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Sports Department

## Sports Report – Short Half 2022: Week 5

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Basketball v King's School, Winchester (a)**

This was a tough game, mainly because Winchester missed so many easy baskets close up. That said, Winchester only had these opportunities because they fought harder, passed better and maintained their concentration better than in the last match. Kings played well too and had their chances; they were deservedly ahead in the 4th quarter, but in the final two minutes Winchester hit the important points that took them across the line. Fundamentals still need working on, but the team is improving and has its first win of the year. **W 33-30 LNT**

### **Golf: U18A v Bradfield College Mixed-U16A (a)**

On turning up the team were informed we were to go off straight away, so there was no time for a warm up; something the team dealt with stoically. It was a tough start and some of our opponents won the first hole with ease. What was needed was a bounce back that opened your opponents' eyes and made them think twice about this game being an easy one. Everyone in the Wincoll team was giving away numerous shots and to win was really a challenge. Well done to all the boys who won a match and don't worry to the boys who didn't because playing on a course you have never played before with no warmup is a tricky thing to be able to do. Even though we came second, we should not be disheartened as that is Bradfield's home course, and they had a warmup!(S Wells, G)

This is a triangular fixture with Marlborough & Bradfield. A rather complicated but ingenious scoring and handicapping system, devised by Bradfield as hosts, always ensures a close encounter. Overall the team accrued the same number of wins and losses, with 6 of each. With Sebastian Wells and James Redfern winning both their matches, we ultimately finished second to Bradfield but ahead of Marlborough. RSM

### **Rackets v Cheltenham College (a)**

Our Rackets squad team had a successful day out in our first away fixture of the season. Junior colts, Sebastian Kingsbury and Arthur James-Duff, played 2 matches against separate Cheltenham pairs. Seb's faultless return of serve and Arthur's mature, consistent shot-making proved too much for both Cheltenham pairs and Winchester won both matches 2-0. Our Colts pair, Jack Bristowe and Lukas Brunner, faced a decent Cheltenham pair but managed to neutralise the hard-hitting, aggressive style of the opposition. They took the first game 15-2 prompting the Cheltenham pair to fight back strongly. However, Jack and Lukas weathered the storm in true Wykhysical fashion taking the next 2 games and also claiming the match for Winchester, 3-0.

Our First Pair, Henry Nicholls and Bertie Vallat, took on an experienced Cheltenham pair. At times, this match threw up some high level rallies with impressive retrieving from both pairs. Winchester got off to a flying start, taking the first game 15/4, involving a spectacular run of serve from Henry and the usual consistency and court-craft from Bertie. The second game saw a powerful reply from Cheltenham as they took little time in going 14-6 up. At this point, our pair



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appeared to come to life and launch a recovery, to not only level forcing a set, but go on to take the game, 17-14. The momentum was durably maintained and Winchester took the next two games 15-2 and 15-3.

Overall, this was an accomplished performance by Winchester on an away court. TERC

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Football: U17A vs RGS, Guildford**

The U17's went away to RGS Guildford, but after a sustained spell of pressure from the opposition, an excellent through ball in behind saw Guildford score their first. Our excellent commitment in defence couldn't make up for our poor distribution, but the half time scoreline of 5-0 still didn't reflect the quality of the sides. However, in the second half, we began to keep far better control of the ball, and this resulted in Tim Oluwabusola (I) winning a penalty, which he placed into the bottom left corner. Another excellent move saw Jidechi Ohakosim (G) beat the keeper at his near post, and we ended up drawing the second half 2-2. A disappointing result overall, but not due to a lack effort. **L 7-2.** (Henry Nicholls, A)

#### **Golf: U18A v Gordon's School (a)**

Match 1 - lost 4&3. Match 2 - lost 1dn. Match 3 - lost 3&2.

**0 – 3 RSM**

#### **Rackets v Marlborough College**

The first match of the day saw George Gardiner (D) and Jack Bristowe (A) take on a powerfully built Marlborough pair. This was Jack's first match at senior level and in an untested partnership. However, the touch, elegance and grace of the rackets displayed by the Winchester pair silenced the gallery, as long runs of merciless serving never let the opposition into the game. Jack showed remarkable awareness throughout the match and sprung to life whenever the opportunity arose. He also frequently provided some deft returns of serve that the opposition could never quite reach. The result was a comfortable win for Winchester. 15-9, 15-10, 15-3.

