



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

Sports Report – Common Time 2023: Week 9

The penultimate week of term saw a large amount of sports fixtures taking place so read on to catch up on the various achievements, performances and results.

House Chess (Baxter Pot)

In response to the growing popularity of chess, the size of house teams for Baxter Pot this year was increased from 4 to 5. All houses fielded impressive teams, so that no match was won to nil. There were several 3-2 wins and the Quarter-final between Phil's and College 2 went to board count as a tie-break after finishing 2.5 each, with Phil's edging into the semi-finals. Despite the closeness of the matches, all of the seeded teams won their quarter-finals. Hopper's and Beloe's showed a lot of promise in their young squads, while College has impressive strength in depth after a few lean years. Nevertheless, the first seeds came out on top in the final, as Kenny's golden generation held out against a fearsome College 1 team to win the trophy with a 3-2 victory over longer time controls in the final.

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th March

Golf: ISGA Regional semi-final & final v Elizabeth College (h)

Unfortunately the senior team went down to a 2-1 loss in their match against Elizabeth College at Hockley GC. Isaac Haines took victory 2-1 but Tanvir Sood and Seb Wells lost in their matches. This meant the junior team played the same opposition in the Regional Final on Tuesday and they came through 2-1 winners. Arthur Hampel (MP, B) won 2-1 and James Redfern (JP, A) coming through with a sudden death victory at the first extra hole.

Tuesday 14th March

Badminton v Harrow (h)

Having had a restful exeat, the team was looking forward to a busy end of the unbeaten season. Our last two games against Harrow saw us lose 6-2 and draw 6-6 in CT. This time, with the home advantage we were set for one of most intense games of the season, where calmness under pressure was most important. The fixture started in typical fashion, with the one set games between the unequal pairings ending in a 4-4 draw. Onto the hardest games, our second (Yuyao and Ben) and third pair (Ashmit and Alvin) beat Harrow's first and fourth pairs in just two sets. The game to watch, however, was between our first pair and Harrow's second. Losing the first set 21-11, JP and Rudra had a mountain to climb. Adopting an all out attack strategy, they smashed the second set 21-13, and, in the time of asking, they delivered a composed performance to take the third set 23-21. A game to remember! With this win, we took a 7-5 lead in the tie. The last round saw three games go to three sets, with our second pair losing to Harrow's second 21-18 and 25-23, a valiant effort! With a win for the first pair and loss for the fourth pair, we needed our third pair to win to secure a victory. Playing to three sets, Ashmit and Alvin fought back from a 21-11 loss to win the next two sets 22-20 and 21-18, showing the crowd how to master a comeback. Overall, a slim 9-7 win in one of the most intense games of the season. We hope to carry this form forward as we play Harrow away next week.



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Hockey v Ballard School

The Yearlings started brightly and with enthusiasm with all of the players having a good knowledge of their roles. Santagati was a constant link between the midfield with many of his passes going out to the wide players. Zawoda latched onto the end of one and skilfully beat a Ballard defender before driving to the top of the box where he played a wonderfully weighted pass to Browning who knocked the ball past the defender and unleashed an early shot, catching the keeper off guard and sneaking in at the near post. (1-0)

Ballard came close many times with Kirk smothering what came his way. Mathiya-Garcia then won a ball off a Ballard attacker and played it through to Mannion Miles who unleashed Browning with a through ball. Browning took a shot that rebounded off the keeper and fell kindly to him again, allowing for an easy finish into an empty goal (2-0). Not long after this, the Yearlings were knocking at the door again with captain, Mannion-Miles gliding into the box, beating 3 defenders and tapping the ball through the keeper's legs, however it didn't look certain to go in so Browning played things safe and tapped into an empty goal to complete his hatrick. (3-0). There were many impressive displays but the pick of the bunch must be Santagati for his tireless work in midfield. (Seb Browning, G)

The Yearlings squad went into this game against Ballard's U14Bs with a complacent attitude after having already beaten the Ballard's A team but this proved to be a mistake as they found themselves 2-0 down at half time. Some rousing words from Mr. Taylor at half time gave us the confidence we needed to go and attack the Ballard defence and sure enough we did, with Browning being played through and shooting early straight at the keeper who trapped the ball under his leg. Tenacity was shown by all of the attackers to free the ball from the keeper's grasp and sure enough they did and Browning collected it and took it round the keeper to score. (1-2)

