

The Register

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL GUILDFORD



The Headmaster writes...



The end of an academic year is an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the achievements, both big and small, which the boys at the RGS have enjoyed since last September. This edition of *The Register* provides a real sense of the vast array of activities that take place at the RGS and, as a microcosm of such pursuits, this year's Sports Day marvellously illustrated what I believe is the wonderful spirit of the School. The pride and passion that the boys showed in competing for their respective Houses and, indeed, the tremendous support from the boys in the stand made for a wonderful spectacle. Whether it was the tug-of-war, the First Form shuttle relay or the senior 100 metres race, all the events showed the camaraderie and competitiveness of the boys and the enthusiasm of the staff.

There are many other examples of the RGS ethos conveyed in the pages to follow and I hope you enjoy reading about them. It really has been a memorable year and a thoroughly enjoyable term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and relaxing summer: the boys richly deserve a good break.





Record breakers

Sports Day proved to be as fiercely contested as ever, as boys represented their Houses in the annual competition. With ranked lines of supporters colourfully sporting house colours from the stand, the boys' energy levels were replenished by ice-cream as required! On the track and field, there were some outstanding performances with a number of school records being broken. **Gus Cockle** shattered the 1500 metre record with a time of 4.34.03, **Alastair Adams-Cairns** ran an outstanding time of 11.03 in the 100 metres, and **Jack Clifford** won the shot with a new record of 13.51 metres. The longest standing school record dates back to 1936 in the Junior Long Jump with a distance of 5.84 metres! As well as demonstrating the boys' athletic prowess, there was also the opportunity for brawn, ably supported by brain, to take centre stage in the eagerly anticipated tug-of-war: comedy and skill were present in equal measure. Sports Day finished with Powell deservedly winning the shield, presented to Powell House Captain, **William Russell**, by the Mayor of Guildford.



The bees' knees

The RGS team, *The Troggs*, beat eleven other local schools to win the local heat of *The Times Spelling Bee* and progressed to the National Semi-Finals. The First Form team comprised **George Glover**, **Nicholas Hall**, **Charlie Moores** and **Alexander Peer** and they each received a certificate and a medal to mark their achievement. *The*

Troggs then came third in the extremely competitive National Semi-Finals. **Lucy Simpson** from the English Department commented: "The standard was incredibly high; the boys did remarkably well to tackle challenging words such as metatarsal, resuscitate, sacrosanct, fluorescent, ebullient, roux and bucolic."



Six of the best

Avid readers from the First, Second and Third Forms attended the School's annual CILIP Carnegie Medal shadowing event. The Carnegie Medal is awarded each year to the writer of an outstanding book for children, and was established in 1936 in memory of the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The boys involved in shadowing the judges had each read a number of books from the shortlist of six, and had posted reviews on the wiki set up for the purpose. Jason Wallace's debut novel

Out of Shadows was a close runner-up with the boys. **George Clark** said: "I thought that it was a bold first novel which captured the different characters' personalities excellently. The best of these were the slow transformation of Robert Jacklin from good to bad and the shady, reckless Ivan." On the day, the boys gave a short presentation for each book, and the winner was announced as the RGS boys' favourite, *Monsters of Men* by Patrick Ness.



Purely academic



In this year's International Chemistry Olympiad the RGS achieved 19 medals in total; this is by far the highest number the School has ever achieved. Upper Sixth Form boys **James Boneham**, **Jamie Crawford** and **Ryan Mullarkey** were awarded gold medals and Ryan was confirmed as one of the highest scoring candidates in the country.

The RGS was also successful in the latest British Informatics Olympiad with **Angus Hammond** and **Jingchao Wang** both achieving distinctions.

Four teams took part in the Inter Schools Maths Competition at St Peter's, Merrow. The Second Form team, comprising **Josiah Brunet**, **Piers Cole**, and **Martin Dibb-Fuller**, and the Third Form team, comprising **Louis Erritt**, **Joel Hinde** and **Matthew Major**, both came first in their sections.

Two RGS Young Enterprise companies took part in the Surrey Area Final at the School of Management, Surrey University. The companies were required to set up a trade stand, submit a company report, make a presentation and answer judges' questions. Both companies presented to a very high standard; *Flux* was winner of the 'Best Company Report' prize.



The final curtain

A concert in St Nicholas' Church provided the swansong for some of the finest musicians the RGS has ever produced. A concert of exquisite quality and extraordinary talent was a fitting conclusion to the RGS career of a number of the School's Upper Sixth Form boys under the direction of **Sam Orchard** and **Peter White**. **Andrew Harrap** played Handel's Organ Concerto No.13, **Jonathan Peters** was the soloist in Bach's Cantata *Ich habe genug* with **Matthew Shorthose** providing the oboe obligato. The first half ended with **William Atkins** performing the first movement of the Walton Viola Concerto. The second half was given over to an outstanding performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto by **Emmanuel Bach**. Emmanuel brought this wonderful concerto to life with expressive playing, secure technique and flawless intonation very ably supported by the RGS orchestra. The RGS will certainly miss these musicians who have set the bar for future boys to aspire to.