Another newly-formed pair, Sebastian Robertson (B) and Stephen Lam (A) played simultaneously on court 1. This proved a close contest and there were some fine rallies at times. However, Winchester displayed some periods of inconstancy and this resulted in a 3 – 1 victory to Marlborough. Jack, having completed one match, was straight back on court to partner Arthur James-Duff (D) who was playing up a year in the Colts clash. A talented Marlborough pair played some great rackets and exerted pressure on numerous occasions. Yet, thanks to the serving prowess of Jack, together with Arthur's ability to keep returning and prolonging the rallies, the result was a Winchester win, 3 – 0. This was an admirable effort from another pair playing together for the first time.

William Hammerson-Jones (A) and Jamie Mitchell (G) came up against an older and technically advanced pair of girls. This was an interesting clash where consistency took on hard-hitting. The



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girls played clever rackets, utilising angles and their precise serves to keep ahead of our less experienced pair, winning game one comfortably. However, during game two the boys started to adjust to the lines the opposition were crafting and gradually managed to put the pressure back onto the opposition. As the match progressed, with both teams competing impressively, the clinical precision and power of the boys allowed them to take the game in a nail-biting finish, resulting in the match being a draw.

The final contest of the day saw another tight clash between Sebastian Kingsbury (A) and Arthur James-Duff playing the same girls pair. A strong start from Seb put the pressure immediately on the opposition with powerful drives down the line. However, the girls soon responded with a sequence of faultless play. But, thanks to some adept play from Arthur, Winchester were able to take the first game. This caused the girls to respond by storming ahead at the start of game two with a raised game all-round. Another draw looked on the cards but thanks to a fantastic never-say-die attitude from Arthur and Seb, who fought for every dropping ball, Winchester clawed the game back to a set and a best of 3 points shoot-out. Despite the pressure, Winchester kept a steady hand and served out the game and, with it, the match. TERC

### **Squash v Bryanston School (a)**

All of the Winchester College Squash Teams 1st V, 2nd V and U-15V won their matches versus Bryanston. Every player won, playing good resilient squash and encouraging each other to play their best. Joint captains Freddy Fisher and Oscar Henshaw both played very well by placing their shots, making their opponents cover the court and then used their short attacking shots to win the rally. Their good play was replicated by the rest of their team Ivo Sawbridge, Brian Chan and Will Gladston.

The 2nd V, led by James Hunter who was supported by 2nd years, all played very well with everyone using their skill to win their matches on courts that were much more lively than the ones that they are used to. Playing shots with pace proved to be a very successful tactic and all the players used their hard shots to force their opponents into errors or give them winning opportunities. 2nd V players: James Hunter, Rory McGregor, Arthur Duckworth, Pran Busrapan and Freddie Spearing.

The U-15 V were also very successful but had to play better than the 1st and 2nd V as their opponents were a lot older than they were! By placing their shots and retrieving their opponents they were all won their matches! Led by Matthew Leung the players who had the toughest games were the two 1st years, Amar Fernando and Laurie Sawbridge. Amar Fernando had to play well for his 3-0 victory whilst Laurie Sawbridge had a real battle against his opponent who had a very good serve! Supported by the rest of his team he was able to win the serve and won the 3rd game 11-5 for a very well deserved 2-1 win. The U-15 V: Matthew Leung, Zach Goulding, Kentaro Tada, Amar Fernando and Laurie Sawbridge. The match proved that playing as a team can have a very positive result. RAA



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## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

### Football v Lancing College

Winchester **Soccer XI** welcomed Lancing to Doggers a little later than planned as their journey was a lot longer than they expected.

The game turned into a scrappy one and was more about dealing with the distribution of long balls from the opposition GK. We dealt with this approach really well, we just struggled to get our game plan going.

We had chances and you would have to say there GK was the busiest, not just with his sidwinding kicks, but with some great saves from us. Casper Hall had 3 great chances 1 v 1 but credit the keeper for some good saves and when he was beaten the woodwork saved them. We did get the breakthrough when Alex Foster was taken down in the box and Freddie van Every stroked the penalty into the bottom left corner. We cannot fault the spirit of the boys and the commitment but we were unable to hang on and conceded from a good free kick outside the box into the bottom right-hand corner. 1-1 was probably a fair result and even though we were not at our best we didn't lose the game. Well done boys and onto our cup game on Tuesday. JRD

The **2<sup>nd</sup> XI** welcomed Lancing on a sunny afternoon off the back of a great result. The focus was on attitude and intent. Unfortunately, we started slow and conceded a corner in the opening minutes. However, the response from the boys was brilliant. Without changing what we set out to do, we carried the intensity throughout and kept the ball really well, with composed passing before we deservedly equalised through Patrick Ritchie's left foot effort into the far post.

