



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

Sports Report – Common Time 2023 Week 10 and Easter Holidays

20th – 26th March: Rackets – National Doubles at Queens

1st pair: Seeded 4, Henry Nicholls and Bertie Vallat came into the tournament with some encouraging school match results including away wins at both Tonbridge and Eton. However, the challenge they now faced at Queens looked highly testing owing to the toughness of their draw.

First opponents in line were Cheltenham and this proved a gritty battle that went down to the wire. Winchester started slowly with the opposition taking game 1 relatively easily. This had the effect of causing a positive reaction with game 2 going with equal dominance to Winchester who then managed to retain momentum and also take game 3. Both players were serving consistently and racking up long sequences of points. However, Cheltenham managed to force the match into a deciding game by commandingly clinching game 4. This provoked a second assault by Winchester who efficiently closed out the final game and match 15-1. Although this had been a close-run affair it had afforded valuable court time experience in a highly competitive arena.

St Paul's were next who boasted the no. 1 seed in the Singles Championships last December. This match was also a tightly fought contest. Winchester cruised to a 2 - 0 lead but St. Paul's managed to mount a recovery by narrowly taking games 3 and 4. This time the final result could have gone either way but Bertie and Henry managed to reverse the momentum of the previous two games and truly take the match to the opposition, winning the final game 15 -10. This had been a tough battle and an admirable victory against a pair with a notably strong opponent.

The no 1 seeds, Tonbridge, came next. This was not the same pair they had beaten recently at Tonbridge in that an older boy had replaced a younger. Henry and Bertie started well despite huge vocal, gallery support for Tonbridge. Before long, this diminished as the underdogs went 2 games up. However, Tonbridge were growing in confidence and this had the effect of their taking game 3. This assault proved to be short-lived and Winchester managed to apply enough pressure in game 4 to cause several racket handling errors in their opposition to close out the game and the match.

This placed Winchester in the final against Eton who had had a tightly fought clash against Harrow the previous day. The level of serving was high from all 4 players and this kept the rallies to a minimum. Eton struck first with their usual, calm manner winning game 1. But Henry and Bertie managed to return more serves in game 2 and equal the score. Game 3 was very close and at 13 all the Winchester pair courageously opted for the shorter set 3 (not 5) to decide it. This unnerved the opposition and had the effect of Winchester winning it 16-13. Game 4 was perhaps the clincher with Eton stepping up their serving proficiency and the points falling their way during the rallies. At two games all it was yet another 5th and deciding game. Although there were closely fought points, Eton now had the taste of success and managed to get the deed done with a relatively comfortable score-line.

This had been a very impressive, tenacious effort all the way through the tournament by the Winchester pair and with both boys having a further year of eligibility at this age group there is much to look forward to.

The second pair of George Gardiner and Stephen Lam collectively formed a competent partnership with adept recovery abilities with considerable consistency. However, they came up against a strong Cheltenham pair who managed to win on the day.



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

Senior Colts, Jack Bristowe and Lukus Brunner initially came up against an Eton pair who they impressively managed to beat, 3 games to 1. This was a relatively close match which went to a set in game 3 with Eton taking it 18-17. This caused a positive reaction in the Winchester pair resulting in them taking game 4 and the match without the loss of a point. In the next round against Cheltenham, Jack and Lukus recovered after narrowly losing game 1 by easily taking game 2. Their left and right-handed combination worked well to provide strength on both wings. The next 2 games were split one each causing a 5th game decider. From this point, Winchester calmly steered the game and the match towards victory, 15-6. In the quarter final they came up against Wellington, strong no. 4 seeds. Although Wellington won the match there were periods of high quality rackets with Jack impressively backing up his partner and Lukus presenting some excellent racket work.

The second Colts pair, Rupert Balmain and Ollie Frost, had an unfortunate draw against Eton 1 and although losing, nevertheless, put up a good fight.

The Junior Colts Seb Kingsbury and Will Hammerson-Jones initially took on a decent Tonbridge pair and managed a 3-1 victory with a close final game. They faced Haileybury next who they managed to beat relatively swiftly in straight games although there were some close moments. This put them up against the no 4 seeds, Radley. This was a tight tussle with the first two games being split. From that point onwards however, Radley put took the momentum and there was not enough resistance from Winchester to stop the next two games getting away from them.

