

# SUNNINGDALE

SCHOOL NOTES

LENT 2008

## COMMENT



“Success is always a team effort”  
Martin Johnson

Rugby World Cup winning captain.

This term there have been so many examples of why this quotation embodies so much of what we do at Sunningdale. Successes have been achieved in many different areas and I am certain that the reason the boys have done so well this term lies in the fact that we live in a close community where everyone is equally valued.

The most public display this term has been The Lion King. Every boy and many staff worked so hard to make the play such a success. It was that hard work that made the performances so satisfying and something to be really proud of. We have also been so proud of our two scholars and those other boys who reached a standard to attempt scholarships. This too is a team effort. Without the backing of excellent teaching and the support of friends and mentors this would not be possible.

The rugby, fives, squash, cross country, and chess teams have all achieved much this term, either by results or improvement and I hope they have all learnt the importance of working together. The choir have maintained a very high standard throughout this term's services, despite the added pressure of the concert. The instrumental musicians, too, have delighted us with their performances in the informal concert.

It has been a term during which every boy has contributed positively to the life of the school and that, for me, is success.

## 1st XV RESULTS

Played 9, Won 4, Lost 5

Sunningdale v Cumnor House	Won
Sunningdale v Woodcote House	Lost
Sunningdale v St. Georges	Lost
Sunningdale v Bishopsgate	Won
Sunningdale v Woodcote House	Lost
Sunningdale v Horris Hill	Lost
Sunningdale v Ludgrove	Lost
Sunningdale v Bruern Abbey	Won
Sunningdale v Lambrook Haileybury	Won

## RUGBY FOOTBALL—1ST XV



The team was skippered by the towering presence of G.Jones. More Hyperion than a man who always led from the front, could terrify the opposition merely by yawning and was simply superb in every game he played. His was a calm and steely presence that held the team together through thick and thin and we have great hopes for his future, as long as he does not play for Wales. His able lieutenant was Jacob 'la

heine' Hutcheon who played with zeal and commitment, oppositions often wondered aloud if he were man or beast given his incredible work rate and ability to seemingly be in two places at the same time. At the coalface the 1XV were ably served by the differing yet terrifying talents of the front row. Crossley, a John Bull figure, resolute, indefatigable and stronger than a team of oxen laid to plough had a simply fantastic season, his only joy came from grinding his opposite man down into pitiful submission. George 'Raffles' Henderson at hooker played with a ruthless distaste for anyone thinking they might better him and was magnificent stealing ball against the head in such copious amounts and with an air of calm insouciance that he was seen by many as a gentleman thief of the most discreditable kind. Malik mi at tight head prop brought all the mysteries of the Orient to his position, like some distant Nabob administering justice and scorn in equal measures. Behind them stood mighty oaks in the form of Hugh 'the enforcer' Hobbs whose vigour and worship of the cause led some to believe he had sold his soul to the devil in the name of turnover ball, and Zander 'Heart of Darkness' Moynes who bullied oppositions into mistakes and breathless fear. Sam 'the spectre' Hulse assumed the mantle of invisible man, tirelessly working in the midst of the ruck or maul. The scrum were ably assisted by Brandon 'Hard Target' Ousey who distributed ball with vim and terrifying precision, his siege gun boot could unlock even the most canny of defences. At fly-half, Archie 'The little general' led his band of brothers in the line with incredible determination and skill often being the first man to unleash an eviscerating tackle that could make all but the most hardened onlooker shed a tear for Bannister's prey. Carrelet ma at inside centre played with characteristic Gallic flair and élan like some latter day Vercingetorix and formed a good partnership with Johnie 'Hugh' Heffer whose matchday bravery led many to believe he was forged of Iron. Nic 'nightstalker' Billot acted as opposition chiropractor and team soothsayer. At fullback and undoubtedly the find of the season was Darling, whose thin veneer of bonhomie masked an insidious desire to seek and destroy anyone attempting to break through the defensive line. On the wings Jacob 'the real deal' Reznikov put in some massive tackles throughout the season and was so enamoured with pain that much like the band of the Titanic, played on with a broken collarbone in the match against Bruern Abbey. Henry 'as nails' Palling showed real pace and ability as a finisher and possessed a hand off more devastating than a Magnum. The season was enormously fun and although we should have beaten Woodcote and Ludgrove, the boys can take great pride in their hugely impressive victories against Bishopsgate and Bruern Abbey, a team that had played for two seasons and had remained unbeaten up until their trip to Sunningdale. Many thanks must go to the boys who put their all into representing the school week in week out. With seven of the team returning next year the future looks bright for Sunningdale rugby.

