



EBC SPORT

# MT23 SPORTS NEWS



Another extraordinary Michaelmas term of sport completed with more than 500 pupils competing in 11 sports, 41 teams and 200 fixtures across weekend, mid-week and cup matches. There are some wonderful stories and experiences enjoyed by so many pupils thanks to the dedication, innovation and support of staff which allowed for so many opportunities whether in competitive sport or just being active and healthy. Fixtures bring competition, journeys, bonding and so much more: a real joy to behold. And, for some, they brought the latter stages of national cups. So much is down to hard work, skill and sometimes a little bit of (deserved) luck! Being part of the experiences shown in the photos and reports (including house sport and end-of-term colours and awards) is so enjoyable. I thank all those who have helped and, in particular, thank you to Charlie Watt who helps pull this newsletter together.

All of us involved in College sport hope you have had a fantastic holiday; we can't wait to see what 2024 has to offer!

Happy new year.

Mike Harrison, Director of Sport

# HOCKEY

The girls 1st XI has continued to impress their loyal band of supporting parents with some excellent performances since half term. Winning 50 per cent of their matches overall, the team play an open and attacking style. Highlights since half term are a convincing 4-0 cup win v Cranbrook which demonstrated how the team has improved over the term (when they played in the block fixture on the first weekend the score was 3-3). This set up a regional fourth round (semi-final) match with Ardingly. This was an exciting and end-to-end open game which finished with Ardingly winning 5-3. The ISHC Plate Competition is now at the last 16 stages, and the girls will travel to Bedford Girls' School in late January where, if they win, they will secure a visit to the Plate finals day in Nottingham in February. One of the best games of the season was played at Rugby School in front of a large crowd (Eastbourne were invited to play in their 'guest match'). Rosie Hill (Year 10) and top goal-scorer Upper Sixth pupil Ella Panayiotou (14 goals) scored as Eastbourne beat Rugby 2-1. However, the player of the match was Bertie Cooke (Year 10) who was outstanding in goal. There have been many notable performances this season and explains why those who have received half or full colours are mentioned later in this newsletter.

The 2nd XI season ended with wins over Lancing and Brighton U16B as well as a frustrating draw with Bede's in a game they should have won if they had been more clinical in the attacking D. The girls mentioned on the colours pages with half and full colours have been awarded for two and, in some cases, three years playing in the 2nd XI.

Other notable team performances are the U15Bs who lost only two games from seven, and the U14A who have been competitive in every match on a strong circuit, which augurs well for Eastbourne hockey.

The boys 1st XI pre-season programme has been coming along well. Cup matches v Ardingly and St George's in the first week back will be a tough test at the start of the Lent term.

My thanks to all the girls and the staff who have been involved in the hockey programme.

I wish you all a very restful Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Rob Hill, Director of Hockey



# RUGBY

The rugby teams have shown throughout the term the character that Eastbourne rugby is known for: a never-give-up attitude. Over 200 boys have competed in the 60 fixtures played this term with over 55 per cent won. The development of players has been very impressive as has the attitude to improve whether in the contact form of the game or touch rugby. All players deserve credit for the way they have put their bodies on the line game after game, and plaudits have to go to the 1st XV playing sometimes three times in a week. Not only have the 1st XV won six from 11 this term, but also enjoyed a third consecutive successful run in the National Cup. After the National Bowl final three years ago and a quarter final last year, the side had a run to the last 16 this year. In superb game on College Field, and having been 10 points down at half time, they took the lead only to lose by a point in the dying minutes. Having been just two matches from Twickenham it was tough to take, but very proud of the style and way the boys fought to the end. Despite the weather frustrating us on the weekend blocks at times, the 2nd XV has impressively won five from six this season, playing some excellent rugby. All teams are worthy of mention with nine teams having won 50 per cent or better during the season. The U16A (four wins) and U15A (five wins) and U14A and B (three wins each) have led the way. Good luck to the U15As in the next round of the National Plate next term.

Olly Torri, Director of Rugby



# TENNIS

The tennis team has enjoyed another exciting and busy Michaelmas term. The team has been training very hard on Powell courts and at the David Lloyd Club while getting strong in the gym. Friendly fixtures have also been played in preparation for the Winter Schools Nationals (LTA Youth Schools Years 11 to 13 Competition) and the National Premier League (NPL).