A wonderful passage of play from Mannion-Miles put Bowder through where he unselfishly squared it to Browning for his fifth goal of the day (2-2). Matthews was found at the back post by an excellent Bowder ball and, we are sure, intentionally flicked the ball up and smacked it past the keeper (2-3). To finish off, Mannion Miles drove into the box with a determination to add himself to the scoresheet and glided past 2 defenders before placing his shot past the keeper to complete the comeback and avoid a scare (4-2).

Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th March

Fencing: Public School Fencing Championships (Lee Valley Athletics Centre, London)

A small group of fencers represented the College on the first day of the Public School's Fencing Championships. Day 1 started with a good round through the pools, with all College fencers progressing to the second pool round with Adam having a particularly good start, winning all his matches. The second round pool matches were not so kind, however, with Gleb seeding highest at 30th. Adam was eliminated in the round of 64, losing 15-5 to a fencer who would finish 8th. Gleb and Ioan both triumphed in their first Direct Elimination (DE) match to progress to the round of 32. Unfortunately, this is where both their days ended with Gleb losing 15-4 and Ioan losing 10-6, both losing to fencers initially seeded 3rd.

Iona Hopkirk- Mount Hayes Epee, 30th

Adam Porter- Senior Foil, 46th

Gleb Koval- Senior Foil, 29th



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Day 2 started very much as day 1 did, with all fencers progressing to the second round of pool matches. Charles, Gleb and Callum were the first casualties of the day in the second round. The remaining fencers progressed to the round of 64 in their respective categories, all seeding in the lower-mid table, guaranteeing difficult matches in their DEs. Alex lost 15-4 against a fencer who made the final 8, Adam lost 15-12 in a close match where he was 8-5 up going into the break. In the Foil, having made it to the 64, Seb lost 15-9 in another close match, and Rajesh lost 15-3 to an awkward opponent. Overall, all the fencers enjoyed the competition and gained a lot of experience, often being very close in skill to their opponents, but just lacking, perhaps, in a bit of tradecraft to convert that technique into consistent victories.

Adam Porter- Senior Epee, 37th

Gleb Koval- Senior Epee, 66th

Callum MacBean- Senior Epee, 69th

Alex Pan- Senior Epee, 47th

Sebastian Yap- Junior Foil, 46th

Rajesh Pakrashi- Junior Foil, 43rd

Charles Mavor- Mount Hayes Foil, 99th

(Adam Porter, H)

Tuesday 14th March

Rugby 7s

The Senior Colts competed in the Hampshire Schools' Rugby 7s competition at Petersfield Rugby Club. The pool stages commenced with a match against Salesian College and a lightning start saw the WinColl boys race into the lead with tries coming from Inigo House, George Davies and Jad Garlick with Dom Jackson converting all three. Salesian got on the scoreboard but three further tries from Garlick, Anthony Cloke-Browne and Laolu Agunbiande, with another conversion from Jackson, saw WinColl to a 40-7 win. The next game produced a close encounter with Ryde School. Tries from Jackson, Cloke-Browne and Henry Baxendale seeing us through 15-12, although the score could have been more comfortable had Henry not dived over the dead ball line to ground the ball! The final group game was against Embley School. Their greater rugby experience saw



them maintain their width whilst our players defended too narrow and consequently were outflanked as Embley ran out 26-7 winners. Finishing runner-up in the pool saw us qualify for the Plate semi-final. In itself this was a significant achievement as last year the boys finished bottom of their pool.

