



WINCHESTER
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Sports Department

Sports Report – Short Half 2023, Week 1

Thursday 7th September, Cricket

U17 National Cup Final v Shrewsbury School at Loughborough University

After travelling up to Loughborough University the day before the final, we arrived nice and early at Brockington Oval and settled into our preparations. It was a perfect day for the final and the wicket looked good. Henry Nicholls lost only his second toss in our run to the final and Shrewsbury, last year's champions, decided to bat first. Morgan and Claisse began fairly well but were unlucky to see a few edges race beyond slip for boundaries. Shrewsbury cashed in on their early fluency and raced to 45/0 from the 7 over powerplay. Claisse then clean bowled their England U19 opener and added their captain in his final over, via a well taken catch by Baker. At 75/2 from 14, Whitfield and Hockey came into the attack and tried to hold back any acceleration from Shrewsbury. Hockey had the remaining opener caught by Baker and we felt more positive about things at 100-3 from 19 overs.

However, Shrewsbury were regularly able to find the boundary through the next 10 overs which allowed their score to keep going at around 7 an over. Baker had kept the scoring tight from his end and then took two wickets in succession in his final over. The Shrewsbury keeper, who had been content to play second fiddle, then moved up through the gears and accelerated to his half-century. Some strong strokes late on helped Shrewsbury post 229/8 in their 35 overs and the mid-game momentum had swung in their favour.

With 9 of Shrewsbury's team having played in last year's U17 final success, they proved a confident team with the ball and in the field. The openers immediately put us under pressure and made scoring difficult. Whitfield was given out early on before Morgan soon departed too. The contrast of each side's first powerplay was stark as we limped to 11/2 from our opening 7 overs. Nicholls and Baker continued to graft but Nicholls was caught at the first sign of any fluency from us in the middle. Once Hockey had followed Baker back to the pavilion at 68/5 in the 22nd over, a miserable outcome seemed inevitable.

At this point, James Kennedy took it upon himself to try and change our fortunes. He played without fear and displayed an array of shots to all parts of the field, particularly utilising reverse sweeps and paddles to exploit the short straight boundaries. Kulkarni and Bristowe stuck with Kennedy to form some partnerships that helped us towards some respectability in our chase. Kennedy continued to attack until he was caught for 63 from 50 balls. We finished 165/9. Shrewsbury were deserved winners on the day. We will benefit from the experience of the occasion and sure many of the side will be eager to get back to a final again soon. (JMB)

Thursday 14th September

Badminton: 1st v Wellington College (h) – Won

Winchester's top 4 doubles pairs faced off against Wellington in the PEC. Although the term had just started, any fears of players rusting over the summer were dismissed by the powerful performance that Winchester showed. We won with a very convincing score of 15 games to 1, with the only unfortunate loss being from our 3rd pair (Vincent Gueguen and Derek Wen) against Wellington's first pair. However, the games were often closer than the score suggests, and there were many spectacular and technical rallies across all pairs and matchups.

The man of the match was third-year Bryan Ho. This was his first proper match in the first VIII, and the marked improvement he has shown in the past few months carried through. Despite being



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in the fourth pair, his pair won all four games against all four Wellington pairs, ending it off with a thrilling game to 3 sets against Wellington's own fourth pair. Another honourable mention is first-year Ayson Kam, who showed immense promise and skill in the first pair with his teammate John-Paul Cheng. Both of these new players have proved to be valuable additions to the team. [Alvin Yu, I]

Golf: 1st v Marlborough (h)

A tough start to the season for Haines who switched late into the first-seed position to protect his younger, fellow Hopperite. Playing against a good scratch-handicapped opponent in the first match of the season, made his task all the more difficult and it was just not his day. Some solid golf was left unrewarded as his opponent took the match with a little bit of good fortune. L 2&1

A brilliant start to the WinColl career for the JP man, Harry Ho, on his Winchester debut. A -4 (67) round on a course he had never played on before left his opponent stunned. A positive start to a promising career. W 4&3

