

The Register



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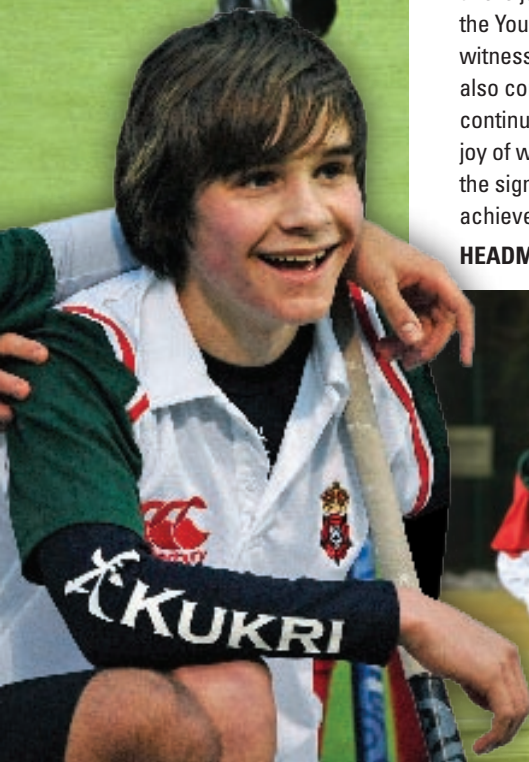
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL GUILDFORD



The Headmaster writes...

The Register provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many successes of groups and teams at the RGS in so many spheres whether it be academia, sport, music, drama or service to others. The highest ever number of Oxbridge offers is a wonderful testament to the talent and hard work of both pupils and staff and yet this is just one example of notable RGS success this term. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the Young Musician of the Year will have been astounded at the quality of musicianship, as would those who witnessed the mental agility of RGS boys in the recent debate at the House of Lords. Our individual sportsmen also continue to gain honours in sports as diverse as shooting, athletics and judo, whilst our mathematicians continue to gain national recognition. Indeed, it is this impressive array of achievement that reminds one of the joy of working at a school full of such talented pupils and in this edition we have an opportunity to recognise the significant individual talents which our boys display. I would like to congratulate the pupils whose achievements are recorded here and to thank them for bringing such distinction to the School.

HEADMASTER





A Cause for Celebration

The Quincentennial Hockey Festival proved to be a festival in more ways than one. A family day of entertainment involving staff, parents and boys provided the backdrop to an afternoon of fine hockey with 11 teams competing against Tonbridge School ranging from an Under 14C team all the way through to senior level. The festival

culminated in the battle of the respective first elevens. The RGS played at a blistering pace, with the standard of individual skill and tactical awareness at times breathtaking. Buoyed by the partisan support, the RGS 1st XI secured a comprehensive 5-0 victory, with goals from **Nicholas Cooper**, **Jonathan Jackson**, **Benjamin Littlejohns**

and **Stefan von Hänisch**. The game underlined the commitment and skill of the boys and the dedication and inspiration of Head of Hockey, **Karl Stagno**.

The School was honoured to be asked to play prior to the Varsity Hockey Match at Southgate Hockey Club against Repton as a continuation of the School's 500th celebrations. The RGS emerged victorious winning 2-0, playing once again some sublime hockey. The School was represented at all levels with **Matthew Wood** (OG) playing for Oxford and **Stuart Jackson** (OG) the captain of Cambridge. It was a particularly special occasion for the Jackson family as Stuart and his brother, **Jonathan Jackson**, were both involved in the varsity celebrations.





Coming in from the cold

The School was delighted to welcome back **Dr Ed Coats** (OG) to deliver this term's King's Lecture, tickets for which were snapped up within 24 hours. Dr Coats, who is a doctor of obstetrics and gynaecology, left the RGS in 1998. He came to national prominence when he was selected to join James Cracknell and Ben Fogle on their epic race to the South Pole. Ed's lecture *Racing to the bottom of the world: a time to think* provided insight into the history of polar exploration

and he described in thrilling detail the South Pole Race, as well as his training for it. Anecdotes included insight into the 'snow bath', freshening up in the snow in temperatures dipping below minus 40; the average bath-time for this naked ritual was less than a minute, understandably! The evening proved to be genuinely inspirational – and humbling – and proved what commitment, ambition and, of course, a decent RGS education can achieve!