Semi final opponents were Ringwood School but from the outset the WinColl boys played with width, pace and physicality. A 29-7 victory with tries from

House (2), Garlick, Jackson and Agunbiande and two Jackson conversions was fully deserved. The



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Plate final was against Toynbee School and it proved to be an extremely tight match. Toynbee were very physical and it was impressive to see WinColl meet fire with fire. In fact, getting drawn into the physical battle worked against us as we missed opportunities to exploit space. Toynbee scored first but Jackson brought the team back to a 7-5 deficit at half time. Toynbee scored under the posts again to make it 14-5 but with a couple of minutes left Garlick score wide out to close the gap to 14-10. Despite a final wave of attacks and pressure WinColl couldn't force their way over and Toynbee managed to clear desperately from their own line and hold on for the win. It is a mark of how far the boys have progressed that they were desperately disappointed not to claim the Plate title, but finishing 6th of 16 schools in the County is something to be very proud of. (MSB)

Thursday 16th March

Football v Canford School (a)

We love going down to Canford. It's always a physical game and things have been very tight the last few games so we knew it was going to be tough for the **U17 XI** against Canford's 1st XI. We started well and but for some wonderful saves from the Canford keeper we should have lead at half time but some wayward finishing also didn't help.

I left the boys to discuss what was needed and looked to them to find a way to kick start the scoring. We responded with a good through ball from Freddie van Every to Fergus Brant who turned and stroked the ball into the bottom corner with his left foot. We looked in control and limited the opposition to few chances but after a few mistimed tackles they scored with 10 minutes to go to make it a great end to the match.

The game would end with some magic from Timothy Oluwabulosa, Henry passed into Euan who put Timothy in behind but he still had a lot to do and cut across the defender and finished right footed in the bottom right corner. I really enjoyed the game and feel on the whole the boys deserved the win, many thanks to parents who again came to support and help the boys. (JRD)

This was another great performance for the **2nd XI** in terms of commitment, a willingness to help each other out and be prepared to play in different positions. Both halves were very competitive, we were slightly guilty in the first half where either our final pass or shot was not quite as sharp as it needed to be, however we remained in the game with a sound defensive performance.

In the second half we scored midway through the half when Johnny Inglis played a defence splitting pass into David Sam, who duly scored into the bottom right hand corner, an excellent finish. The game was then end to end and Canford were slightly unfortunate to have a goal disallowed in the last minute, but we hung on for a well fought 1-0 win. (PNG)

Hockey v Dauntsey's School & Ballard School

After a slow start for the **1st XI** which saw us kept in our own half for the first 6 minutes of the game, we slowly created more chances to progress up the field. However, near the end of the first half, we conceded from an unlucky deflection off our player near the front post and were disappointed to be behind at the break.

They scored again soon into the second half, however, we quickly grew into the game with James Kitson (B) dribbling through lots of their players and, after a neat team move out from the back,



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Caspar Hall (B) squared the ball around the keeper to Harry Pressland (I) tapped the ball in back post. Although the opposition sadly scored two more goals, we kept on having chances to score and Caspar Hall (B) soon scored a lovely reverse strike from the top of the D to bring us back into it. Mario Gianni Garcia (B) made lots of important interceptions and saves throughout the game to keep it close, however, the final score was 5-2.

It was not the score line that we had wanted, or perhaps deserved, as our back line had kept the opposition out of our D for extended periods, under constant pressure, and we also had our chances up top to score more. Thank you very much to Mr Taylor and Mr Winter for coaching and umpiring us in this tricky game against a strong opposition. Miles Park (F)

2nd XI v Dauntsey's 3rd XI L0-1

U15A v Ballard Schools U16A&B (a)

We opted for 3x25 minute games upon arrival at Ballard, with both sides having similar numbers of players. In this first 25 minute period, Ballard showed good teamwork and skill through their spine to control the game. Despite a few early circle entries for us, we were soon behind from a PC. As the challenge became more difficult for our young side, we began to wilt under the pressure and conceded 3 more goals in a tame performance

As Ballard's team adjusted from the first mini-game, we were presented with more space to play in the second event. There were moments of positive play, mostly via Matthews and Srivastava down the right-hand side. Whilst we began to create more entries into their D, we lacked composure in front of goal and therefore missed a number of opportunities. After Ballard had taken the lead, Jin bagged one for us, linking up with Lecourt. However Ballard would score another to see this game swing their way.