With the first S&C session of the term taking its toll on Seb, he managed to leave the aches and pains behind when he stepped onto the golf course. His sheer determination, spurred on by a little needle from his opponent, carried him through the pain to win his match in style. W 5&4

Another debut, another win. Ray Sanmathy won his match with ease but also with a sense of sportsmanship. His level head and growth mindset on the course are signs of a future captain in the making. W 5&4

The only frustration for Sood was not winning by the greater margin of 10&8. A regular, ruthless day at the office for the veteran who finished his match-level par after the 12 holes it took to secure the victory. W 8&6

Sander's lead through the match went up and down as he played wonderful golf but was forced to give strokes. As the prospect of missing tea back at Furley's beckoned, he polished off his weaker opponent in style to secure a comfortable win. W 4&2 (W5-1: Taanvir Sood, VI1, X, Capt)

Rackets v Charterhouse (h)

On Thursday, Winchester hosted Charterhouse for the first rackets fixture of the term. Winchester started well as the Junior Colts pair of Dima Kasumov Oscar O'Carroll (I) won their match quickly without the loss of a game, thanks to Dima's powerful serving and Oscar's measured returns. The newly formed Colts pair consisted of Seb Kingsbury (D) and Jamie Mitchell (G). Seb hit numerous, impressive winners despite being a little out of practice at first. Jamie worked hard and notably managed to return the majority of serves despite playing on the left for the first time. This was a closely fought match, with one game going to set. Eventually Winchester managed a 3 – 1 victory.

John Langdon (K) and Dima Kasumov (I) formed a second Junior Colts pair. Intelligent play from John combined with more powerful serving by Dima ensured another win for Winchester, W3-0.

Next on the left was the 2nd Pair, Alex Harker (captain, I) and Rupert Balmain (K). A combination of consistent open play from Alex and reliable returning displayed by both, regardless of the occasional inconsistencies when serving, ensured that Winchester won 3-0.



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The final match saw Winchester's 1st pair of Stephen Lam (F) and Jack Bristowe (A), both straight off the football pitch, be somewhat silenced by an informed and measured Charterhouse pair, captained by one of the leading schoolgirls in the country. Although Winchester briefly rallied midway through, following some efficient serving and taking the third game 15-5, Winchester unfortunately was not able to maintain the momentum and lost the fourth game and the match. Overall, a successful afternoon for the Winchester Rackets Team with lots to take forward into the coming season. (Rupert Balmain, K)

Squash v Marlborough College (a) – Won

1st: Sen III Won v Marlborough 2-1 & v Cheltenham 2-1

U16A's: Won v Marlborough 2-1 Won v Cheltenham 3-0

Saturday 16th September

Football v Eton College (h) & (a)

After a productive pre season training camp which had culminated in a satisfactory showing in the Gordon's Festival the **Soccer XI** boys had displayed enough to show they are likely to be a combative and hard to beat team.

The first fixture of the season against Eton is always a tough way to start, especially when they have been back in school an extra week, but on a sunny afternoon we were ready for the battle.

The 1st Half was scrappy with Eton gaining the advantage with two goals that we should have dealt with better but one should acknowledge the quality we were up against.

We had a good chat at the interval, accepting the need to get on the front foot and in the first 25 minutes of the second half we did much better. We thought we had equalised to make it 1-2, but the goal was ruled out due to an earlier foul. This disappointment seemed to affect us and we sloppily conceded three late goals. Much to work on and positives to take forward but give credit to Eton they deserved to win the game. Lost 0-5 [JRD]

On a humid afternoon the 2nd XI entertained Eton 3rd XI for our first match of the season. This is always a tough start, having only had a couple training sessions together.

