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## Sports Report – Common Time 2023: Week 1

Congratulations to JP pupil **Gabriel Oluwabusola (B)** who before Christmas was selected for the ISFA U14 national squad in their matches against Essex Schools and Chelsea FC. Gabriel was the man of the match against Chelsea scoring a brace and two assists. He scored 3 goals in the two fixtures with 4 assists. Hopefully, Gabriel will have the opportunity to push for the ISFA England team later this term.

### Fives

Over the weekend immediately before term started the Fives teams were in action at the West of England Tournament at Sherborne School. The U18 singles final was an all-Winchester affair where Shiloh Wu (E) came out on top against Chris Lee (E). Both players teamed up in the doubles and in another all-Freddie's final, let alone all-Winchester, Shiloh & Chris defeated Henry Akerman & JP Cheng. In the U16 Singles final Jeffrey Chan (C) took the title and paired up with Anthony Cloke-Brown (B) in the Doubles to beat MP pairing Arthur James-Duff (D) and James Kennedy (D) who had beaten a strong pair from Alleyn's in the semi-finals.

Success was not confined to our top players as Zach Goulding (H) won the U16 Singles Plate and with partner Rory McGregor (H), he repeated the trick in the U16 Doubles Plate when they beat Stamford's top pair 15-9 in that final.

A great start to the season which was consolidated with wins against for Marlborough at both U18 and U15 level last Thursday. (JM)

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

#### Basketball: 1<sup>st</sup> team v Eton College (h)

This was an early term practice match for both teams. Most people were a bit rusty (apart from Harry who couldn't miss), but the team tried out some new things and played well at times, pulling away to a comfortable victory. (LNT)

#### Rackets: v Eton College (a)

Competing on the second day of term on foreign courts is somewhat challenging, especially if the opposition is Eton. However, our 6 pairs set to the task with positive spirit and enjoyed some notable successes. 2nd pair, George Gardiner and Stephen Lam, made a great start in their match taking the first 2 games relatively easily. Eton fought back in game 3 but George's calm, shrewd attitude, coupled with Stephen's athletic prowess, saw the pair close out game 4 and take the victory. Junior Colts A, Seb Kingsbury and William Hammerson-Jones, also managed an impressive win, having lost the first game but taking the next 3. Junior Colts B, Arthur James-Duff and Jamie Mitchell, managed to just get over the line in game before losing game 2. However, they were triumphant in the final game and took the win. The two yearlings pairs, Dima Kasumov \* Oscar O'Carroll, Thai Leetrakul and Kouros Moghamam both competed well on the away courts but both narrowly lost their matches.

This left the all-important 1st pair battle. Henry Nicholls and Bertie Vallat took on a pair whose boys were both a year older and viewed by many as the strongest on the circuit. Henry had been injured since early October and had effectively had no court time since then. Extraordinarily, once



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the match began he started to play at a level above anything seen to date. Together, with Bertie's pure racket work and consistency, they managed to take the first game to 7 and the second in the set. However, they then took their foot off the gas and allowed Eton to recalibrate and launch a counter-attack. This seasoned pair then took game 3 relatively easily, then game 4. Eton then stormed ahead in the final game to reach 12, within sight of the victory. However, Bertie and Henry were not beaten and, astonishingly, slowly clawed all the way back to level the score. At 13 points all, set 3 was declared and Winchester managed to seal the victory 17 -14. This was an admirable effort. (TERC)

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Football: ESFA U14 National Cup Round 6 v Mountbatten School (h)**

We came into this game on the back of a single training session since last term but also buoyed by the return of Seb Browning from his injury. Oskar Stoesser started with the gloves, however, and continued his good form with another clean sheet in the first half. He was well screened by Kaung and Sullivan and swept up various through balls. In midfield, Feyita and Santagati battled well and began to link up together and build play going forwards. Maithya-Garica and MacCabe worked hard too and were a constant nuisance to the Mountbatten midfield. Oluwabusola proved a constant threat playing up-front and perhaps might have got himself on the scoresheet as he broke into the box on the left-hand side. He missed one attempt and unselfishly tried to play Feyita and Redfern in on other occasions but both shots were blocked or saved. We sustained our pressure on their goal though and broke the dead-lock via an excellent free-kick from Redfern, driven in over the defensive line that Oluwabusola arrived onto and finished first-time. We might have added more had the keeper not produced an excellent save and had we been a bit more confident in front of goal.