In the final phase, following some encouragement and a reminder of the impact that hard work often has on games, we began to play far more positive hockey. Our defence and midfield stepped higher up the pitch and won the ball higher, allowing us to attack more easily. After numerous attacks and saves, Jin added his second of the afternoon. Despite Ballard adding another for them, we continued to play more composed hockey and Mannion Miles was in the right place to score towards the end of this final game. It was pleasing to finish the afternoon playing better hockey and see good progress amongst many of those involved.

Squash v Charterhouse

The Winchester College Sen V playing Charterhouse completed their 2022-2023 season in great style with a very impressive 3-2 win. All the Winchester players played well and the match began with Brian Chan at 5th string, playing good length and placing his short shots well winning the first match 2-0. Ludovic Remers at 4th string was beaten by a more consistent opponent 2-0. Ivo Sawbridge at 3rd string played a superb first game, just winning 17-15 and then won the next for a 2-0 win. Winchester now just needed one more win from their joint captain's Oscar Henshaw and Freddy Fisher. First on at 2nd string was Oscar who played well in the first game but wasn't able to convert his openings and lost 7-15. It was the 2nd game which created the opportunity to win the match for his side. Playing great forehand drives his attacking shots were much more effective and he won the game 19-17. Oscar continued to play really well with hard paced attacking drives followed up by good short shots and won the 3rd game and match 15-12. Joint captain Freddy Fisher was unable to replicate his opponents consistency and although he played some



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great rallies, one finishing with a great backhand cross court nick, his opponent won 2-0. A good win for the Winchester Sen V who having played well all season richly deserved this victory.

The Winchester College U-15 Squash V playing Charterhouse finished their season undefeated with a very solid 4-1 win. It was the Winchester players consistency, shot placement and resilience that contributed to their very impressive win. Freddy Spearing was defeated by a more consistent opponent 2-0 but it was Zach Goulding and Pran Busrapan who at one game all played well in their 3rd games to win and turn a 2-3 loss into a 4-1 win. Arthur Duckworth and Rory McGregor played with great consistency and won their matches 2-0. Following their great success, next season the team with the addition of their other players Matthew Leung, Kentaro Tada and Phol Suksriwong, will enter the England Squash National Schools U-16 Championship.

The Winchester College U-14V playing Charterhouse had a very impressive 5-0 win. There were great rallies and really good shot placement as well as great retrieval that created a very good win for the Winchester team. The team all played well and it was the players will to retrieve and scramble to keep themselves in the rallies and their opponents, who thought that they had played the winning shot, under pressure that made all the difference. The win by the team who play as a team was very impressive. A very good finish to their season. Next season they will play in the England Squash U-15's Championship. Match Facts : Holly Wang , Amar Fernando, Oscar O'Carroll, Ayush Shah and Johnnie Bailey all won 2-0. (RAA)

Rackets: 1st v Sea Court, Hayling Island (a)

The squad travelled down to Sea Court to gain some experience playing different opponents on different courts before the National Schools Rackets competitions this weekend. Courts vary significantly so it was important to expose the players to conditions more similar to those that they will experience at Queens. They also had the opportunity to try Real Tennis, and to observe Bertie Vallat as he prepares for a competition in Bordeaux this weekend. Some young members of Sea Court rackets club mixed in and it was a useful and an enjoyable day out. (TERC)

Friday 17th March

Rowing: Schools' Head of the River

The Senior VIII and J15 8 competed in this term's major schools' rowing head race at the Thams on Friday. In their respective Schools' 8 category the senior crew finished equal 5th out of 21 competing schools and the J15 boys finished 3rd from 13 schools. On the same course the following day the Senior VIII boys competed at the Schools' Head, against other schools, clubs and university teams and produced a significant improvement on their time

Saturday 18th March

Badminton vs Sevenoaks (H)

Having lost one of our star players to fives, JP Cheng, Ollie Frost became the eight player in the unbeaten WinColl Badminton side this term. With a historic win against Harrow on Tuesday, the team was ready to take on a Sevenoaks side they had never seen before. The pairings were mixed up with Yuyao and Ben, Ollie and Rudra, Ashmit and Alvin, and Vincent and Derek being our four pairs. The first two rounds of the match were super close, leading to a 4-4 draw by the end of it. A star performance from Ashmit and Alvin who beat Sevenoaks' second 21-8 made up for the close 2 point defeats faced by our first and second pair to Sevenoaks' third. The third round saw no change with the fixture being drawn at 6-6 with our fourth and second pair putting a fighting effort against their third and first pair, losing by 2/3 points. The last round had all to play for. A shock performance by Yuyao and Ben saw WinColl gain a 7-6 lead as they beat Sevenoaks's