The lads were great, right from the warm up, showing good intent, spirit, desire and a willingness to work hard for each other. The game started well, Eton passing the ball well from defence to midfield, but we kept our shape and when Eton did have half chances Stephen in goal was calm and assured. We too passed the ball well, building from the back, with both full backs Jidechi and Charles enjoying some space down the wings, however our final ball or final touch on occasions was a little lacking. We did however have one really good chance when we closed down their defence well, their goal keeper fumbled, presenting Charlie Barklam with a good chance, however the Eton GK made up for his mistake with a great stop,

It was 0-0 at half time, both CJG and I were really pleased with how we had approached the game and just asked for more of the same commitment especially in the second half Tomo did really well at the start of the second half, winning the ball high up the field and as their GK came off his line, he produced a delightful chip which looked a certain goal, but somehow the Eton centre back running towards the goal produced a miraculous clearance over the top of the goal! Eton did have their moments in and created at least 5 good chances in the second half, hitting the bar twice. We



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also looked a threat particularly when Charles, from left back, produced a couple of great crosses and from corners, however neither side could force home the winner, so the game finished 0-0! We were so pleased with the effort and commitment shown by the team, which gives us a good platform to work on a few things, particularly offensively over the next few weeks. D0-0 [PNG]

3rd XI: L1-4 4th XI: L0-5 5th XI: L0-5 6th XI: D3-3

The **7th XI** assembled, willing and optimistic. Captain Alessandro assessed his troops, sorted out the formation, the usual warm up of nearly kicking balls into the Itchen ensued, and then off the season went. Winchester's direct and energetic style caused Eton problems, with Preston opening the scoring with a screamer from the left. 1-0. As the half wore on, Eton saw a bit more of the ball, moved neatly and caused some problems, but hard work from the midfield and defence kept them at bay, whilst the strike force up front continued to worry the Etonians.

Winchester began the second half in a positive vein, but could not break down the Eton defence, and then, an opportunistic strike from Eton and the scores were level. Hot, tired and on the back foot, Winchester could have folded, but they took a deep breath, gathered their thoughts, and struck back. Moving the ball quickly, positively, and forwards they earned a corner. Taken deep, it was met by Felix on the far post who nailed his volley! Then almost immediately Andre attacked down the left and stroked the ball home to make it 3-1. To their credit Eton battled away, and pulled one back, but Winchester's determination and spirit closed things out for the win.

Special mention for Joseph, who found himself in goal for the afternoon, and barely put a foot, or occasional hand, wrong. Solid work at the back from Felix, Harry, Alex, Rufus and Oli, some battling performances from John, Henry, Fabian (an early casualty), Xing, Alessandro, and excellent work from Preston, Maxence and Andre up front. A great start to the season. W3-2 [JEH]

The score tells only part of the story of this match, an important part admittedly, but the **SCAs** played well and troubled Eton for long periods. Half time came at 0-0, with Winchester having dominated the first quarter and Eton the second, kept out by some excellent stops from Theo 'The Cat' Coles. The game plan to frustrate and grab a late winner fell apart rather spectacularly about ten minutes into the second half as Eton scored three in the space of as many minutes. Some excellent individual performance and plenty learnt for the season. MoM: Isaac Claisse **Lost 5-0** [RJHM]

The **SCB's** headed in to their first game of the season against a very good Eton side. After a good start to the first half, we were 2-0 down at half time. The tiredness was setting in. Alex Simpson came on at half time to make an impact. Rufus Hampson continued to be a solid defender as the half progressed. Suddenly there was a goal surge from Eton. Their front line continued to pepper our defence until the final whistle, and it finished 8-0. An unfair reflection on our first half. But they look on to the next game week with optimism.[Arthur Duckworth, H]

The **SCC's** headed off to Eton hopeful for their first game. The match started off roughly with few chances created and much defending to do. In a wave of chances for the opposing side, they slotted two goals in quick succession. With high pressure in attack, we managed to give Hugo Brett an easy shot at goal which he calmly tucked away with the keeper having no chance. HT 2-1. The second half started with little action apart from Alberto, the keeper, boldly coming out of his box and sending a striker to the shops. George Cummings and Stanley Askew made attempts to