This is the first time in the school's history that we have entered a school team in the NPL. The NPL is the highest standard Winter Tennis League in Great Britain, with past and current professional players entered in this league. So far we have played some prestigious teams including St George's Hill, Roehampton and Cumberland. Matches to come include Queen's Club, the National Tennis Centre, Westside and Campden Hill.

In the Winter School Nationals, the girls team won their first match against Bede's while the last match against Collyers has been rescheduled for the Lent term.

There has also been lots of individual success throughout the term. Emma Grantham (Lower Sixth) won a Grade 3 U18 singles tournament at Billingham Tennis Club, while Ellen Steiner (Year 10) won the Grade 3 consolation singles draw at Woking. In this same tournament, Rebecca Fisher (Upper Sixth) was the runner-up in the main draw of this singles tournament. Becky also came third at a Grade 3 CourtX tournament played in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Becky and Gaby Pacheco-Lagoda (Year 10) teamed up in the West Worthing Grade 3 tournament to win the consolation draw. The following week, Gaby also came second in an U18s Grade 3 doubles tournament in West Worthing.

Gaby also qualified for Loughborough ITF tournament after being injured and not playing for a month. Speaking of injuries, Emma and Daisy Barrow (Lower Sixth) have made fantastic comebacks after ankle injuries earlier in the term to play NPL matches for the school. Becky, despite being injured at the start of the term, and no longer being able to hit a two-handed backhand, has also continued to be successful and play the NPL matches competitively. Daisy and Gaby also represented the Sussex in the County Cup Tournament, helping to win and promote the county to division three. Additionally, one of our own members of staff, Amelia Davies, also represented her county, Somerset, and played some great tennis.

To finish off the term, Annabel McKenna (Upper Sixth) and Becky have been in the filming studios making tennis videos to send to potential American Universities. Both are looking at attending American universities on tennis scholarships. A very exciting prospect indeed.

Congratulations to all the tennis players this term on their achievements and efforts.

Simon Gent, Head of Tennis



# SWIMMING

The swim team enjoyed another masterclass swim clinic with retired England and Commonwealth swimmer Ed Baxter. This focused on technical elements of our swimmers' strokes for a two-hour pool session followed by a session from England S&C swimming performance coach Rob Norman.

A special mention must go to Matt Clark (Year 11) who, with the continued support of Eastbourne Swimming Club, raced in the Winter Swimming National Finals in Sheffield in the last days and weekend of term. Achieving some personal best times was incredible and reward for the hard work.

Jess Simmonds, Head of Swimming



# GOLF

## v Hurstpierpoint College Thursday 21 September 23

The team begin their pursuit once more in the ISGA Matchplay Competition, taking on Hurstpierpoint in the first round. Three singles matches involved George Shakespeare, Archie Shakespeare and Oliver May. With a pleasant day to be on the course, George and Archie both won their matches 9 and 7, playing well. Oliver May faced tough opposition but found himself one up with three to play. The match went to 17 where Oliver made a fantastic putt from 14 feet to win the match. A win for Eastbourne, they will go to the second round and also welcome Hurst back once more in the HMC Competition. That game resulted in a G Shakespeare and A Shakespeare won 6 and 5, O Tutt and M Chu won 5 and 4, A Shah and A Photiou won 4 and 3 Great results on a windy and occasionally damp afternoon.



## v Seaford College Tuesday, 21 November 23

Match result: Ollie lost 7 and 6, Archie won 2 and 1, George won 4 and 3. This match felt like it should have been the final with six talented golfers playing. Ollie was already 6 down by the turn against a very experienced opponent and eventually conceded on the 12th. The other matches were close: all square and 1 up to Eastbourne at the turn. But both George and Archie played very well against very tough opponents. George won on the 15th and, in almost total darkness, Archie rolled a putt to a few inches to secure a par on the 17th and the win and through to the regional final.

Alex Roberts, Head of Golf



# In Other News...



## Badminton

A good second half to the term, ending with a 6-3 win for the seniors v Tonbridge having been soundly beaten by them at the start of term, so evidence of progress which is great to see. A convincing win against a developing EBC staff team (we'll be back) and a great 21-23 match v Lancing are other highlights. We also benefited greatly from a coaching masterclass from Heather Olver, ex-England Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist and Olympic player, and are looking forward to more training with Heather in the new year. More fixtures for juniors in the pipeline and much to look forward to...