The Team: G.Jones\*, Hutcheon\*, Crossley, Henderson\*, Malik mi, Hulse ma, Hobbs, Moynes, Ousey, Bannister ma, Carrelet ma, Billot, Heffer, Darling, Reznikov

## SCHOOL NOTES

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Harry Locke on achieving a scholarship to Uppingham and to George Jones on being awarded the sports scholarship at Stowe. Congratulations also to Peter Hedley and Alexander Moynes on being excused Common Entrance.

**THE FORM PRIZE** was won by Form III

The **FORM PRIZE WINNERS** were:

- VI Spencer, Kim & Reznikov
- V Henderson & Malik mi
- Va Ousey & Curtis Green
- IV Freeth, Hart ma & Hans
- III Mountain & Baydur
- II Jehangir & Matti
- I Rawson, Lee mi & Campbell

The **SHOW UPS** prize was shared between Mountain and Matti.

The **FIVES CUP** was won by Carrelet ma

The **RUGBY CUP** was won by G. Jones

7's **RUGBY CUP** was won by Hutcheon

**MOST IMPROVED** Rugby cup was won by Malik mi

The **CARRELET SKI BELL** was won by Carrelet ma

In our schemes of **CONDUCT & WORK STARS** the following earned **POSSIBLES**

Last terms Possibles went to the Tower of London and the London Dungeons.

The winners of the **HOLIDAY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ WERE:**

**SENIORS:** 1st Billot, 2nd Heffer, 3rd Martinez.  
**JUNIORS:** 1st Campbell, 2nd Cartwright ma, 3rd Lindsay.

All the boys attended a brilliant **WRITING WORKSHOP** given by a visiting author.

The **TRAVEL BOOK** company paid us another visit.

The school hosted a very successful **OPEN MORNING**

Winner of the **HOUSE COMPETITION** was Girdlestone, who enjoyed a delicious celebration dinner at the end of term, consisting of loaded nachos, roast lamb and Krispy Kreme donuts.

## CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



Eight boys were given the opportunity to represent the school at clay pigeon shooting at Bruern Abbey. Although not being victorious they had a great day and were well looked after by their hosts.

## LEAVERS' DISCO

The leaving boys invited a group of girls from St. Georges to a Valentines party.



## ANTARCTICA LECTURE

We were so lucky to be talked to by Henry Cookson who completed a kite surfing trip to the centre of Antarctica.

He made it to the wonderfully named Pole of Inaccessability using the wind to help drag his pelks across the ice. He told wonderful stories of their adventure and the boys were full of questions at the end.

He showed incredible photographs and kept us spellbound with tales from the trip. They discovered a statue of Lenin that had been left fifty years earlier by a group of Russians (using motorised vehicles) but very frustratingly the hut underneath was locked and they could not get in!



## KING OF VERBS

All senior boys were given a list of around 350 French verbs to learn, then 50 of them were chosen at random for a test. Martinez and Berezovskiy were jointly crowned 'King of Verbs' with 47/50 while very high scores were also posted by Carrelet ma (V), Allton (VA), Carrelet mi (III) and Suri ma (IV).

## ACTIVITIES

This term has been packed full of activities. Mr Howroyd and Mr Webb and their teams had a hotly contested battle at paintballing.

Future racing drivers recorded break-neck speeds at the Go-Kart track.



Cooking has continued to

be very popular, recipes have included asparagus and poached egg salads, cheese soufflés and mango pavlova. Other activities include model club, casino night, sudoku club, 5 a side football, pirates, model railway, rugby club and boxing which had a very successful first term.





## 2ND XV

The 2nds had a thoroughly enjoyable season in which all players developed into good, solid rugby players. Aably Captained by Perks with reliable support from key players such as Curtis-Green, Dhaliwal, De Liniers, D. kim and Dare the 2nds were always capable of great and exciting spells of rugby. By the end of term they were able to put on their best display against Brockhurst, with a convincing win, having finally got to grips with some of the woeful tackling problems that gave them so many problems early in the season. As ever just as things were coming together the season came to an end! My thanks also to the small band of parents who, come rain or shine, were always there to cheer us on – it makes a difference.

