

We also came close to silverware in the finals of both the Junior and Intermediate Basketball competition, the former by one point, the latter after having had a six point lead but the standard of basketball being played both by the house and in the school in general is perceptibly increasing. As the years go on, C.H.D.Boddington's rather caustic suggestion that boys should get points just for hitting the backboard is becoming increasingly less persuasive! Similarly our defence of the Junior Fives competition – our one success of the Michaelmas Term of 2008! – ended in a narrow defeat as we went down to East in the final. It is when I come to put together this end of term report that the full extent of the extra-curricular commitment that the boys make to the house becomes fully apparent – their efforts, on top of their high academic workload, are very much appreciated.



Speaking of academics, the termly house prizes for academic performance were awarded to Max Hemming in the Fourth Form, Peter Westcott in the Fifth and George Cross in the Sixth. Many congratulations to them all and it would also be remiss not to offer our very best wishes to the five members of the Upper Sixth and two former Cubittians who are having interviews at Oxford or Cambridge this December: James Atkinson

(Balliol College, Oxford, to read English), George Cross (Christ's College, Cambridge to read Medicine), Joe Goddard (Jesus College, Oxford, to read History and Politics), Nathan O'Neill (Queens' College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics) and Charles Rea (Clare College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics) are the 'current' five, whilst Ben Sanderson (St.Hilda's College, Oxford, to read English) and Alex James (Harris Manchester College, Oxford, to read PPE) are the former Cubittians who will be throwing their hats into this cerebral ring over the Christmas period.



It only remains to congratulate this term's other award winners: the Cubitt Fellowship Awards, given to the boys who most embody the qualities of encouragement, positivity, support and enthusiasm that we value so highly in Cubitt, were given to Henry Crinage (Junior School) and Charlie Henry (Senior School), whilst the Derbyshire Cup – awarded for sporting excellence by a Cubitt Junior – was awarded to James Thompson. Whilst writing of sporting excellence, it would also be remiss not to mention the extraordinary fact that we have had three members of the house win international recognition for hockey this term – Tom Bachelor and Jonny Gall have both been selected for the England Under 18 squad and James Gall for the England Under 16 squad – and, remarkably, all three have been selected a year early. Can any other boarding house at any other school in the country make such a claim, one wonders smugly?!



ADDENDUM

Sam Wilson, currently in the Upper Sixth, hopes to spend his gap year as a volunteer, teaching Maths, Science and Sport to children in Guyana, as part of the Project Trust scheme. In order to go on this course, Sam needs to raise £4750 and, with this in mind, is running the Portsmouth Coastal Half-Marathon in February. Anyone who wishes to sponsor Sam can do so by accessing his 'Just Giving' account at www.justgiving.com/Sam-Wilson. Many thanks and let me wish you all a really wonderful Christmas: I look forward to seeing the Cubittians again, refreshed and eager to go for the Lent Term.

GJNN



Housemaster's Comments

As I write this in the wet and dreary last week of term, there are certainly some tired boys in the House and it is with good reason in most cases as it has been an action-packed and busy term. Cubitt boys have once again been displaying their versatile talents on all fronts and there has been a good collective and supportive feel about the place. We have four "trophies" to help line the somewhat bare shelves of the trophy cabinet but it is, as ever, the honest and spirited endeavours of the boys which is most pleasing to see. I will leave Gordon Neill to eloquently provide the narrative of the boys many activities and achievements.

The Highlights of the term for me were on the performance side of things, which will not come as a surprise for those who were able to attend the wonderful House Music evening; Cubitt once again proved it has a fantastic depth and array of talent (for a full report please see the school website). The atmosphere in the House after this and the awesome victory in the House Performance Competition were terrific and it really helps to bind the community together. The wonderfully supportive environment will hopefully encourage others to get up and give it a go in the future.

To pick up the theme of tiredness briefly, it is important to say that although much of this is due to the hectic

nature of a long term, it is vital also that the boys get the necessary rest and sleep at the weekends. We do see a fall in their energy levels and therefore performance levels if this isn't achieved and my feeling is that this has definitely got worse for some this term.

I would also like to, on the boys' behalf, thank the immensely dedicated and loyal "home team" of cleaners, matrons and tutors who provide such wonderful care and attention for each boy. I do have to remind the boys to stop and say thank you at times as there is a danger in the busy nature of term that it is taken for granted. May I also though, on behalf of the tutor team, say a sincere thank you for your many kind gifts and bottles at the end of term.

Sadly, we have to say farewell to Chris Callow who is returning to the somewhat warmer climes of Australia after his exchange year with us. The boys I know have enjoyed his relaxed and amiable company and we wish him and the family all the best for the future.