In the second half, we continued to try to do the right things and kept the intensity high but were unfortunate to see an individual error cost us a goal. 2-1 down, we found ourselves chasing the game for most of the second half. We then equalised again with a low-driven free kick from Sasha Del Mar that was 'intelligently' dummied by Patrick and found its way in. We applied lots of pressure and finished the game the much better side but couldn't find the winning goal. Although the boys were disappointed with the draw, it was a great effort and attitude shown by them. D 2-2 (A. Oshai, F)

At times the **3s** were superb today. Their movement off the ball and trust in each other led to quick, controlled transition from defence to attack, and their work rate was typically high. Defensively they were outstanding too, communicating, covering and making good decisions; the one goal conceded coming very much against the run of play. The team is playing better football every week and it is good to see these results coming. W 6-1 LNT

The **JCA's** travelled to Lancing College to a fixture that we narrowly lost last year. We had high hopes coming into the match following a solid performance against Bede's the week before. We started well, dominating possession and playing on the front foot for the first 13 minutes until James Kennedy (D) threaded a lovely ball to Seb Kingsbury (A) who took a touch and dispatched it into the bottom left corner.



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We kept the intensity up and created multiple chances before Arthur Hampel (B) finished under pressure into the corner of the goal. This was swiftly followed by another goal from Seb Kingsbury (A). Winchester then slightly lost their intensity and relied heavily on the back line to stop the continuous efforts of Lancing and help transition the ball into attack. This was rewarded just before half-time with a brilliant solo goal from Seb Kingsbury (A) to complete a majestic hattrick where he dribbled through multiple defenders and showed excellent composure by finishing the run with a perfect finish past the goalkeeper.

After half-time Winchester got complacent and allowed Lancing to have multiple opportunities which ended up with a scrappy goal from a corner. The match was very end to end from here on out as just before the final whistle Lancing scored a free kick that went just over the goalkeeper to make it 4-2. The first half was some of the best football we have played this year and we must look to keep building on this. Man of the Match Seb Kingsbury (A). **W 11-4.** (Max Jackson, A)

One might have expected the **JCBs** to be lacklustre and tired after the two-hour coach to Lancing. Murmurs of an historic fourth four-nil loss lurked. It would not be so. From the off the JCBs showed vigour, dynamism and that all-important, hitherto wanting, killer instinct. Alex Simpson got us off to a flying start with an early screamer from near the edge of the box. Alexis followed, finishing a nice sequence of play. From there Piers took over, scoring a mighty five-goal streak. Our midfield played their part. They took control of possession, showed composure and put through accurate, well-weighted through-balls. In defence Oliver Street was inescapable, Aryaveer unperturbable. A turning point for the JCBs, we hope. **W 7-0.** FHC

Inspired by DVDs of Top Gear played on the coach journey to Lancing, the **JCCs** started this game at full throttle and did not relent in keep their pedal to metal as the goals flew in. After 2 minutes Arthur Duckworth opened the scoring with a penalty. His tally was doubled after 5 minutes with after some slick midfield passing played him in. Phineas Fletcher displayed some silky skills on the touchline, escaping the attentions of several defenders, before slotting the ball home with a cool finish to make it three. Before the first half ended a blaster from 25 yards by Aaryan Shrestha was too hot to handle for the home keeper and Winchester went into the break with a 4-0 lead. The second half saw almost as much goalmouth action. Phol Suksriwong with two sublime goals; strikes from seemingly both impossible angles and distances. The match finished 7-0 to Winchester and honourable mention goes to Monty Callaghan who, despite not appearing on the scoresheet, did much valuable work down the flanks and in the middle of the park to solidify the away team's dominance of this fixture. **W 7-0** JWS

We began the game positively, with the returning Redfern linking up well with Zawoda down the right. The latter won a penalty with his quick footwork and the increasingly confident Jurdjevic stepped up to take the spot-kick, placing it firmly in the top left corner. Within minutes he had added another, this time deftly lifted over the keeper, on the volley, from an excellent cross from Redfern. Feyita's introduction to the game brought renewed energy in midfield and we continued to exploit space down our right flank. Unsurprisingly, Oluwabusola sensed goals and soon got in on the act, finishing smartly twice from close range, the first from a Zawoda corner and the second from a sumptuous through-ball from Laarman. Oluwabusola then completed his hat-trick when latching on to a long pass from keeper Browning. Whilst Lancing had a few chances from range



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in the first half, Kaung and Sullivan had mostly dealt calmly with any danger, Sullivan also seeking to get on to the ball more often too.