You must be stoking

One of the most entertaining of the quinquennial events provided the opportunity for the School to celebrate the keen sense of humour of RGS students, although the staff might not be so quick to appreciate the comic diversity of the students! The OG comedy night, *You Must Be Stoking*, held at The Stoke Pub, offered plenty of laughs to a crowd of regulars from the pub as well as Old Guildfordians and RGS staff. Hosted by **Paul Kerensa** (OG 1997) and featuring **Mackenzie Taylor** (OG 1997) and **Adrian Mackinder** (OG 1996), the stand-up comedy show was a tribute to the RGS in its 500th year. Not to be outdone by the acts, several rib-tickling jokes were offered by the audience with strong representation from RGS staff!



War of the words

The Inter-House Debating Finals provided the memorable opportunity for almost fifty boys, from Second to Upper Sixth Forms, and staff to descend on Black Rod's Garden at the House of Lords as guests of Lord Freeman. The standard of the debates was very high: the eight speakers demonstrated a remarkable ability to argue in abstractions, their speeches peppered with classical, biblical, historical and literary allusions, as well as some very deft turns of phrase. In the semi-finals, Beckingham persuaded the audience that Austen's proposition that *loyalty prevents progress* was worth opposing. In the second semi, Hamonde narrowly persuaded the audience that Nettles' belief that *political parties are the curse of democracy* was not to be supported. In the final, Beckingham, **Tomas Eisentstadt** and **William Clarke**, won the day over Hamonde, **Jonathan Chapman** and **Thomas O'Brien**, by persuading the audience that we should have confidence in the Other Place. The adjudication and awarding of the trophy and prizes were carried out by Lord Freeman who followed this with a most informative and enjoyable tour of the House.



Sell-out audiences were privileged to enjoy **Mike Paterson**'s ambitious production of *Nicholas Nickleby* as part of the 500th anniversary celebrations. The cast of over 60 pupils from the RGS, Tormead and Guildford High School, threw themselves into this tense, fast-paced and emotional drama with gusto. **Oliver Loughran**'s Ralph Nickleby was played with great malice and world-weariness, whilst **David Parry** as Nicholas was a commanding figure who held the narrative together. Comic turns from the Toms, **Woffenden** and **Waghorn**, as the Cheeryble twins, and **Alexander Simmons** as the amiable luvvy, Mr Crummles contrasted sharply with the venomous Mr Squeers, played magnificently by **William Clarke**. **Charles Hunt** delivered a heart-wrenching performance as Smike, while **Matthew Day**'s gentle and indomitably good-hearted Noggs helped lead the play to a happy conclusion. The continuous action, made possible by the creative use of the revolving stage, was amplified by the many actors who stepped in and out of various characters to act as narrators. **David Reeson**, and **Alexander Bowes** to name but two, carried the play along, with one of the most memorable performances of all from young **William Cowie**, dominating the stage as a narrator and as the spoilt, pie guzzling Wackford Squeers Junior.



Stage Right



Mellow Cello

The School's most talented musicians recently competed in one of the premier music events in the RGS calendar, the final of the RGS Musician of the Year Competition. **Richard Elson** (violin) got the competition off to a flying start with Elgar and some spectacular fireworks with *La Vida Breve* by de Falla. **Peter Baumann** (horn) impressed with a considered Beethoven Sonata; **Cyrus Dromgoole-Cavazzi** (clarinet) enthralled with his sinuous Poulenc; and **Cameron Millar** (violin) gave a mature performance of the fiendishly difficult Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. In the words of Neville Creed, distinguished choral conductor and musical director of the London Philharmonic Chorus, this was 'no ordinary school concert'. After lengthy discussion, **Joseph Butler** (cello) was crowned RGS Musician of the Year for his moving performances of the Elgar Cello Concerto, Shostakovich Sonata and Bach Prelude.

This year's French trip was enjoyed by 71 boys from the First and Second Forms, led by **Charlotte Smith** and six staff. Heavy snowfall on the first night resulted in a massive snowball fight initiated, of course, by the staff. Despite all their best laid plans, and advance stock-piling of snowballs, the staff team was severely outgunned by the boys. The boys enjoyed activities including archery, fencing, climbing, and the famous assault course but the unexpected highlight was bread making. Cultural opportunities abounded including the market in Granville where the boys seemed to eat their body weight in locally produced sausages, chips and crêpes, and the captivating beauty and fascinating history of Mont St Michel. Highlights of the evening activities were the treasure hunt and a talent show won by **Timothy Foster** who delivered a brilliant monologue on the frustrations of modern life! The French immersion was completed with the boys, even those initially nervous, sampling the French delicacy, snails.



