



Boys Hockey

The following article appeared in the press and in a range of prep school-related magazines earlier this term:

Vinehall Hockey goes international!

Over the holidays Vinehall Preparatory School's hockey reputation was further bolstered by some very good news as Mr Kevin Doble, the boys' first XI hockey coach, was delighted to receive an international call-up. For the last seven years Mr Doble has managed the South of England under 13 and Under 14 teams, and the Sussex under 13 squad. Leading on from his successes with his county and regional squads, Mr Doble has been appointed Senior Manager of the United Kingdom under 13 Squad. The UK team, consisting of the best junior players from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, will play a series of tests against international opposition over the course of the next year.

As if that wasn't enough, George Berthon, who scaled the heights to represent Vinehall's first XI, the Sussex under 13 team and the South of England under 13 squad, learned that he had found his way onto the squad list for the United Kingdom under 13 team.

This wonderful news follows Vinehall's most successful boys' first XI hockey season to date in which the team won all of their fixtures. Furthermore, six players were selected to don the Sussex black strip and three boys represented the South of England at Nottingham last June.

During the October half term seven Vinehall pupils and Vines will be part of a Sussex invitational squad who will be touring the Netherlands under the direction of Mr Doble.

Sussex Success

Last Sunday nine Vinehall boys were invited to waggle their sticks at the trials for the Sussex under 13 Hockey squad. The intrepid lads seemed swamped by 47 fellow trialists as they invaded the Eastbourne College Astro turf, arguably the centre of schools' hockey in Sussex. In spite of having enjoyed no outdoor preparation (all pre-season training takes place in Vinehall's sports hall), the Vinehall reps were in full swing long before many of the other boys had warmed up and they very quickly acclimatised to the high standard. It was in the latter stages of the day, during the trial matches, that the boys really impressed the 6-man selection panel (with the Sussex manager abstaining from the selection process due to the presence of so many of his pupils!).

Robert Lee, Robert Perry, Max Weston, James Gibbs and William Wheeler proved that they had sufficient skill and stamina to compete with the best of Sussex. However, George Berthon, Fergus Ridley-Anderson, Stuart Flint and Max Cherrill went one better and earned themselves a place in the Sussex team. That the Vinehall boys number a quarter of the county squad is a remarkable achievement for a school wherein hockey is a rapidly growing boys' sport played almost exclusively indoors.

Kevin Doble



Vinehall School

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