The Team: D. Kim, Locke, Malik ma, H. Kim, Hernadez Parga, Slipchuk, Diaz-Ward, Perks, Curtis-Green, de Liniers, Dhaliwal, Hedley, Spear, Spencer, Jones ma, Darling.  
B.C & C.H

## UNDER 11

This term the main objective of the team was to gain experience and grasp the fundamental rules and techniques of Rugby. However, within the first few days it was evident that this team had raw talent. Enthusiasm billowed out of the team and they were desperate to play in their first match. Though confidence was sky high, the team had only had two practice sessions before we faced the unenviable task of an away day to our local rivals Woodcote House. We lacked organisation and eventually were well beaten but the boys refused to let this affect them. In the corresponding home match the improvement was vast and though we lost, the performance didn't echo the score line. The first 20 minutes we bombarded their try line with relentless pressure. With every game our match fitness and understanding was improving. The team was wonderfully led by Carrelet mi at stand off. Defensively the team weren't always in unison and this cost us dearly on too many occasions. This wasn't the case with our attacking play as we showed moments of 'Champagne rugby'. We were blessed with an array of talented runners with both Baydur and Kaba capable of beating opponents with consummate ease. Wade was probably the stand out player of the term and if he continues to progress at the rate he currently is I dread to think how good he could become. Though the results might not ratify this statement I truly believe that this year group, though small in size, can really mature into a formidable outfit. It was a pleasure to coach these boys and it is exciting that the nucleus of the team will be eligible to play next year.

The Team:

Carrelet mi, Wade, Baydur, Kaba, Hulse mi, Mountain, Berezovskiy, Clark, Cartwright, Adams ma, Jehangir, Kantsan, Hart ma, Milner ma.  
T.A.C.N.D & A.G.F.L

## UNDER 9'S

When over half of the U9 squad had never experienced a competitive game of rugby before things were always going to be challenging when playing other prep schools. However, I was particularly pleased at how quickly our boys seemed to understand the game and develop their basic skills. During fixtures we had some very pleasing performances, particularly against Horris Hill when we narrowly missed out on a draw. The Brockhurst U9 Festival was another highlight for me, when the development of team spirit accelerated. I must thank Lindsay for being such a dynamic and enthusiastic captain and for always leading by example. He is certainly a talent to watch for the future!

The team: Adams mi, Lee ma, Rawson, Hart mi, Matti, Lee mi, Lindsay, Graham, Bannister mi, Milner mi, Jones mi  
E.B.



## SCHOOL TRIP TO THE THEATRE LES MISERABLES

Powerful, emotional and a brilliant account of a touching story. The show provides a new insight to a lost time with brilliant singing and fantastic acting, the show sums up to be a West End phenomenon.

The ingenious set design and revolving stage provides the optimum experience. Acting is a high point, John Owen-Jones as Jean Valjean has a strong voice and works well as the show progresses to maintain the best possible performance. The music has clearly been well rehearsed as the orchestra and singers are flawless with the occasional moment of suspense when it seems as if they have forgotten their lines, and the audience's heart skips a beat, but we were fast relieved as someone starts their song.

Twenty-three years running, the show still stands strong. Overall a chilling performance which sent a shiver down your spine.

By Alexander Spencer (VI)

## CROSS COUNTRY

It was another successful cross country season at Sunningdale. At the Horris Hill event the senior team finished second by just two points, with Palling, Bannister ma and G Jones finishing 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively. The senior team also performed well at the Ludgrove relays, coming fifth. The junior sides were not so successful although Kaba managed to post very quick times in all his races, prompting his promotion to the senior team.

At the Sunningdale relays, the last event of the season, we unfortunately lost our shield to Hall Grove who won at both under 13 and under 11 level. We will have to ensure the shield comes back home next year! Luckily we have some brilliant runners coming through and the future looks promising. The winner of the Dundas Cup was Bannister ma, with Palling in second place.