Tim Clark, Head of Badminton

## Basketball

Basketball this term has started off on fire! Wins in the National Schools Cup including away wins at both Ardingly and Brighton mean that, for the first time in school basketball history, EBC will progress to the next round of a national basketball competition. This fantastic achievement has been highlighted by big performances by leading scorers Daniel Li and Caedmon Myeni.

As well as success during fixtures, the culture within the basketball programme is at an all time high with both development and performance groups improving week by week and building their trust and togetherness as a team.

Coach Ian Berry is extremely proud of the start to the year and excited to continue to build into the next term and beyond.

Luke Flanagan, Head of Basketball



## Football

Football have played in cup and friendly matches in readiness for the full season starting in January, with wins in recent weeks against Bede's and Battle Abbey School for Boys.

With four senior teams and two U16 teams, there are lots of boys preparing themselves for next term.

Nik Clark, Head of Football

# In Other News...

## Netball

The 1st VII and U15 and U14 teams have played this term in the national cups and enjoyed some pre-season training with some continuing to play in the Eastbourne adult league.

All the girls are very much looking forward to next term and the full netball season.

Lisa Price, Director of Netball



## Fencing

Two matches this term and great to see so many involved. More of the same next term, we hope, and we look forward to welcoming new players to the sport.

Abigail Ball, Head of Fencing



## Squash

After a superb inter-house boys squash, the squash team enjoyed a busy term of six fixtures and was able to field a strong team, led by captain Oliver Edmead playing in his third season and now at number one. The highlight of the season was the nail-biting, narrow win against Brighton College which came down to a fifth-game decider in the final match. The team also recorded won at Hurst and drew at Lancing, schools we were playing for the first time in many years. We look forward to continuing to build out the fixture card in future seasons. The girls are up next!

Jon Bathard-Smith, Head of Squash





# Simon Green Cup for Endeavour

With normally one or two winners in each term, there is often no recognition for pupils who have been shortlisted or recommended by staff for the award. This term, for their endeavour in sport, the following pupils should be recognised for showing the characteristics required to be shortlisted and should be very proud of what they have achieved:

Serena Patel (U14A hockey)

Bertie Cooke (1st XI hockey)

Amelia Hunt (swimming)

Jamie Foks (swimming)

Hector Lawson (U15B rugby)



Eliza Jones (Blackwater Y13).

The winners of the Simon Green Cup picked from the short list epitomise what the Cup is about.

The first recipient of the award this term is Marcus Skyrme. He has quite simply defined endeavour over his last two rugby seasons. In the Lower Sixth he did not make the 1st XV and spent most his time honing his craft, working tirelessly each week on improving his performance in the Bucks XV. In addition to the regular training, he has attended extra sessions frequently and has gradually compounded many micro-improvements, understanding that, for any future potential selection, he might have to accept a process of delayed gratification. This year his investment of effort has paid dividends: he has represented the 1st XV for the entirety of the term. Almost more impressive is the fact that, following his selection and attaining a 1st XV starting position, his investment of effort has continued unabated. It is often considered human nature to become satisfied when a target has been reached, but not for Marcus. His continued effort and commitment to improving himself over the last two years has quite simply been the embodiment of endeavour.

Oliver Torri, Director of Rugby

Eliza Jones has played for three years in the 1st XI hockey team and has captained the 1st XI this year. She has a fantastic attitude to training and is always keen to motivate and encourage those around her to mirror her work rate and desire to try new skills. She always plays and trains with a smile on her face, and this contagious sense of fun and enjoyment of playing (all sports) creates a very positive and engaging atmosphere within the group. She has played for East Grinstead Talent Academy on the England Talent Pathway and is also a key player in the 1st netball squad who have played in the National Cup this term and have their season ahead next term.