We are barely into December but the boys are certainly getting themselves into the festive spirit with the end of term frivolities so it just about seems acceptable to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and I look forward to welcoming the boys back refreshed (and with neatly cut hair!) in the New Year. CHDB



Deputy Housemaster's Comments

As Charlie mentions above, this has been a most successful term for Cubittians in many different spheres of Cranleigh life. After a couple of terms which, in terms of trophies, could most kindly be described as 'lean', it was eminently satisfying to be able to applaud, at final assembly, the raising of cups for the house performance evening, rugby and squash. It is the first of these which is perhaps the most important, in terms of developing the sense of house spirit which is of such fundamental importance in a boarding community. Invariably, our new fourth formers peer with narrow-eyed suspicion at their seniors who tell them that a) they are going to be required to perform a dance in front of their peers and b) they are actually going to enjoy it. It is always an enormously entertaining spectacle but this year more so than ever, as it became obvious from the opening bars that we had fourth formers who actually possessed the rudiments of co-ordination!



Led by Ben Castle-Gibb and Alex Livingstone, the new intake performed heroics to what I have been reliably informed were the sounds of 'Kick Push', a noisome piece, originally rendered by one Lupe Fiasco. This was superbly choreographed by Nathan O'Neill, Guy Vero, Ellie Sattethwaite and Issy Croker and deservedly stole the show.



Cubitt has, in recent years, produced a series of really excellent part songs and this year was no exception – Anthony Dunkley and Dominic Murray's arrangement of 'One' by U2 was superb and, in conjunction with the expert caperings of our fourth form, ensured a Cubitt victory, which triggered mass celebrations back at the house.

Unusually, it was possible for Cubitt parents to see both the dance and the part song this year, as both were reprised during the Cubitt House Music Evening, a first-class spectacle, which, as Charlie mentions above, really showcased the extraordinary amount of musical talent that can be found within the house. Expertly compered by the ever debonair James Atkinson, this was a truly enjoyable evening. In terms of the performing arts, the main focus of the term was the outstanding production of Doctor Faustus, in which three Cubittians played significant roles: Jon Oldfield was compelling both as the chorus and the Christ-like Old Man, Tommy Lyster expanded his repertoire by performing the role of Wagner with real understanding and flair and Barnaby Findlay appeared as both Belcher and Beelzebub, scootering demonically around to great effect. We also saw two Cubittians – Alex Clarke and James Atkinson - perform with considerable elan in South House's highly entertaining production of Noel Coward's 'Star Chamber'.



The house speaking events are always entertaining affairs and this year was no different. The standard was exceptionally high and both our junior team of Rob Zorab, Will Slynn and George Collecott and our senior team of Anthony Dunkley, Jon Oldfield and Patrick Cahill acquitted themselves admirably. Their topics were, respectively, abortion and animal rights and both teams can consider themselves very unlucky not to have emerged with some silverware – all six boys demonstrated maturity, eloquence and intelligence. We have to wait until next term to see James Atkinson and co. bestride the floor of the debating chamber but our resident Dickensian professor led the Schools Challenge team with great authority this term, making it through to an epic final with Loveday in which we were only defeated at the very death. The team, comprising James, George Cross, Charlie LaFosse and Fin Johnston, demonstrated an extraordinary breadth of general knowledge and they can consider themselves very unlucky not to have won.

On the sports field, the house rugby teams performed to an excellent standard, with both the Seniors, led by 1st XV captain Max Rowson, and the Heavies As, led by Surrey Under 16s and Harlequins representative James Thompson, emerging victorious in their respective competitions. The Seniors beat North 22-12 in their final, whilst a Thompson hat trick enabled the Heavies As to emerge 21-12 victors over East, in a game which I was fortunate enough to see and in which Under 16 C team players such as Jon Oldfield and Jack Pearson performed absolute heroics. It was also very pleasing to hear of the Lites Bs' success – James Gall stole the show here, his nine tries in the tournament suggesting that his sporting skills are by no means limited to the hockey pitch. These successes ensured that, for the first time in a while, the overall rugby competition was won by Cubitt. There was comparable success on the squash courts, where Loveday had remained undefeated for thirteen years prior to this. A tremendous

final came down to the very last match between Cubitt's Sam Wilson and Duncan Allen of Loveday – the best two players in the school. Sam's excellence enabled him to just nudge ahead and a 3-2 win for Cubitt in the final was a superb achievement for a team that consisted of Sam, Jeremy Slynn, Matt Storey, Jonny Pullar, Tom Bachelor and Jonah Ghinn.