Arthur James-Duff and Jamie Mitchell fought well against a Cheltenham pair, taking the first two games comfortably. However, the opposition fought back finally after some close moments, taking game 3. This prompted the Winchester pair to strike back against their surging opponents in the next game and finally win it narrowly, and with it, the match. Next up was an inexperienced Charterhouse pair who Jamie and Arthur managed to overcome without the loss of a game. This put them up against no 1 seeds, St. Pauls. Winchester managed to put up an impressive fight here, presenting as a highly competent pair and almost managed to win a game. This proves they will be in the mix to do well in future tournaments.

JP pupils Oscar O'Carroll and Dima Kasumov, although both a year younger than the majority of the competitors, found themselves at home at this level. Initially taking on a Cheltenham pair of similar age, they managed to take the win with the loss of only 1 game. Eton's 2nd pair was next and suddenly they found themselves two games up with Oscar's fine racket-work and Dima's powerful serve forming a highly effective combination. Although they narrowly lost game 3, they reset to win the next, and the match. Overall this was a particularly fine effort. This placed them in the quarter-final. Although they lost to Eton 1 without taking a game, the match was closer than this scoreline suggests and, bearing in mind their age, clearly bodes well for the future. (TERC)

Rugby 7s: National Schools Rosslyn Park 7s: Monday 20th & Wednesday 22nd March

Despite some promising performances during a couple of training afternoons across the term the Senior 7s squad had not played in a full tournament before the National competition so there was some trepidation evident before the first match against The Grange School, Northwich. However, in a game which ebbed and flowed the Winchester boys put up a very respectable performance clawing the game back to 21-28, Gus Bowden and Will Matthews prominent. With just under a minute remaining on the clock The Grange scored to open up an unassailable lead and take the win 21-35. The second pool match was definitely a game we had targeted for a win and that saw us up against the other traditional football school in the competition, Repton. Some handling errors early in the game left us defending our own line but aggressive tackling and line speed forced



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

the opposition into turning the ball over and this saw powerhouses Callum Mackay and Nasir Ogunmola capitalise with some excellent tries. Also prominent with his speed and terrier like tackling was Dylan Connolly who made several important cover tackles. A convincing 31-7 victory was fully deserved. The final pool match was against the unbeaten Richard Challoner School and an incredible performance from the boys saw them almost take a superb win. Courageous defence with some patient attacking play instigated by Will Matthews and Hugo Barnes meant we held a 7-5 lead with just seconds remaining but the more established rugby school broke down the blind side from a scrum to score with the last play of the game to secure a 10-7 victory. The progress made by these boys across the term was something to be very proud of and with half the squad remaining, coupled with a keen group of senior colts, there is reason to be optimistic for next year.

The senior colts had been drawn into an incredibly competitive group with serious rugby powerhouses, Uppingham, The Oratory and Ysgol Gyfun Glyntaff all to be faced. Having lost key members of the squad due to Art GCSE and illness the team didn't need any more self-inflicted damage to worsen their prospects. However, a late departure from school meant the boys had to run to their first match from just outside the tournament venue and unsurprisingly were given a harsh lesson by the school from Cardiff. The second match was postponed as Oratory had mistakenly arrived late so next up were Uppingham who had already beaten Glyntaff. Sadly, the Winchester boys failed to show the determination and rugby playing prowess which had been evident in their recent strong performance at the Hampshire Schools 7s. The final game against Oratory was an opportunity to gain some respect, especially against a team chasing points to secure a top spot in the pool. Pleasingly the boys stepped up and displayed some real quality to frustrate Oratory and even threaten their line with some good attacks. Despite conceding 35 points this was certainly a much more respectable performance and the boys are very much looking forward to making significant improvements for next years tournament. (MSB)

Tuesday 21st March 2023 : Hockey U18's v King Edward VI (a)

After a short trip down the road, the 1st XI started the match strongly, especially in defence, and kept the game even against a strong opposition for the first quarter. Debutants James Kennedy (D, MP) and Ethan Xiao (D, MP) impressed at the back, playing with lots of confidence for their age. Other, more experienced, 2nd years Stanley Askew (K, MP) and Oli Street (K, MP) also put in important shifts when pressing the ball and controlling aerials from Miles Park (F) when quickly transitioning to attack. Sadly, the opposition seized on the few opportunities they had, and we were 3-0 down at half-time.

Another 3 were scored by them in the second half, mainly coming from deflections at the back post. However, the score line does not do justice to how well we played or how much effort was put in, especially in the second half. We had our chances, and another day the score might have been very different.