Browning subbed in at half time and almost had an assist straight away, releasing Oluwabusola, now on the right wing, who drove to the by-line but could not find the target. We continued to create openings without providing the finish, including another excellent save from Laarman's clean strike from the edge of the area. Oluwabusola did add his second midway through the half, with a firm strike from 12 yards.

In the final quarter, Mountbatten applied more pressure, playing more direct and also getting their better players on the ball more often. However, each time danger arose, Browning responded with a good save and Kaung and Sullivan cleared the danger. Bowder had one of his best games at left back and regularly provided an outlet for us to build from, linking with Zawoda and Laarman in the left-hand channel. Again, we could have added to the score-line had we been more clinical in our finishing. All the boys played their part in this 2-0 win and deserve their place in the round of 32 which will be played next week. (JMB)

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Basketball: U18 Wellington Tournament**

Winchester started the games against Harrow and Eton slowly but, once settled, the players' superior skills showed through and both games were won comfortably. Winchester were then through to the semi-finals but the starters had needed to play too many minutes. Consequently, after a sub-par start to the game against Charterhouse, the team used the opportunity of getting everyone good playing time in readiness for the next round. Unfortunately, a couple of early errors and an ankle injury to Van Every meant that BWS were always ahead, so Winchester had to settle for third. This team is still learning and may be disappointed that they didn't get everything right, but they got a lot of things right and should be proud of those things and build upon them.



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Highlights were probably Ahearne blocking a shot about a foot above the rim and scoring his first match dunk, Khan's acrobatic layups past last man defenders, Akinyanju and Van Every's tenacious battling for rebounds and I could go on.... but the thing this coach is most proud of, is the tremendous support, maturity and contribution of those players who were unable to get on court as much as they wished in this short game format - such sporting qualities are rare

### Hockey 1st XI vs Radley U16A (h)

Even with only one training session before this pre-season game, unlike our well drilled opponents, the 1-0 loss felt harsh and the game could have gone either way. We started strong and the early pressure resulted in a short corner that produced a good save from their keeper. Pouncing on the rebound, Caspar (VI:I, B) then crashed a shot against the bar. In the remainder of the first half both sides had small chances but it ended 0-0 at the break.

As fatigue set in for us Radley began to have the majority of possession and mid-way through the second half they managed to score after a quick counter. The back five held firm for the rest of the game with Mario (VI:2, B) producing a few good saves. Wilf (VI:I, B) deserves a mention for his excellent recovery runs down the right flank which were matched on the left flank by Stanley (MP, K), whose willingness to run non-stop was much needed. In the last few minutes we had a few good chances to equalise, thanks to Chris' (VI:I, A) quick feet making players fall over around him, but sadly it was not our day.

Not the result we wanted, but great for the club to have so many players from almost every year competing for a place. We look forward to the next challenge and will take the positives from the game. Thank you very much to Mr Taylor and Mr Winter for coaching and umpiring the match. Miles Park (VI:2, F)

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Winchester Karate Club

Several external sports clubs utilise the College's sports facilities and one such club is the



'Winchester Karate Club' founded in 1982 by Simon Budden, one of our specialist coaches. The club has been based at Winchester College dojo for many years and many Wykehamists have joined in for additional training outside their own weekly ekker classes. On Sunday, Simon (7<sup>th</sup> Dan) along with two other coaches gathered to celebrate the landmark date and several of our pupils enjoyed the training experience



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All fixtures details can be found on: <https://sportsfixtures.winchestercollege.org/>

Sporting quote for the week:

*“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”* (Michael Jordan)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Twitter: @WinCollSports