Vive La France



Enterprising Characters

Sum Achievement



RGS mathematicians have been flexing their academic muscles regionally and nationally in recent months. In the Guildford Schools Maths Competition, the Second Form Team of **Louis Erritt, Joel Hinde** and **Matthew Major** came first out of the ten schools that were competing. An RGS team of Sixth Form students comprising **Laurence Barrott, James McCallion, Sunil Ghosh** and **Ryan Mullarkey** won the Regional Final of the UK Senior Team Maths Challenge against the competition of 20 schools. This success led to their invitation to the final of the National Maths Team Challenge. A team of five lower sixth form boys, **Stefan Curtress, Luke Hinde, Alexander McWilliam, Thomas Rees** and **Oliver Smith**, represented the RGS at the Surrey Schools AS Maths Challenge. The event attracted an entry of around 50 schools from all over the county but despite the competition, the RGS team emerged victorious. **Sunil Ghosh** and **Ryan Mullarkey** both received bronze medals in the British Mathematical Olympiad, placing them in the top 100 candidates from the 1,039 sixth formers who entered. Both have been invited through to the next round, the results of which are used to select a team of six to represent Britain at the International Maths Olympiad.

Despite the economic doom and gloom, the sixth form Young Enterprise companies have bucked the trend and enjoyed a financially lucrative few months as they have competed for success both within and outside the walls of the School. The companies have all proved their professionalism as well as their financial and business acumen with recent successes. **Core** won the regional Dragons' Den competition when Managing Director **James Ashcroft** pitched for investment with deputy MD **Jeremy Mulliez** and they were

awarded top prize with a cheque for £100 from Young Enterprise UK. The Surrey Young Enterprise Trade Fair, known as *The Y Factor*, was attended by the Mayors of Guildford, Waverley and Woking, a panel of judges from businesses throughout Surrey and a wide range of schools. RGS companies, **Aardvark** and **Core**, swept the board in all except one of the judged events, winning Best eAdvert, Best Company, Best Product and were placed second and third for best stand, collecting a total of £175 in prize money.



Higher Calling

According to Douglas Adams in his book, *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*, the answer to Life, the Universe and Everything is 42; for RGS students it also represented the number of Oxbridge offers achieved this year. The total, a new School record, eclipsing the previous best of 36, comprised 24 offers from Oxford and 18 from Cambridge and brought the total number of offers in the past six years to 200. Offers were achieved in a wide variety of subjects

with Mathematics leading the way with 7 offers, closely followed by History (5) and Classics and Natural Science (4 each). **Peter Dunscombe**, Head of Careers and Higher Education, commented: 'These outstanding results come at a time when the numbers of applications to both universities have risen by over 10% and are a testament to the intellectual flexibility and academic curiosity of those fortunate enough to have been offered places.'



*On top of
their game*



Hockey at the RGS has continued to flourish with a succession of individual and team successes throughout the term. The 1st XI, unbeaten since January 2007, won the prestigious Surrey Cup for the first time in the School's history. After finishing top of the qualifying group, victories against Kingston Grammar and Cranleigh led to a convincing 4-1 victory over a very strong and talented Whitgift team in the final. The RGS played

throughout the tournament with sweeping passing movement and a fluidity which has been the trademark of the team all year. The 1st XI then progressed to the southern round of the national cup and initially won the group phase only to be knocked out frustratingly in the quarter finals on penalty flicks.

The School has continued to nurture players who not only perform at the highest level for

the School but also go on to perform in the county, national and professional leagues. **Nicholas Cooper** and **Thomas Griffith** (OG) are currently playing for the Surbiton 1st XI in the premiership and Nicholas has also got an England U21 trial. **William Baker**, **Paul Bennett** and **Alexander Russell** (OGs) are all in the Surbiton Academy and have represented their county.

Adventurous Training

Over half-term, 16 cadets from all three services and three officers from the RGS CCF, **Ed Bush**, **Tom Shimell** and **Steve Yetman**, travelled to Germany to take part in Exercise Winter Venturer 4 (Tiger). Severe weather in Munich led to an eventful start with a cancelled flight, aborted landing, a closed runway, and poor driving conditions on the autobahns leading to an arrival in Sonthofen six hours later than expected. After this, the exercise ran to programme with excellent off-piste skiing conditions on three days, the snow shoe ascent of the Helikopf (2,200 metres), successful avalanche drills and a challenging introduction to langlaufing. **Steve Yetman** commented; 'The boys worked really well together, were very positive in their attitude throughout and excelled in some demanding tasks.'



