

Sports Report: Common Time, Week 3

Tuesday 25th January

Football v St John's Leatherhead (a)

The curtain raiser to second half of the season has certainly set a high standard. The JCA's set a high tempo, retention-based game from the off when in possession and a pressing game to limit the oppositions time and comfort on the ball when without. David showed real threat within the first five minutes chasing after a Scholesesque cross field ball from Laolu. Sadly this, and his next two opportunities ended up in their keeper's hands. Defensively Jack and Seb continued to set the tone, with Seb's work rate unmatched by anyone else on the pitch. They were ably assisted by each combination of Dom, Lukas and Will.

St John's main threat came from long balls via their keeper, with effective marshalling in the midfield (particularly from ever present Jason) limiting their ability to work the ball forwards. Adan continues to impress and matched their physicality whilst retaining his excellent first touch and adding in an improved work rate. Tim looked like he had a clear opportunity at goal when one of their returning defenders ran in to him from behind - a penalty in everyone's eyes but the pair that matters - the referee. Vindication came a few minutes later with David's pace putting him in a familiar position one on one with their keeper. This time he chose to pass to the left and Tim sprinted through to tap home.

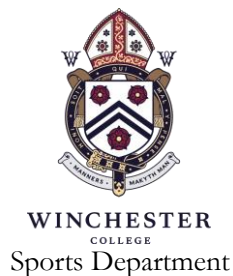
Half time came and the boys were rightly proud of the way they had played and we were looking for more in the second half, with just a few minor tweaks. Laolu doubled our lead with another assist to David as we broke through their defensive line once again. With the game looking relative secure we were unfortunate to concede to a breakaway goal, particularly as Tony had been so strong all day. Tim effectively finished the game with four minutes to go by securing his brace with a composed finish past their keeper after some good build up play from Jason. A deserved win, and more importantly an impressive benchmark for the remaining games this term. W1-3 (JPT)

The YA travelled to Leatherhead with a mixed squad of A/B Players. It took us some time to get used to each other and it was this that cost us a couple of goals in the first half. You cannot fault the boys as the goals came from us playing out from the back. We had chances in the second half and I could not fault the effort the boys were putting in against a really physical team. If Arthur Hampel had put away the penalty won by a great run by Sebastian Kingsbury then we could have made the game interesting in the last 10 minutes.

Conceding a couple more goals was harsh on the boys but I was really pleased with the way we went about playing despite the 4-0 defeat. Some strong individual performances and something for us to build on. (JRD)

Rackets v Clifton College (h)

Ollie Reynolds and Arthur King reformed the old partnership and took on a decent Clifton pair. Despite the long interval since he last played, Ollie managed to serve well and produce significant pace on the ball. Arthur displayed his usual, intelligent play and the pair posted a 3-0 win. Sen Colts, Henry Nicholls and Ollie Frost-stepping up a year, combined well and also managed to win a relatively close match without losing game. All the matches were played in fine spirit with Rupert



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Balmain, Oli Tait and Oscar Oldenhove playing various matches against the opposition with some wins and some losses. (TERC)

Thursday 27th January

Fives: U18A v Oxford University (a)

There were some good games of singles with some close rallies but Winchester came out on top of most of them to take a comfortable lead going in to the doubles. Oxford then pulled some points back beating our first pair in the first doubles game but were unable to repeat their success in the second. Overall a good afternoon of fives. W122-55 (JM)

Hockey: 1st XI v Wellington College 1st XI (a)

A strong start by a well drilled Wellington side saw the boys struggling to get out of their own half in the opening 10 minutes. This pressure was eventually rewarded when a sharp pass into our D was deflected in by their centre forward, lurking on the P spot.

However, to their credit the Winchester boys did not let their heads drop and grew into the game following the early setback. Spells of possession were followed by forays into the Wellington 23, resulting in a short corner as Chris Batten found an opposition foot in their D. In spite of a slightly wayward injection from Batten, Ivan Shatrov calmly converted into the bottom right corner to level the scores at 1 apiece.

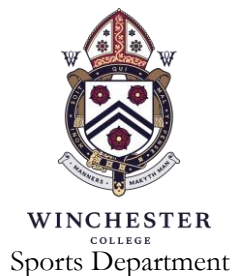
Winchester's intensity remained high as the first half wore on, and the boys could have taken the lead through Will Kent, but for a good save from the Wellington keeper. However, it was unfortunately the home side who were next to strike, as a brilliant run from their right wing was clinically finished off on his reverse stick. While the boys' work rate never faltered, a combination of Wellington's superior positioning, possession and experience began to take its toll as half time loomed. Holes opened up in defence, and the home side needed no second invitation to take full advantage. The resultant short corner was well saved by Mario, but was turned in on the goal line after it fell to a Wellington player in the D.