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first 21-9,21-17. Our second pair did well to contain Sevenoaks' side to win 21-15, 21-14. With these wins, we had the lead 8-6 and just needed one more to secure a win. Almost deja vu, Ashmit and Alvin came together to put on a spectacle against Sevenoaks' third pair, winning us the match like they did against Harrow. With the final game going our way, we came off with a 10-6 victory. An eventful fixture which saw many thrillers was a perfect way to set the team up for the final fixture of the term, Harrow away on Thursday. With an unbeaten record this term, the team looks on to win their hardest match of the season! (R. Patel, I).

Football v Crown & Manor Boys Club

This was a good game of football in the **U16** match. Very competitive, with chances at both ends of the ground throughout.

We started the game brilliantly, scoring 2 quick goals, both from Tim, who showed great awareness in the box and finishing off after we had broken quickly down the left hand side on both occasions. At that stage it looked like we would go on to score more, however Crown and Manor after being a little shell shocked grew into the game and became more organised, although in the first half did not really cause us too many issues defensively.

This changed after half time when they really pushed us and were rewarded with a well taken free kick which went in off the inside of the post. However this seemed to spur us on and Tim scored his hat trick when he followed up and the keeper, a little unluckily, kicked the ball at Tim as he was chasing a ball over the top, the rebound ending up in the goal! Crown and Manor scored another goal right at the end of the game, but we managed to see out the last couple of minutes and gain a deserved win. Well done to all the lads who showed a great willingness and desire throughout the game. (PNG)

U14 v Crowne & Manor W6-1

Hockey v St Edward's School, Oxford (a)

On Saturday the **Hockey XI**, captained by the Wilf (B, VI:I), ventured up to St Edward's, Oxford for their penultimate game of the season. Not long into the start of the game we strung some passes down the wing and Harry Pressland (I, VI:I) forced the ball into the goal as it was fumbled by the opposition inside the D. This came as a shock for our opposition who soon after started their high press, leaving little space for our defence to manoeuvre. After a scramble in our D a shot on goal was deflected once again by Miles (F, VI:2), sending our keeper in the wrong direction and securing a second own goal in two games. Our concentration lapsed once more and a few minutes after conceding another sloppy goal.

Our heads stayed high as we went into the second half, but as we only had 11 players we couldn't press as intensely. Mr Taylor had spoken about abandoning the full press and the forwards allowed the Teddies defenders to transfer in the final quarter, only pouncing when a mistake was made. Once the press had been escaped Teddies made us pay with their five extra subs had many shots consecutively which were all stopped by Mario (B, VI:I), assisted by the solid defensive duo of Aaron (G, VI:2) and Laurence (K, VI:I). Chris (A, VI:I) and James (B, Vth Book) were absolute units in the middle as always, breaking ankles as they skilled the opposition over and over again. Harry Pressland (I, VI:I) kept on rattling at the goal but the ball just wouldn't go in. End score was a 2-1 loss, with a 0-0 second half and an excellent all round performance against a strong Teddies First XI. It was the last game of the season for Wilf, who throughout his short-lived yet majestic career in school Hockey set an example for many with his



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attitude and work rate. Once again, thank you to Mr Taylor for coaching and umpiring and for the parents who supported. (Mario Gianni-Garcia B, VI:2)

2nd XI L8-2

U15A L1-2

U14A L4-1

Finally, congratulations to JP pupil Ivor Martin who represented Hampshire Schools last Saturday at the ESAA National Cross Country Championships. Ivor finished 94th out of 329 runners amongst the Junior Boys and was the second placed Hampshire runner.

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

Sporting quote for the week:

“Sometimes it is good to be in uncomfortable situations because it is in finding our way out of such difficulties that we learn valuable lessons.” (Idowu Koyenikan, Author and motivational speaker)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

20th March 2023

Twitter: @WinCollSports