On target



RGS has continued its distinguished tradition in shooting with **William Hutton** and **Christopher Milton** becoming the School's 21st and 22nd Athelings since 1962. The Athelings (from the Old English word meaning prince or lord) is the title given to UK Cadets, aged under 19 years, who have been successful in the sport of target rifle shooting and who represent Great Britain. Christopher has been a member of the School's VIII for five years, and he has represented Surrey, the Home Counties and England at smallbore, and was selected for the GB U18 team at fullbore. William has represented Surrey and the Home Counties at smallbore, and he is now representing his country at U19 level at fullbore. **David Woolcott**, master in charge of shooting commented: 'It is testament to the dedication and focus of these boys that they have been chosen to represent their country. Their achievements, and those of the previous Athelings, will serve as an inspiration to RGS boys for many years to come.'



Sports shorts

Angus Groom has won a sports scholarship to Durham University for rowing; this is one of only 12 on offer.

Jonathan Hay was part of the England team competing in a European cross-country event in Spain. He returned with a gold medal from the U20 race.

Thomas Hilton-Stephens was selected for the London and South-East rugby squad in the Divisional Festivals and following his involvement in the England U16 rugby training camp, was invited back to join the England 'A' squad.

Joshua Voller was selected to represent Great Britain at the international Optimist sailing regatta in Palamos, Spain.

Charles Warren was one of just seven young cricketers selected for Hampshire CCC's Emerging Players Programme, involving weekly coaching at the Rose Bowl with one of Hampshire's specialist coaches.

Benedict Wigmore competed in the Millenium League Judo Competition. He won a superb gold medal in the 66 kg and over category despite being the lightest in this weight group.



Racing certainties

Six members of the RGS ski squad, under the guidance of master in charge, **Steve Yetman**, and comprising **Rupert Fitzsimmons**, **Bryn Griffiths**, **Andrew Hayward**, **Edward Hiorns**, **Tristan Hughes** and **Thomas Vincent**, recently raced in the British Schoolboys' Overseas Ski Competition in Meiringen Hasliberg in

Switzerland. This event is the highlight of the British School's skiing calendar with all the major public schools represented as well as an increasing number of state schools. The boys took part in both a slalom and giant slalom competition in difficult conditions created by a blizzard that restricted visibility

to less than two gates ahead. The boys trained hard and approached the event in a very professional manner, getting up at 6.20 a.m. every day to be on the piste in time for the essential course inspection. **Bryn Griffiths** impressed gaining the bronze medal in the combined event for non BASS-rated skiers.

The annual senior ski trip saw a large number of sixth form boys, a few enthusiastic, relaxed members of staff under the watchful guidance of **Tony Dubois**, and some girls for good measure, taking over a village in the valley of Serre Chevalier in the French Alps for a week of intense skiing. Despite relatively poor snow conditions, the RGS students enthusiastically hit the pistes resplendent in Canterbury kit, the traditional ski-trip hoodie and numerous flamboyant, colourful outfits. The limited snow did not hamper the enjoyment and there was still enough snow for some excellent skiing, some 180s, some 360s, concussion, and a broken arm. Apart from sneaking out after the curfew on one occasion, the teachers were mostly well behaved, and the trip proved to be a great success.



Ice and easy

Celebrating in style



On the Bard's birthday, the English Society welcomed thirty-seven Upper Sixth formers, parents, staff and their guests to celebrate the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns (1759-96). After a dramatic, knife-waving "Address to the Haggis" by **Catherine Moorehead**, the main toast was proposed, in a witty, literary, speech, mainly about sheep, by **Jeremy Whittaker**. This was followed by a characteristically humorous and up-front "Toast to the Lassies" by **Greg Schofield**, replied to by the spectacular double act of **Amanda Thomas** and **Lucy Simpson**. Other highlights were **Jonathan Chapman's** theatrical rendition of "To A Louse", **Tomas Eisenstadt's** meaningful version of the incomprehensible elegy to Burns's favourite sheep, and **Richard Lingard's** thoughtful "Address to the Toothache". The catering staff produced an exceptional four course meal, served impeccably. A number of the boys took the trouble to hire highland dress for the occasion, to add to a much enjoyed and colourful night.



And finally

Charles Scott has recently returned from South Africa where he was selected, by the governing body of professional polo, to attend a Young England development squad intensive training course. Charles was one of five 15/16 year olds selected to train with South Africa's leading international player and coach. Charles has played polo for six years and has participated in both junior polo and senior competitive tournaments. His most notable achievements to date include being on the winning side of the Under 21 Cup in 2009 at Cowdray Park Polo Club, and representing Young England in the Stags Head trophy at Ham Polo Club in 2008.