An indecent proposal

The AS Drama group recently showed their diversity by performing Chekhov's classic one-act farce, *The Proposal*, followed by the group's monologues. *The Proposal*, set in early twentieth century Russia, involves a Russian landowner (a hyperventilating **Andrew Fraser**) who visits his stodgy neighbour (a bellicose **Thomas Foster**) to propose to his daughter (a superbly neurotic **Robin Langfield Newnham**) whose chief concern in life, when not shelling peas, is to fall off the shelf. Things go wrong from the start as long-forgotten but enthusiastically revived disputes about ownership of swamps and the prowess of genetically-challenged hunting dogs get in the way of the prospects of marital bliss. Also on offer was the group's *Monologues*: Andrew being an authoritarian if inwardly troubled Prince from *Romeo and Juliet*, Thomas giving a well-observed performance of the finely nuanced soliloquy by Oswald from Ibsen's pivotal drama, *Ghosts*, while Robin offered his powerful version of the eponymous hero's final soliloquy from Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*.



Ivory league

Simon King has recently achieved the remarkable feat of gaining a distinction at Grade 8 piano despite being in the First Form. Bearing in mind that the required level of performance for A2 Music is Grade 6, this is quite an achievement at any age, let alone at the age of 12. Simon's piano teacher, **Rula Nabeel** was delighted with this outstanding success and noted: "Simon has been a joy to teach and I am really looking forward to expanding his repertoire as we embark on the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Diploma!" Simon started learning piano at the age of six and has also won prestigious prizes in various competitions in London and Surrey for his playing.



State of the art



The annual RGS Arts Festival provided the opportunity for the boys to showcase their work and the recent exhibition of student work in the Art School attracted a large audience for the Private View, including the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Terence Patrick, and the Mayoress, Mrs Angela Patrick. A wide range of styles and media from GCSE, AS and A2 students was very much in evidence. **Andrew Curtis**, the Head of Art, explained: "The RGS Art Curriculum is specifically designed with boys in mind putting the How? (craft skills) before the What? (self-expression), allowing the boys' self-consciousness to develop at its own pace towards a confident and independent understanding and appreciation of art." The range of work on display, including sculpture, metalwork, mixed media and more traditional art forms, clearly illustrated the breadth of skills achieved and the freedom of expression enjoyed throughout the past school year.





Learning the ropes

The new team of RGS senior prefects was put through its paces when the boys attended the *Go Ape* centre at Alice Holt Park near Farnham earlier this term. Reluctantly joined by the Headmaster and members of the Senior Management Team, the boys enjoyed three hours of zipping down wires, balancing on beams and scaling very tall trees, all in the name of team building. Second Master **Mark Hoskins** commented: "The boys and staff worked together brilliantly with the boys demonstrating their excellent leadership skills by persuading Miss Pike to slide down the wire to safety from the highest peak, having also convinced her to scale it in the first place!"



We are the champions

Two RGS teams have this term had the honour of being crowned champions in their respective disciplines. After victories against Wirrell Grammar School, Millfield and Watford Grammar School, the U16 hockey team progressed to the final of the National Competition against Cranleigh. The RGS won 1-0 in a tense and thrilling match; captain **Christopher Way** scored the only goal in the second half. After a fantastic season where the team played some breath-taking hockey, this was a richly deserved success for both

the team and coaches, **Matt Baggs** and **Nick Gough**, who commented: "The technical skill, cohesion and passion of the boys have been first-class; their success is just reward for all the time and effort that they have invested in hockey." In the Surrey Schools Tennis Festival, the U14 team of **Marcus Solarz Hendriks** and **Benjamin Baker** were crowned champions after surviving several match points to get to the final where they beat a talented pair from St. George's College.



A tunnel vision

Local MPs, mayors, civic dignitaries and members of the public were recently given the opportunity to walk through the new, eagerly anticipated Hindhead Tunnel before it officially opened to traffic. The fact that 17,000 people applied to take part in this mile and a quarter stroll through the UK's longest road tunnel highlighted the significant local interest in this new feature of the Surrey Landscape. When the VIPs emerged from the north end of the tunnel, the Haslemere Town Band was there to greet them performing a specially commissioned work, *The Devil's Punchbowl March*, written for the event by Fifth Form music scholar **Eric Foster**. Eric plays trombone in the band and is also an able pianist and of course, composer. The music featured on the BBC's coverage of the opening and Eric was interviewed by the press before being presented to Secretary of State for Culture, Jeremy Hunt.