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penetrate the back-line with limited success. Nikita Sirotin was brave with some brexit tackles and the captain Daniil was everywhere. Some improvable teamwork on our side led to three goals in quick succession and the morale was low. We fought out the last few minutes and finished the game. Full time L5-1. (MR)

Senior Colts D: (a) Lost 1-0

The new-look **JCA**s lined up for their challenging season opener against Eton in high spirits but it was the visitors who broke the deadlock 5 minutes in. A good through-ball played through from midfield took our defenders out of the equation and left their striker one on one with the keeper as he finished clinically. Winchester soaked up pressure from Eton who looked to shift the ball and craft opportunities and were doing so effectively and from this they won a free kick which was put into a good area and onto the head of their midfielder who glanced a header into the far corner. (2-0)

Winchester then looked to create opportunities of their own and did so through Gabriel Oluwabusola (B), who drove into the box and drew the defender well into conceding the penalty. The maker became the taker as Gabriel slotted well into the left hand corner, sending the keeper the wrong way and getting Winchester back in the game just before half time.

Strategy was discussed at the break and the good spell we had experienced at the end of the first half looked to be transferred into the second, however a ball down the left channel to their skilful winger was to be our undoing as he went past one and fired a shot that nestled inside the post. Winchester were down but work rate could not be faulted as we pressed Eton when they were inside their own half but a well organised opposition beat this press and launched a counter down the left hand side where their winger beat our fullback for pace and played a ball into the free man in the box where he finished well for 4-1.

Heads remained high as we looked to play more expansive football however we were caught out on half way and the spare men in midfield combined well on the edge of the box and set the ball well for their striker who finished into the far corner. There are positives for the **JCA**s to take from the game and we go again in the cup next Thursday. MOTM Oli Kaung (X). (S. Browning (G))

The **JCB** got the season underway with a frantically paced game against Eton. Playing in a compact shape Winchester managed to contain Eton for almost the first 20 minutes of the match. Decisive attacking play by the away team saw them take the lead but Winchester countered almost immediately, scoring with a clinical finish from Gregory Dolgoplov. Buoyed by levelling the game grew in confidence and blended resolute defending with forays into the away team's half. A second was added by Eton, by again countered by Winchester with Prince Gbedawo rounding the keeper and coolly slotting home. There were many fantastic performances put in by Winchester but special mention must go to Oskar Stoesser whose incredible agility in goal kept the scores level for large parts of the game. A third was added by Eton late in the second half which left Winchester on the wrong side of a 3-2 score line but with much to build on for the rest of the season. [JCP]

The **JCC** took on Eton for the first match of the season. From the beginning, Eton dominated the ball and pressed relentlessly, constantly creating chances near the box. But our defence were up to the task, Charles M. (F) especially showing tough physicality and held the line well. At the other end, we passed well to create some good phases of play, but nothing enough to create a



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shot on target. A miscommunication at the back made us go 1-0 down before half time. The second half we attacked with more energy, especially on the left where Caspar (A), Thai (C) and Archie (H) linked up nicely. We were constantly counter attacking, but their defence was sharp. Sloppiness due to tired bodies in the last 15 minutes meant we conceded three more before full time, resulting in a 4-0 loss. Match Report written by MOTM [Holly, I].

Junior Colts D: L2-6

Junior Colts E: L1-3

On their School debut the **Yearlings A** began well, looking to make good use of the ball whilst making some good decisions in defence. Gradually our hosts got into the game though and we were soon indebted to Hawthorne's fine work in goal. He made some strong saves and claims from corners but was then beaten after a break down our left allowed the striker to fire home from 12 yards. Bilfinger and Hawkins continued to snuff out opportunities for Eton but as Eton's persistence increased we conceded the second. That should really have been it for the half but a long-range strike eluded Hawthorne shortly before half time.

