



# Boys Hockey

## First XI Hockey

The regular Monday and Wednesday lunch-time notice announcing the evenings' hockey sessions had to be suspended mid-term as the sports hall (and coach) could not accommodate the number of boys and girls wanting to smash the indoor balls across the polished surface. Although the numbers had to be restricted, the enjoyment of the older boys did not waiver and the bi-weekly abuse of the wooden floors saw a number of very promising players emerge, each of whom had developed a keen (if not 'outdoor aware') understanding of the game. The Sussex U13 boys' trials provided all of the lads with their first opportunity to use their sticks on a proper surface and they took the chance very seriously. The result, five county players (out of a squad of sixteen), was testament to the determination of the whole group of Vinehall boys and a very happy county coach began to realize that he might have a very special Vinehall team on his hands this season.

The playing record of the first team this year is a record for Vinehall. The boys triumphed in all of their inter-school fixtures, the highlights being the defeats of the three big hockey schools in the area: Holmewood House, DPSC and St Andrew's. By the close of the season the boys were playing a game of controlled, intelligent and confident hockey (in the last two fixtures 30 goals were scored and none conceded), which could have threatened a few of the better county teams. Towards the end of the season it was a real pleasure to report to the school that George Berthon, Magnus James and Stuart Flint had won places in the SE England Under 13 squad, selected to play in the Great Britain Championships. This is an amazing achievement and is better recognized when placed in context: the South East regional team is made up of the top county Under 13 players from Kent, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire and Sussex, and the Vinehall contingent outnumbered the total regional representation from the whole of Kent. Not a bad achievement for a school that plays competitive hockey for only three-and-a-half weeks and at which no suitable field exists on which hockey can be played for the majority of the year!

The success of the county and regional players, however, should not overshadow the successes enjoyed by the squad as a whole. At the IAPS Prep Schools' Championships the boys competed against schools with astroturfs who play hockey as a major sport. Their achievement in reaching the quarterfinals is a fine one when one considers that most of the 500-odd prep schools in England play the sport. To a player, the team were committed and determined in practices and matches alike. Although only one session was possible on the Vinehall grass pitches much should be made of the progress enjoyed by the boys as they competed on 'unknown' artificial surfaces in nearly all of their matches (all, bar one, away).

The 2003 first XI were an incredibly talented team who deserve to be lauded as Vinehall's most successful boys' hockey team thus far!  
KD



## Vinehall School

# 2002-2003

### Results:

St Ronan's	won
Holmewood House	won
DPSC	won
St Andrew's	won
Newlands	won
Bethany	won

<b>Played</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Won</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Drawn</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lost</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Goals for</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Goals against</b>	<b>3</b>

### Regional Honours:

George Berthon; Magnus James; Stuart Flint (a year young).

### County Honours:

George Berthon; Magnus James; Max Cherrill; Fergus Ridley-Anderson; Stuart Flint (a year young).

### Full Colours:

George Berthon; Magnus James; Max Cherrill; Fergus Ridley-Anderson; James Gibbs; Robert Lee; Stuart Flint.

### Squad:

George Berthon (Captain); Magnus James; Max Cherrill; Fergus Ridley-Anderson; James Gibbs; Stuart Flint; William Wheeler; Max Weston; Robert Perry; Robert Lee; Sam Barton; Guy Chivers.