A bit of all white

The RGS cricket teams have enjoyed a successful season bathed in the usual irresistible mix of torrential downpours and scorching summer sunshine. The RGS teams have performed consistently well, with the 1st XI and the U14 teams particularly impressive; the strength in depth was illustrated by a 100% record with victories in all fixtures against John Fisher from the 1st XI all the way down to the U12B team. Boys have achieved some notable personal figures: in



batting, **James Chaumeton, Harry Kearney, Luke Jones, Matthew Shorthose, Alexander Sweet** and **Janith Thilakawardana** have posted the highest scores for the season; in bowling, **Rohan Browning, Louis Dore, Charles Hunt, Samuel Jelley, Ronak Patel** and **Sarinda Wijetunge** have received acclaim. **Steve Shore**, the Head of Cricket, commented: "The team spirit of each XI has been particularly noteworthy this term with every individual playing his part from the opening batsmen and bowlers down to the unsung heroes, the scorers, who have given of their time willingly and been an essential part of the team ethos."



International honours

Jack Clifford's rugby calendar will eventually come to a close this season when he leaves for a summer tour in Australia with the England U18 Rugby Union side, although there is also the small matter of playing for the England 7s side at the Commonwealth Games to attend to! After thundering towards, and through, numerous opponents for the RGS 1st XV, Jack's tremendous talent and lightning pace received national recognition when he was selected to play for the England U18 side that defeated Ireland. He went on to represent the England U19 team against Italy, a match in which he scored his first try for England, and this was followed by a try in the match with



Scotland and further caps in matches against France, Wales and Ireland in the FIRA final. If that was not enough, the disarmingly modest Upper Sixth Form student was also offered a contract with premiership side Harlequins.



Sports shorts

ATHLETICS: At the Surrey Schools' Track and Field Championships, **Gus Cockle** achieved an English Schools' qualifying time in the 1500m. He achieved a time of 4.21.5 and is currently placed number 10 in the UK at this distance.

CRICKET: On the back of some fine performances for Surrey last season, **Alexander Sweet** has been invited to take part in the Cricket Talent Test trials at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough.

FENCING: In the Elite Epee Junior Series Grand Final **Laurence Peplow** came joint third, a feat he repeated in the British Youth Championship.

ICE HOCKEY: **Patrick Russell** has been selected to attend an ice-hockey goaltending camp in Switzerland; this is the second year running that he has been invited to this elite camp.

SAILING: The team racing squad of **Ben Gratton, William Barnes, Andrew Michelmores, Tim Gratton, Joshua Voller** and **Richard Tyler** won the Midlands Team Racing Championships, beating Eton in the final to secure the national sports title.

Individually, **Joshua Voller** and **Tim Gratton** have continued to excel on the national stage, both recently qualifying to represent Great Britain in the forthcoming European Championships in Portugal. **Ben Gratton** will be competing in the National Match Racing Championships.

SHOOTING: The RGS shooting team won the *Country Life* Small-Bore Rifle Competition for the first time since 2002. It was a double success in that the second team won the silver medal, just four points behind the winning score.



Abseil of the century

"Don't look down" was the helpful advice of the crowd shouting to the Headmaster from below; however, perched 50 metres above the tumultuous throng **Dr Cox** was unable to resist a quick glance! Despite this lack of judgment, the Headmaster survived the ordeal of abseiling down from the top of Guildford Cathedral's tower for charity and is now back at the RGS safely ensconced in the Chained Library. This daring feat raised £500 to support several important projects within Guildford Cathedral which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. A relieved Headmaster has provided assurances that he will be keeping his feet firmly on the ground for the foreseeable future.



Master chefs

As part of a Field Day with healthy living as the focus, the First Form boys received a culinary education. After a quiz with a nutritionist from the Royal Surrey Hospital, boys had to chop, cook, eat and even wash up! Pedro, the sous-chef from *Jamie's Italian* proved to be a motivational inspiration ably supported by the School Nurse, **Nicole**



Loughran, as his trusty assistant. The boys created a delicious spaghetti dish containing such exotic ingredients as yellow courgettes, asparagus tips and pea shoots. Proving the success of the dish, the boys wolfed down their creations, and some of them followed it swiftly with a school lunch! The School's very own Brookwood catering team then helped the boys to make smoothies in Café6; watercress, spinach and avocado were a particular favourite.

And finally

RGS staff have been proving the truth of the maxim *mens sana in corpore sano* this term. The Race for Life team of 16 ladies from the RGS staff ran around Stoke Park raising over £1,000 for Breast Cancer Research; **Natacha Goul-Wheeker** clocked an impressive time of 21 minutes. A crew of finely tuned athletes from the RGS staff also took part in the South Downs Marathon. The atmosphere was as hot and sweaty as the competitors as records were shattered left, right and centre with all teams finishing the marathon in under four hours. **Alastair Falconer** stepped in at the last minute and nonchalantly clocked up an incredibly fast time. **Shirley Perrett** completed the London Marathon. Together with 46 others, she achieved a new Guinness World Record for the most number of people tied together to complete a marathon. Collectively the group raised the staggering sum of £100,000 for the charity Scope. Not to be outdone, **Dai Cowx** took part in a running event with

the Cranleigh Runners in support of Help for Heroes; he ran a distance of 45 miles starting at 6.30 am and finishing at 2.30 pm, using up some 5,200 calories in the process!