Senior squad: Palling (capt.), Bannister ma, G Jones, Henderson, Hutcheon, Jones mi, Kaba

Junior squad: Kaba, Mountain, Hart ma, Hulse mi, Graham, Bannister mi



## ART REPORT



Such a busy and quick term but all the boys have managed to work on some wonderful projects. These have included monochromatic self portraits inspired by Andy Warhol, moveable murals using collage, surreal painting inspired by Marc Chagall, and portraiture inspired by Matisse. All these have been very effective and are an exciting start for the art exhibition next term. The following boys exhibited at the prep school exhibition at Stowe; Giles Hart, Fahim Malik, Henry Palling, Gleb Berezovskiy, Jacob Crossley, Tom Jones, Nic Billot and George Jones.



## CHAPEL NOTES

Our preacher this term was Dr. Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster of Stowe.

We had a special Good Friday service which took place around the front of the school and finished in chapel.

The chapel wardens were Moynes and de Liniers.

## FIVES

Fives this term has rather suffered from the difficulty of finding enough time in the busy life of the school for meaningful practice. Despite this we had a good win over Ludgrove and the 1<sup>st</sup> Pair clearly had much talent.

At the Prep Schools' Fives competition the 1<sup>st</sup> Pair did well to reach the quarter final where they very narrowly lost to the eventual finalists. They then beat Ludgrove in the quarter-final plate and lost to another Highgate pair in the plate final.

There is a lot of potential throughout the school and we will have to make sure that time is found for the boys to play.

Team: Carrelet (capt.), Moynes, G. Jones, Palling, Bannister ma., Curtis-Green, Hedley, Dhaliwal



## **MUSIC NOTES**

In such a short term, events seem to have taken place in very quick succession. At the start of our production term the entire school enjoyed a school visit to London to learn from the pros! 'The Sound of Music' (jnrs) and 'Les Miserables' (snrs) proved a great afternoon out, an event which I hope we can repeat.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Zak Baydur extended our ever more impressive Associated Board exam results with a distinction pass in clarinet at Grade 3. We wish equal success to the eleven boys who are taking their grades at the end of this term (two at Grade 4 level).

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 14 boys visited Stowe to take part in their prep schools' choral festival. The sound produced by 500+ singers was absolutely amazing and our boys did well to learn the difficult music on the day, well enough to perform the introit anthem ('Litany to the Holy Spirit') at a subsequent Sunday Service. It was good to meet up with some of our old boys, including Oliver Plunket, who now sings tenor in the Stowe Chapel Choir.

The Informal Concert this term was built around the opening, central and ending 'pillars' of ensemble performances given by the Brass Group (+ 'Noisy Tuesday'), the ever improving Clarinet Ensemble, and the Chapel Choir. Among the soloists there were very good performances of difficult Grade 4 pieces from Spencer, Perks and Henderson (piano and singing). Hernandez Parga entertained us with his own keyboard arrangement of 'Axel F' and Baydur gave a memorable performance of 'The Spy Who Came In from the Cold'. There were many other memorable performances which lack of space prevents me from commenting on.

Every anthem sung at this term's Sunday services has been new to the choir's repertory, a tribute to their developing confidence as well as to the hard work of twice weekly rehearsals. The first service of the term included a verse for each form in the school ('Every Star Shall Sing A Carol'). Solos this term have been performed by Hobbs (Litany to the Holy Spirit) and, on Mothering Sunday, by Carrelet (Loving God), who succeeded in striking a sentimental chord in the hearts of the many mothers who were able to attend! Henderson took over from Hobbs as Head Chorister after long leave and I would like to thank them, and to Carrelet who has now stood down as deputy, for their leadership and loyalty.

The musical climax of the term arrived with two wonderful performances of 'The Lion King'. A more detailed review appears elsewhere but, with the experience still fresh in the memory, I can honestly say that I am extremely proud of the contribution made by every single Sunningdale boy. Producing such outstanding performances in addition to their involvement in sports' fixtures, house matches, visiting speakers, scholarship, exams, illness and injury, etc., and in only 6 weeks of rehearsal time is a truly amazing feat. Listening to the recordings, one cannot fail to be impressed by the quality and intensity of delivery in both speech and song. All of the soloists were confident and in their acting, were great to work with, and succeeded in capturing the mood of each part of the story. I know the experience gained will always be with the boys, long after their time at Sunningdale.

Next term we look forward to the Festival of Song and Leavers' Concert as well as concerts by each of our junior forms. There's an exciting Jazz/Gospel choral day at Wellington as well as another special wedding!