Having moved the ball well at times we aimed to do so more often in the second half. We struggled to do so, however, and perhaps struggled with the flow of changing personnel. Hawthorne continued to keep the deficit down but, in the end, too many chances for Eton enabled them to stretch their lead by two more. Pleasingly, we continued to work hard and produced a well worked move between Husband and Catsaras down the left. As they exchanged passes from half way to the top of the box, Husband threaded the ball into Catsaras' run and he calmly placed it into the far corner. It was a good way for the side to finish and demonstrate what might be to come from this group. L5-1 [JMB]

It didn't take long for the **Yearlings B** team to click, so this looks good for the rest of the season. Man of the match was Slade for a dynamic performance at left back. L0-3 [PAH]

It was a potentially daunting opening fixture for all of our teams as we travelled to Eton for the first game of the year and only a week into our season. A **Yearlings C** team had taken shape in that time though, and they were up for the challenge against Eton's U14Es. After some good early pressure from Winchester, facilitated by a string of strong passes that utilised the space available, the game settled into a more even affair after the first ten minutes or so of the half. Eton managed to get a handful of shots on target, but Nikandros proved to be a safe pair of hands and was ably supported by our defence, particular Fraser Yang-Turner at right-back. This was not reflective of the territory and possession though, which largely went our way and was eventually rewarded close to half time when a strong strike from Rayan Nawaz found its way past the Eton keeper to take us into half time a goal ahead.

The second half saw Eton come at us hard from the off. Our half time substitutions insured that we had some fresh legs on the pitch to meet the onslaught and the game settled into something of a nail-biting, end-to-end affair. Eton were initially awarded a goal after a header from their striker hit the base of the post and was then gathered by Nikandros a foot or so in front of the line. The decision was only reversed as the Eton substitute keeper was behind our line goal and corrected the referee's decision. It then transpired that Eton had had 12 men on the pitch for the majority of the second half. Once corrected, the pressure relented somewhat, and Oscar Pritchard was unlucky not to put us two ahead after a thundering long-range strike skimmed the cross bar. Winchester held out to the final whistle and managed to make it a memorable and pleasing start to the season for the team. Well done to all. W0-1 [SJM]



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The warm autumn sun graced the entire match. The first half for the **Yearlings D** witnessed an evenly contested encounter, with Eton securing a solitary goal after 20 minutes. The entire team displayed exceptional performance, while Winchester had limited opportunities as most of the action took place in the midfield. Our defence stood resolute. As the second half commenced, Eton managed to string together some passes, a feat they couldn't achieve in the first half. After 10 minutes, the score stood at 3-0, yet Winchester persisted in their efforts to counter. Several attacks by Winchester ensued in the subsequent 10 minutes. Eton's fourth goal was a result of an unfortunate bounce that eluded the keeper. A final goal for Eton in the closing minutes sealed a 5-0 victory for them. [PM]

Yearlings E: (a) Lost 3-1

Sunday 17th September

The National Schools Croquet Finals held at Nottingham Croquet Club over two days, 16th-17th September, coinciding with the National Junior Championships.

On Saturday 16th, August Deeming won the Golf Croquet Junior Championship.

On Sunday 17th, Winchester played two finals against Chilwell School from Nottingham, who train every week at the venue. The Winchester team of Taanvir Sood (Coll), August Deeming (Coll) and Alaric Nicoll (ex-D) won both the Golf Croquet and Association Croquet National Schools Championships. [David Follows - MiC Croquet]

Over the summer months there were some fine achievements from members of the Winchester Sporting Community. Numerous pupils have been playing cricket for their respective county age group squads but a couple of special congratulations should go to MP pupil Seb Browning for his involvement in the ISFA England U15 selection camps and Ethan Baker who continues within the Hampshire Cricket Academy and played a full summer of cricket as part of the U18s and 2nd XI. Finally, congratulations also to our Athletic Development Coach Miss Jones who took the silver medal in the javelin at the UK Athletics Championships back in July.

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

Sporting quote for the week:

“Coaches shouldn’t have to push you to work hard, you should push yourself to work hard because you want to be a great player,” (Bob Knight, Former NCAA Basketball coach)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

19th September 2023

Twitter: @WinCollSports