A big thank you has to go to all of the top years that played their last hockey match for Winchester College this past week, with special mentions to Caspar Hall (B) and Chris Batten (A) for all of their significant contributions to this team. Thank you very much also to Mr Taylor and Mr Burridge for umpiring and coaching us in this difficult game, and to all the parents who came to support us. Miles Park (F, VI:2)



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

Thursday 23rd March 2023

Badminton 1st v Harrow School (a)

Our last game of the term saw us take on the second team of Harrow, having beaten their first's last week. With a weaker Harrow side, we looked to get our first clean sweep victory this year. As the fixture started, the WinColl players had a hard time adapting to the conditions, including fast plastic shuttles. But with a few rallies, the team was in form and smashed through Harrow's pairs with WinColl winning many games under 10. A standout performance for Vincent won him the MOTM in an 8-0 win. Overall, an unbeaten term and a wonderful way to end our brilliant season! Rudra Patel VI Bk1[I]

Chess v Brighton College

Lost 1.5 - 4.5

Saturday 25th – Monday 27th March: Schools' National Fives Championships

The championships feature six competitions with singles and doubles events for U14s, U16s and U18s. This year's championships were both strong in numbers and quality with five different schools taking home trophies and Winchester leading the way with finalists in four of the six competitions.

In the U14 age group, **Felix Coleman (E)** and **Plum Mannion-Miles (F)** battled hard against some remarkably able opposition from Berkhamsted, Stamford, and Edinburgh Academy amongst other schools. Both won through the group stage into the main competition, and Plum made it the quarter-finals before losing narrowly, 15-13, to the number one seed from Berkhamsted. In the doubles, Felix and Plum teamed up to reach the semi-finals and were within touching distance of a place in the finals before losing to Edinburgh Academy in a topsy-turvy three-gamer: 11-2, 1-11, 9-11.

In the U16s, **Jeffrey Chan (C)** and **Anthony Cloke Browne (B)** both impressed on their way to a singles semi-final battle between themselves. Anthony, seeded 5 for the tournament, played particularly well in comfortably overcoming the number 4 seed from Christ's hospital 11-1, 11-2 at the quarter-final stage. The semi-final was an epic clash between teammates, Jeffrey eventually winning 8-11, 11-5, 11-6. Although Jeffrey lost out in the final 9-11, 3-11 to the top-rated Pauline he pushed much harder than the scoreline suggests. In the doubles, after some straightforward wins in early rounds the Wykehamists faced belligerent competition in both their semi-final against St. Paul's, which was eventually won 11-9, 11-8, and the final against Alleyn's top pair where they eventually prevailed 11-9, 11-3.

In the U18 competitions, **Shiloh Wu (E)** showed his class throughout as he overcame all opposition to win the singles title for a second year. His 11-3, 11-2 victory in the final against St Olave's top player underlying his quality in all facets of the game. **Chris Lee (E)** also deserves a mention as he came close to upsetting the seedings taking the first game of his semi-final against the St. Olave's number one. Shiloh and Chris then teamed up in the doubles and after serene progress to the final, there they found the incredibly hard-hitting pair from St. Olave's just one challenge to many; though they went down with a fight losing 0-11, 7-11.



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE
Sports Department

Shiloh Wu deserves a special mention for his contribution to Win Coll Fives over the last 5 years. He has won ten trophies in all, a mighty impressive feat when one remembers that Covid denied him 18 months of competitions. (JM)

March 25th – April 3rd: Cricket tour to UAE

As term finished a number of boys were travelling up to Heathrow to begin their pre-season cricket tour to the UAE. With a junior team consisting of boys across JP, MP and VBk the focus was very much on gaining experience and making progress. For the senior squad there was a little more excitement and expectation, with the staff keen to see how the excellent winter preparations would transfer into strong performances in competition.

The week itself proved to be a great success. The junior squads played a combination of T20



friendlies and 40 over Cup matches and to come away with a 50% record was extremely promising. The Lords squad more than exceeded expectations with superb performances in the friendly matches as well as a 100% record to take the prestigious Arch Trophy. Tour skipper Dom Hall deserves special mention for taking the Player of the Tournament award too.

All the players on tour were fine ambassadors for the school with numerous positive comments made at the playing venues as well as in the hotel regarding the polite and

respectful manner in which the boys conducted themselves. Such standards on and off the pitch augur well for the forthcoming season.

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

Sporting quote for the week:

“When you fall short of your goals and dreams ask yourself is it your mindset, perspective, expectations, effort, approach, acceptance, company or a blend of these that needs to change.” (Monna Elithorpe – Author)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

22nd April 2023

Twitter: @WinCollSports