## **OLD BOYS NOTES**

Congratulations to Daniel Thornton, Ben Sheppard, William Stanley, Edward Bond and James Norrie on the birth of sons and to Henry Cecil, Tom Barber, Alistair Aboyne and Andrew Norrie on the birth of daughters. Congratulations also to Hugo von Halle on his engagement and Archie Leon on passing his driving test—finally!

Will Sorrell has been coaching fives at Eton and Charles Beaumont is High Sheriff of Northumberland. Alexander Allan is having an exhibition of photographs taken while he was serving in Afganistan.

Alexander Oliver, Jack Weaver, Darren Haskell-Thomas, Guy Bartleet, Munchie Turner are all at Newcastle. They see Fred Milne who is up there as well. Andrew Wilson is captain of cricket at Malborough.

A lot of Old Boys came back for a football match and lunch a couple of weeks ago and played against the staff. The Old boys were triumphant. This is going to be an annual event and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.



## **THE BRITISH SCHOOLBOYS' SKI RACES**



Once again we competed in the Schoolboys ski races and this time we knew what to expect. Our team consisted of George Henderson, Christophe Carrelet, Hugh Hobbs and Elliott Perks. The course was much longer than last year and took us a while to get used to but once acquainted with its turns there was no stopping us. Each boy managed a spectacular wipe out at some stage but also all managed to record excellent downhill times. It is such an exciting competition and a fantastic experience for the boys. There are many younger skiers coming up through the school to fill the boots of this year's team. I would like to thank all our sponsors for making this trip possible.

A.C.D.

## THE 'LION KING'

### A PARENT WRITES:

After the triumphs of recent years – *The Jungle Book* and *Oliver!* – it seemed, on paper, very brave of Sunningdale to take on the ambitious *Lion King*. The musical, by Elton John and Tim Rice, requires nothing less than an evocation of the vast African savannah. It requires masks; there are musically challenging solos – and then there's the tiny problem of staging a stampede of wildebeest. But from the first moment, when the curtain rose on Herbert Dare as Rafiki holding aloft his magic staff, it was clear we were in for a real treat.

We are used to the superb singing at Sunningdale under the direction of Philip Elgie, and when the entire cast filed onto the stage to sing the opening song, *The Circle of Life*, there was a tangible frisson in the audience. But what was so impressive about this production was the quality of acting. The story of Simba, the young lion cub battling to take pride of place begins with the festering rivalry between Mufasa, the Lion King, played with appropriate gravitas by George Jones, and Scar, his envious brother, (Benjamin Darling). It's said that the villain always gets the best lines, but Darling made every one of them count. He was particularly adept at conveying the psychological complications of a character who was at once threatening and inadequate. Zak Baydur was a convincing young Simba, projecting both a bouncy confidence, yet also a thoughtless, impulsive streak. One of the most effective scenes was when Simba and his friends, Nala (Alec Lindsay) and Zazu, the garrulous hornbill (flamboyantly played by Hugh Hobbs), are surrounded by hyenas. Form Va deserve special praise for their genuinely menacing performance. Led by Archie Bannister, Elliott Perks, Nic Billot and Tom Jones, this band of marauders left you in no doubt you'd be stripped to the bone in seconds.

After Mufasa's murder by Scar and Simba's retreat into exile, the musical shifts in tone and there are many comic moments. Now comedy is hard to pull off, but the inspired casting of Harry Locke and Giles Hart as Timon and Pumbaa kept the pace going. Locke's dance to *Wimoweh* – all more the effective in its restraint – had the audience shaking with laughter. Two of the hardest roles in play are, of course, the good guys: the grown up Simba and his lioness Nala, but both Christophe Carrelet and George Henderson were magnificent. Carrelet was superb at showing the strain of guilt of the young lion who thought he had inadvertently caused his father's death. And then there's his voice. He has a heart-rending catch to it that immediately engages the audience's attention and sympathy. At the end of his solo, *Endless Night*, there was the sound of mothers scrabbling around in their handbags for tissues. The reunion with his mother Sarabi, (played with great dignity by Henry Palling), was also especially touching.

But what was so uplifting about *The Lion King* was its strength in numbers. This was a true ensemble in which the whole school was involved and, with the exception of Jacob Hutcheon, the stage manager, actually on the stage. More importantly, everyone looked as if they were enjoying every minute.

The audience couldn't have asked for more.