Rob Hill, Director of Hockey



# Full Colours

## Rugby

Alexander Bailey, William Daniels, Samuel Hamilton and  
Jack Greig (c)

## Hockey

Ella Panayiotou, Eliza Jones (c), Sophie Fellows, Kirsty  
Williams, Evie Clayson and Millie Bonnar

## Squash

Oliver Edmead

## Equestrian

Rueben Mace



# Half Colours

## Rugby

Laurence Callow, Michael Abourous, Max Crowther, Sean Foster, Tom McDonald, Marcus Skyrme, Will Steed, Alfie Hunter and Ben Chambers

## Hockey

Olivia Reeves, Tiggy Tutt, Daisy Dunkley, Milly Bateman, Holly Mitchell, Kayla Ginger, Sophia Marshall and Izzy Pedley

## Squash

Alex Davies and Ridley Flind

# HOUSE RESULTS

GIRLS HOUSE RESULTS - MT23 STANDINGS  
 WATT WIN THE TERM COMP BY JUST 1 POINT!



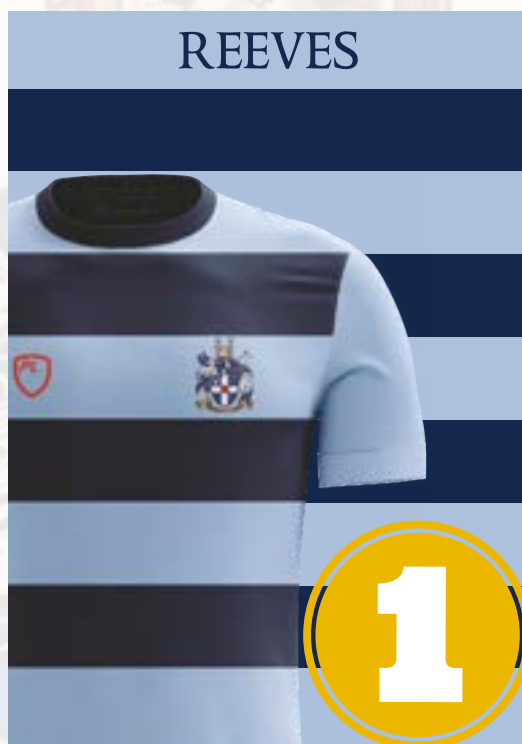
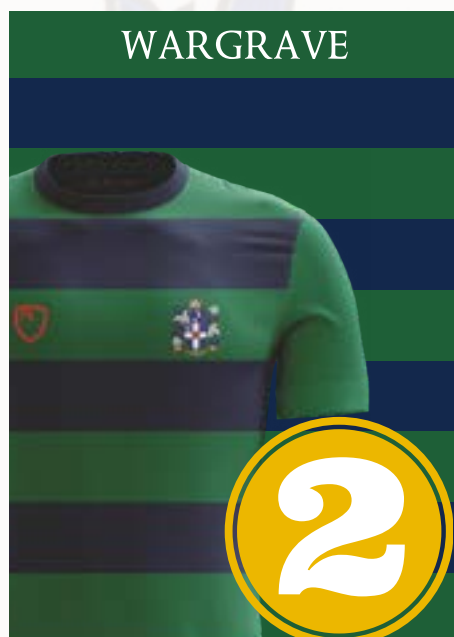
Aquathlon	Steeplechase	Fives	Hockey	Rowing
1. Watt	1. Watt	1. Watt	1. Blackwater	1. Blackwater
2. Nugent	2. Blackwater	2. Blackwater	2. School	2. School
3. School	3. School	3. Nugent	3. Watt	3. Nugent
4. Blackwater	4. Nugent	4. School	4. Nugent	4. Watt



# HOUSE RESULTS

BOYS HOUSE RESULTS - MT23 STANDINGS

ONLY 18 POINTS SEPARATE THE TOP 5!



Aquathlon	Steeplechase	Rowing	Rugby	Swimming	Squash
1.Craig	1.Craig	1.Reeves	1.Wargrave	1.Powell	1.Powell
2.Gonville	2.Reeves	2.Gonville	2.Reeves	2.Gonville	2.Reeves
3.Powell	3=Gonville& 3.Craig	3.Craig	3.Craig	3=Pennell& 3.Craig	3.Craig
4.Pennell	Wargave	4.Wargrave	4.Gonville	Reeves	4.Pennell
5.Reeves	4.Powell	5.Pennell	5.Powell	4.Wargrave	5.Gonville
6.Wargrave	5.Pennell	6.Powell	6.Pennell	5.Craig	6.Wargrave

