computing lessons. It was also possible for our 'remote' pupils to participate, due to allowances made by the organisers for the pandemic. There were just over 123,000 pupils competing in this category in the UK.

At Shrewsbury 32 pupils achieved a Distinction award and of those 17 were in the top 10% nationally – Gold Awards. Lincoln Luk was best in school. 30 Pupils achieved a Merit for their performance.

A selection of Gold winners with their certificates.



Senior Challenge (Age 14 – 16)

Fifteen pupils from the Fifth Form Computer Science GCSE set entered the Senior category of the competition. There were just over 23,000 pupils in this category in the UK.

At Shrewsbury 5 pupils achieved a Distinction award all of whom were also awarded Gold certificates. Harry Marshall was best in school. 4 Pupils achieved a Merit for their performance.

The Senior Gold winners with their certificates.



Paul Kaye

Fantastic Futures for Music Scholars

Thursday 10 December 2020

The rich heritage of elite musicians continues this year with two of our U6th music scholars being offered places at leading UK Conservatoires.

Jonty Gould (SH) has been offered a scholarship to study saxophone with Christian Forshaw at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and Henry Hui (I) has been offered places to study French Horn at both the Royal Academy of Music, London and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Both students impressed the panel during their virtual auditions with Jonty being offered a scholarship and Henry being offered a place on the spot, which is almost unheard of.

Maria McKenzie, Assistant Director of Music comments:

“I am absolutely delighted for both boys; they have dedicated so much time and energy into the process and have been awarded with offers from top colleges. I am confident that their enthusiasm and determination will ensure that they both have very exciting paths ahead.”

Here is footage of Jonty and Henry.

Jonty came as a music scholar into the 3rd form and over the past 5 years has been nurtured and into a position where he is a real role model to the younger students, he absolutely loves his saxophone and his offer is testimony to his ongoing devotion to the subject.

Jonty comments:

“I am so chuffed to have the opportunity to study at music college to have been offered a scholarship on the day of my audition was amazing. I cannot wait to see where it takes me in the future.”

Henry joined us last year from Hong Kong and has made a huge impact to the brass department, to have such quality playing has made the younger musicians really raise their standards.

Henry remarks:

“I am overjoyed that I have been offered the precious opportunity to pursue my dream at the music college. I surely will spare no effort to achieve my full potential.”

Maria McKenzie, Assistant Director of Music

RSSH Club Championships

Friday 11 December 2020

The last Wednesday of term, 9th December, saw our annual race, the Hunt Club Championships.

This is our chance to get the club together as a group and get everyone competing against each other, and as such it's perfectly suited to the current restrictions on meeting other schools! We were lucky that by the time of the final week, the lockdown had ended and we were able to take our first tentative steps off the school site, if only down to the river and along the banks of the Severn for a few hundred metres. The last time we staged the HCC was actually back in March 2019, with the March 2020 instalment shelved due to COVID-19. The S P Birley Cup goes back to 1928 so I was desperate to make sure that the 2020 race went ahead in some form before the end of this term.



Having mapped out a challenging course over exactly 2.5 miles, we were able to tie this race in with a virtual race organised by the Thames Hare & Hounds, including schools and clubs from across the country (the results of which have yet to be announced).



The junior runners would run one single 2.5-mile lap, while the seniors would run two full laps. Five miles of mud and hills is a very tough ask at the end of such a long term, but one befitting the history of this race, which in 2019 was staged over the Lawley, and the year before that was held in the teeth of a blizzard! The weather this time around was much less dramatic, and could

actually be described as perfect cross-country conditions: cool, cloudy and with a very light breeze.



The seniors set off first, to the sounds of the Huntsman's cry given by Oscar. A minute later the juniors followed, with Brad in hot pursuit of the tail-end of the seniors. He'd made decent headway at the mile mark and had opened up a significant gap on his nearest rivals, a pack including Jack, Harry, Hamish and Massimo. In the seniors, Oscar had set off powerfully and had looked to assert his dominance on the race. Harrison and Will S took it much more cautiously, with a plan to work through the field on the second lap. Sophia led the girls, confidently keeping pace with some of our sixth form boys and opening up a good lead on her nearest rival, Kaitlyn.



As the seniors were setting off for their second lap, the juniors pulled in to the finish line, with Brad taking the victory by a good margin. Harry claimed second in an excellent run, just ahead of Jack in third, with Hamish and Massimo taking fourth and fifth. The winner of the junior girls was Hattie in a great display of her current form, ahead of Angel.



The second lap proved a gruelling task for the seniors, but Oscar held on strongly for the win, with Will S and Harrison taking second and third. Will O finished well, with Sam successfully fending off a challenge from Jonny for 5th.

It was so nice to get the club together in a competitive format for the first proper race of this term – it felt like a very long time since we had this opportunity and having everyone together like this was a special moment. A big thank you to the whole club for making this memorable term such good fun in difficult circumstances. I am so proud of them!



IPH, Master in Charge of The Hunt

Gwen Davies Joins Elite Players at Central Sparks

Friday 11 December 2020

On the 3rd December Central Sparks named Shrewsbury School Head of Girls' Cricket Gwen Davies, Issy Wong (G 2015-20), and Eve Jones as full-time professional players.



Gwen (pictured above right), Issy and Eve (who coaches girls' cricket at Shrewsbury School) are among five players awarded professional contracts at Central Sparks and part of a larger group of 41 elite women's players across England and Wales who have received full-time domestic contracts. All contracts will enable players to access year-round training and join the Professional Cricketers' Association.

As part of a new structure for elite women's domestic cricket Central Sparks is formed of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire and is one of eight regional hubs developed by the ECB.

Gwen Davies, a multitalented wicket-keeper and batter, has represented Wales in football, as well as having played for with Yorkshire Diamonds and Surrey Stars in the KSL. She was an instrumental of the Warwickshire Bears 2019 T20 Cup winning squad and currently balances professional cricket with being Head of Girls' Cricket at Shrewsbury School.

Regional Director of Women's Cricket, Laura Macleod, said:

"The awarding of a professional contract to Gwen is testament to her hard-working attitude, and her performances over the last couple of years from county to regional to gaining good experience from being part of the Kia Super League. We are full supportive of Gwen continuing as Head of Girls' Cricket at Shrewsbury School as it provides Gwen with balance, and opportunities to develop and inspire cricketers at the school alongside continued personal development as player and coach."

Gwen Davies comments:

"I am extremely grateful to be given this opportunity to be a full time professional alongside my role here at the school. It's an exciting time to be involved in women's cricket, and I'm privileged

to be a part of this huge step forward for the game. I have to say a massive thank you to Andrew Pembleton and Peter Middleton who ensured that both roles could coincide; I'm greatly looking forward to getting started!"

Andy Barnard, Master IC Cricket, Adds:

"All those who work closely with Gwenan at Shrewsbury School are proud as punch that she has signed a full-time professional contract, and it is richly deserved. Born into a sporting Welsh family of the highest pedigree, I know she is immensely proud to take up the mantle as a professional sports woman for her relatives, both old and young. She is a hugely competitive athlete who loves opening an innings and keeping wicket. I am sure she will make Central Sparks the most electric team in the competition.

We all look forward to seeing her own career advance whilst she continues to nurture our growing pool of young and very talented female cricketers."

STOP PRESS

The following pupils have also received excellent news regarding their cricketing selections and progressions:

- Theo W - Warwickshire EPP selection
- Jack H - Worcestershire Academy selection
- JJ Fielding - England Young Lions Training Squad