



Vinehall School

ANNUAL SPORTS REVIEW 2007/08

Mr Nigel Butler, Director of Sport and Miss Judy Gorrie, Head of Girls' Games

NETBALL

Most girls from Year 5 and above played regularly for the school in matches while all of the girls in Years 3 and 4 took part in our annual fixture with St Andrews. The Year 4s had a promising start to their netball careers at Vinehall, winning a number of their games, and the Year 5s are to be congratulated upon losing only one netball match throughout the season.

SOCCER

This has been an enjoyable and successful season. We have been able to field more teams than ever this term; on one afternoon almost every one of the 70 boys in Yrs 7&8 were involved in a competitive match. As usual we took part in Yr 3&4 tournaments against St. Andrew's and Marlborough House and all of the games were keenly contested. The inter-house soccer cup involved everybody in Yrs 3-8 and the combined competitions left Rushton as the 2007 champions. A new cup was awarded in assembly to the winners of the Friday League, a six-a-side competition held in games lessons. Charles Killick collected the award on behalf of his team, The Unknown Ks.

The 1st XI finished their season in fine style with a 6-2 win against Yardley Court. The team contained players with exciting talent and were a credit to the coach, Mr. Newman. The 3rd XI had an unbeaten season for the first time that anyone can remember. The 3-3 draw against Newlands 1st XI which climaxed with a late Vinehall equaliser, was possibly one of the highlights. Max Desoutter scored hat tricks on consecutive Wednesdays. The 2nd XI won more than they lost this term and the 4th XI recorded an amazing 6-0 victory over Holmewood House. In the junior ranks the Colts A XI struggled for form for much of the term, but played well in draws against St. Ronan's and Brambletye and in their victory over St. Ronan's. The U.10As also performed well this season with Jasper Piper as an inspirational captain. The U.9s had a team with plenty of pace, but often came up against larger and stronger opposition.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

The girls' hockey teams played the majority of their matches in the autumn term with almost all girls in Years 5 – 8 representing the school. In November, the U10 A Squad did well to come second at the St Andrew's tournament, while the U12 Squad was placed third in the Eastbourne College tournament. Following on from these successes the U13 team was narrowly beaten into second place on penalty flicks at Bodiam Manor's tournament. The annual Year 3 and 4 Festival with St Andrew's this year saw our teams looking stronger than ever before, winning a majority of their matches.

RUGBY

This has been an outstanding season for rugby at Vinehall. There have been over 30 wins from the 42 games played which shows the strength in depth in the school at the moment. The 1st XV showed the way with an almost faultless record of 8 wins from their 9 matches. The only loss was recorded in a 12-a-side match against DPS when the team had 5 regular players missing. One of the highlights of the term was the dramatic 12-7 victory against Yardley Court when the team was once again stricken by the flu bug. This age group has an outstanding record having completed 4 seasons together and only losing once! The 2nd XV won all their 5 matches and scored over 50 points in their wins against St.Andrew's and Ashdown House. The 3rd XII also remained unbeaten in their 5 matches: the 19-17 victory over St.Andrew's was possibly the best achievement.

The Colts team was quite small this year and this made life difficult in the forwards; however three wins were recorded against St.Ronan's (home and away) and Great Walstead. The U.10s enjoyed their rugby and always played the game at a lively pace. Some of the footage of excellent tackling in the 25-5 win against Ashdown was shown in the Front Hall during inspection week. The team won over half its matches during the season. The U.9s surpassed all expectations this season. It was the first time that we have ever beaten St.Andrew's home and away at this level.

LACROSSE

A number of girls in Years 6 and 7 attended Lacrosse club throughout the Michaelmas and Lent terms, showing great enthusiasm and making great progress. Having offered to host the Kent Schools' Indoor 5-a-side lacrosse Tournament we were given dispensation to enter a team and six members of the club took part. None of the girls had seen a match played or taken part in one before and there was a huge sense of anticipation and excitement on the day. To everyone's delight the team rose superbly to the occasion and qualified for the semi-finals. Here they met a strong team from Benenden to whom they lost and who then went on to win the tournament.

BOYS' HOCKEY

This was another encouraging season for hockey at Vinehall. There were block fixtures with five different schools: Vinehall managed to win over 75% of all matches played. The 1st team performed well with wins against Holmewood House, Marlborough House and St.Ronan's. The Colts A took a while to get into their stride, but the Colts B were transformed into a winning team by the end of the season. The U.10 As & Bs lost only two of their 8 games. The 7-1 victory against St.Bede's and the 7-3 win at home to St.Andrew's were the highlights.

All the Year 3 and 4 boys enjoyed a successful tournament of hockey against St.Andrew's.

Mr Larkin ran a popular Thursday evening training group all winter. A Monday Rest session was also organised for goalkeeping training. Following this year's season several boys were put forward for Sussex trials. William and Robert Flett both represented Kent during the season. William Furlong and Robert also represented an England representative side in a tournament this summer, becoming national champions. We look forward to testing our skills on the new Vinehall synthetic surface next season.

ROUNDERS

Once again, all girls from Year 3 to 8 had a chance to represent the school at rounders. The Year 3s and 4s did well in their festival with St Andrew's, which they won and the U10s are to be congratulated upon an undefeated season. Both the U13s and the U11s

took part in the IAPS Rounders Tournament in June. The highlight of the season for the U12 IX was definitely their success at the Newlands Tournament; they won their section convincingly to go on to the final where they were beaten into second place by a very polished side from Windlesham. Our annual Mothers' match was enjoyed by all and resulted in a draw!