The halfway mark brought with it the opportunity to regroup and discuss how we could improve in the second half. Playing out from the back and letting the ball do the work the main messages, something that was reflected once we resumed. While Wellington had the majority of both possession and territory, Winchester kept their shape in defence well, and looked a threat on the counter attack, even if the D was not threatened enough for the Wykehamist's liking. It is a great compliment to the boys that it took a miscued aerial and a well-taken finish for the opposition to break through in the second half, the only goal from either side.

Plenty of lessons can be learned from playing against such a strong side, and there were lots of positives that the boys can take into our games after exeat. Thanks as ever to the travelling support, and the coaching and umpiring from Mr Taylor and Mr Conolly. Wilf La Fontaine Jackson (B)

Rackets v Marlborough College (a)

Ollie Gibbon and Archie Sillars, representing the first pair, impressively added an away win to last term's home victory, 3-1. The third pair consisted of Alex Harker and George Nutting. Alex, playing his first senior fixture, calmly worked out the court and put in a solid overall performance. George, unusually served back-hand from the left and this technique helped notch up long runs



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of serve and together, they also completed a gutsy 3-1 victory. Henry Nicholas and Bertie Vallat also savoured their first challenge at senior level and made light work of Marlborough's second pair 3-0.

Junior colts A, Jack Bristowe and Seb Morgan, despite Seb's inexperience, battled well but lost to their opposing pair. Junior colts B pair, a much-improved Lukas Brunner and Rupert Balmain, suffered an unfortunate early injury to Rupert's ankle. Seb and Jack gallantly took it in turns to step in and the final result was a closely fought 3 -2 victory.

Basketball: U16A vs Wellington College (h)

This was the second time that the U16s had faced Wellington this season and it was a much more closely fought game than the first. In fact, it was only daft errors that stopped the U16s from taking their first win. Etuokwo led the way offensively. His skilful work in the post took him to 14 points before injury side-lined him for much of the crucial 4th quarter. Other highlights included Bowden's athletic rebounding, intelligent defensive adjustments by Sadie and a warrior-like performance from Uwamu whose intensity, commitment and work ethic set the standard for the rest of the team to follow. Ultimately, however, although the team is getting better, calmness under pressure and execution of fundamentals still need improvement. Both of these factors come with experience though, and there are plenty of games coming up in which the team can continue to develop. L34-41 (LNT)

Squash v Charterhouse (h)

U18s L 2-3

U14s L 4-5

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th January

Fives: National U25s Championships at Cambridge University

Fresh from their success at the West of England Schools' Fives Championships, Marcus Cloke Browne (B) and Shiloh Wu (E) decided to show the Fives world just how good they are and gain some top quality experience at the U25s championships, run by OW James Smith (E, 2009-2014) and featuring Tom Watkinson (I, 2010-2015) as number 2 seed in the Singles.

Both Marcus and Shiloh faced top quality opposition, seeds 7 and 6 respectively, in their first round games and despite giving good accounts of themselves were unable to progress in the main draw. As a result the plate competition beckoned, involving a lot of Fives as each boy played seven games to win through a group stage and find themselves facing off in the Plate Final on the second morning. Inevitably, given how well they know each other's games, a marathon ensued before Shiloh came from behind to win 2-15, 15-13, 15-7.

Exhausted by their efforts on the hot Cambridge courts, they then had to find some energy for the Doubles competition. A comfortable first round victory earned them the chance to take on the number 3 seeds. They gave a very good account of themselves in losing 15-5, 15-9 to talented and more experienced players but also "won" the opportunity to take part in the plate competition. Fast forward several hours and they were in a plate final for the second time in the day. Their opponenets were the Cambridge University 1st pair, playing on their home courts, and yet the

schoolboys won 15-8, 15-4. As the Master-in-charge reported back in Short Half they really have learnt to play like adults.

A really good weekend of Fives from Marcus and Shiloh who, unlike their older opponents, can have another seven or so goes at winning the main competition titles! (JM)



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

Sporting quote for the week:

“What to do with a mistake: recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it.”. (Dean Smith, Former US College Basketball Coach at University of North Carolina)

M.S. Burley

Director of Sport

Winchester College

1st February 2022

Twitter: @WinCollSports