In the second half we aimed to pass more to feet, looking to link-up through midfield and whilst focusing on this, became a bit sloppy at the back. Despite Oluwabusola adding his fourth, we then conceded 3 goals in a row to make the game more exciting for the spectators. However, in the final 20 minutes we found a suitable response. Oluwabusola added two more to complete his double hat-trick, one via a 1-2 with the left-hand upright after a good drive from Feyita. We won another penalty, which Jurdjevic calmly placed to complete his own hat-trick. Santagati, increasingly getting on the ball, then added his own effort with a chipped shot from the top of the box that found the top right corner. Lastly, having had a quiet second half, Laarman then scored our 11th and final goal. He received the ball in his own half on the right-hand side and flicked the ball infield and around the left back. He then drove at the retreating defenders, dropping shoulders and shifting the ball before finally unleashing a strike with his left foot from the top of the box that found the bottom right corner. Lancing added their last with the final kick of the game.

The team are growing in confidence when in possession and are using different ways to create chances and should be very pleased with their offensive efforts. They will need to defend more consistently as a unit in future games as they seek their first clean sheet of the season. **W 11-4.** JMB

When the **YB** boys came in for a chat at half time they were 4-0 up. They told me they weren't playing well. Although there were some poor touches, I believe a lot of this was down to using a smaller and lighter ball. Even though it turned out to be a one-sided affair, they kept their shape and no one got overconfident and tried to score with every touch. Prince should have had a hat trick but kept on firing the ball straight at the keeper. I am really pleased with the clean sheet. Man of the match Leo for his brilliant corners and crosses (and two goals). **W 7-0.** PAH

The **Yearling Cs** are growing in confidence all the time. This was a game that demonstrated much greater cohesion than previously and the benefits of regular training and fixtures are beginning to pay off. Winchester started brightly dominating the possession. A superb strike from Findlay Kirk from outside the box put us 1:0 ahead. From there two well worked goals from Caspar Edwards and another from Findlay meant we went in 4:0 up at half time. We talked about not allowing the game to get scrappy at half time and to continue to play expansive passing game. For a short period it looked like we were going to lose our shape and discipline, but Findlay struck again at the near post to take his own tally to four goals. Another from Edwards and a brilliant strike from Freddie Matthews (top corner outside of the box) meant a comfortable victory. Whilst the scoring was dominated by just a couple of boys this was a superb team effort and the quality of passing, communication and composure on the ball demonstrated strong progress. **W 8-0.** JRM

### **Rowing: Monkton Small Boats Head**

Monkton Head allowed Winchester College Boat Club to field boats from its younger cohort, as well as introducing some new sixth form to racing.

The J15 group continues to be an extremely strong squad. With impressive talent throughout, it was possible to race most of the boys twice, both in sculling boats, and in sweep boats, which they



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are new to this year. Great determination and cohesiveness saw all the racing boats perform excellently, with two wins, in the coxed quad and the coxed four.

In the J16 year group, we have some very able athletes, who can produce a lot of power. This was harnessed to great effect, keeping to the pre-race plan of a rate capped to 24. This allowed the boat to move a large amount between each stroke, as body movement was controlled to minimize any reduction in speed. The result was a comfortable win for the coxed four. A special mention must be given to the mixed J16 and J15 double, who came together last minute to produce a professional and competent performance, with a result that showed a lot of potential.

Lastly, we had a mixed sixth form boat. This consisted of new entrants that have never tried the sport before. Especially exciting was having the first two girls of WCBC competing. The crew produced a race that made it hard to believe that they had so little experience in the sport. With a great team spirit, it was great to see such good rowing, so early in their rowing careers.

Overall, it was a really positive day for all of the squads that attended. With both really good results and a great atmosphere. We keenly look forward to seeing what each of these groups can produce later in the year. Many thanks must go out to the WCBC parents that came to support and provide excellent provisions - it is very much appreciated by athlete and staff alike!

### **Saturday & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October: Sailing**

Lots of racing for the sailors over the weekend - we took a Firefly team (6 sailors) and Feva team (4 sailors) to the RYA Eric Twiname Youth and Junior Team Racing event at Oxford Sailing Club. Both teams had a relatively tough draw for the first day, and at the end of the day were positioned to go into the Silver league for the next day's racing. Over the two days, the teams learnt a lot, and had a fair number of close races which helped them work on their tactics and strategy. We were pleased with the positive attitude of our sailors and several said how much they had enjoyed the close racing, even if, ultimately, they only won a few of the races. They will be stronger sailors, and a stronger team, for the experience that they had against some of the top teams in the country (both sailing club teams and schools) over the weekend. JAAB

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

Sporting quote for the week:

*Don't permit fear of failure to prevent effort. We are all imperfect and will fail on occasions, but fear of failure is the greatest failure of all.* (Former UCLA Basketball Coach, John Wooden)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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