CRICKET

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the performance of the U.12 squad who won the Eastbourne College 7-a-side competition. The boys won the event by beating Holmewood House in the final. The reward for our victory was a coaching session by the international stars of the Lashings team including Richie Richardson and John Embury. Freddie Stork (U.12 Captain) has represented the Easter Eagles Sussex team this season. The 1st XI struggled for form in the early matches despite good performances by Harry Coombes and Robert Flett. The wins against Marlborough House and Sevenoaks Prep restored some much needed confidence after half term. The 2nd XI has had a fine season with only one narrow defeat and 7 wins. Mr. Reid's 3rd XI went one better and managed to win all their 5 matches. The 4th XI also won their two matches against St. Ronan's and St. Andrew's. The Colts A XI have not had a successful term despite the efforts of all-rounder Daniel Hutt. The two wins against Great Walstead and Clarendon helped to restore some pride; James McNeilly also took a hat-trick in the final game of the season. The U.10 XI has made good progress despite lacking any star players: Jasper Piper's 60 in the win against SVPS was an obvious highlight. The U.9's have enjoyed their cricket and have been boosted by the performances of their excellent all-rounder, Xavier Yeats-Brown. The team won their final match by 46 runs against Clarendon.

SWIMMING

The Michaelmas term brought some mixed results. Early in the term the boys swam in the St Andrew's Cup and for the third year running were winners equal with St Andrew's, St Bede's third and Brighton college in fourth place. The girls' first match was against Benenden in their great 25m pool. The girls found the longer length difficult and slowed up at the end of races lacking in stamina, with Benenden winning both the u/12 and u/13 age groups. Then we had three galas in three weeks: first the girls swimming at St Bede's in a friendly match to give the squad more experience. The following week a mixed team swam at Bodiam Manor, a local derby; this time the result went to Bodiam by a big margin. Then to finish the term the girls competed in the St Andrew's Cup and though we were placed last, there were some highlights for us; the u/10 age group came first and won the shield and Hannah Manton broke the St Andrews u/12 front crawl record.

The summer term has been good for the swimming team with 12 children competing in the I.A.P.S. national finals at K2 centre Crawley. We reached six finals with Hannah Manton in three of these, Maddie Cottrell and Cecilia Gray in two. The Squadron relay team achieved 5th Place and the u/12 Freestyle relay team were 6th.

We came third in the St Bede's Prep Schools' gala and the young girls had a good training gala against Moira House.

ATHLETICS

This was a busy and successful term with many good performances and much enthusiasm. The girls did well in our annual match against DPS, narrowly losing by 4 points. The boys competed in a competition at Tonbridge and the Sussex

Championships at Hurstpierpoint; many of our athletes achieved personal bests. A promising team of girls from Years 4 to 8 went to the Sussex area competition at Crawley in June. Natasha Govett was 2nd in the U10 High Jump, Isabelle Powell 2nd in both U11 Long Jump and U11 Discus, Heloise Buxton 2nd in the U13 Shot and Hannah Manton 2nd in the U13 200m. As a result of this Isabelle, Heloise and Hannah qualified to take part in the National Finals at Birmingham together with Edward Rogers and Joshua Jones. Here, amongst the best Prep School pupils in the country, they again did well with Isabelle gaining 5th place in both of her events, Hannah qualifying for the 200m finals and Heloise coming 5th in the shot.

TENNIS

Tennis is alive and well at Vinehall. All the children do some tennis in their summer term PE lessons and Ms Viljoen has been running a very successful club which has been well supported by 15 regular keen players in junior and senior coaching sessions on Monday evenings.

This year, for the first time, four couples took part in the Benenden Girls' U12 tennis tournament. Each pair was drawn in a different section and played a round robin format. Once this was completed the girls went on to play in a knock-out tournament. A great afternoon of tennis was had by all and we hope to repeat the experience again next year.

The boys had an even match against Marlborough House. We won the U13 event and narrowly lost the U11 games. Unfortunately the Yardley Court match was cancelled by our opponents.

The annual Vinbledon tournament was played during the summer term with the following results:

Year 3 Girls Singles	Runner-up	B. Whittaker	Winner	M. Holt
Year 4 Girls Singles	Runner-up	C. Taylor	Winner	P. Knight
Middle Girls Singles	Runner-up	C. Jeremy	Winner	I. Powell
Middle Boys Singles	Runner-up	H. Clark	Winner	J. Mackwood
Year 5 Girls Doubles	Runners-up	C. Fraser/Y. Morley	Winners	J.O'Shaughnessy/ R.Russell
Year 6 Girls Doubles	Runners-up	I. Bearcroft/A. Zaidi	Winners	C. Jeremy/ I. Powell
Senior Girls Singles	Runner-up	M. Kowitz	Winner	H. Buxton
Senior Boys Singles	Runner-up	O. Giles	Winner	A de la Maza
Senior Boys Doubles	Runners-up	W. Orr/A. Tena	Winners	A de la Maza/O.Giles

GYMNASTICS

In December the U10 and U13 gymnastics teams competed in the 2007 IAPS gymnastics championships which were held at the Lady Eleanor Holles School. Both teams performed with great confidence and achieved creditable results.

The British School of Brussels held the 2008 National GISGA Championships. The U10 and U11 gymnasts were extremely excited about travelling all the way to Brussels to compete and it was a really wonderful experience for them.

The gymnasts have worked with great enthusiasm, dedication and commitment and the year culminated in an impressive display of their skill at the fete on Vines Day.