



The Orchard Apple

Lent 2009

March 2009

House Unison

This year the Orchard chose “Dancing in the Moonlight” by Toploader to compete with in the school unison competition. Orchard are known throughout the school for powerful football chants, but when it comes to singing in tune and together, the house always hits a problem. Despite this when January came around the house faced the challenge with determination.

Dave Young composed a guitar accompaniment which kept the house in time and helped add extra life to the song. Ed Dickinson and Hugo Pywell then took to

conducting the house and together the three trained the house up ready for the big night.

Along the way, Chris Murrall, Greg Fearn, and Henry Clarke blessed the house with their delightful solos, inspiring other quieter members to really sing up. Dom Neill also whipped up a dazzling moon from a large piece of cardboard and the remains of a broomstick.

On the night, Orchard sat and listened to “Let me entertain you” from School House, and “Candyman” by Garden, but the house remained undaunted. The boys got up on

stage and sang their hearts out. Dave Young shredded up his guitar (which the judge particularly enjoyed) and the moon (helped by James Sread) floated across the back of the stage. Despite the house’s best efforts, the judge didn’t quite acknowledge the full extent of our musical talent, and picked up on a few people’s nerves. Nonetheless, the house walked out with their heads held high knowing they had tried their best and that learning from the lessons of 2009 might bring victory in 2010.

Barnes Squad

Barnes squad, is one of the hardest tasks that any Orchard boy has to do for the house. It doesn’t just involve turning up on the day and trying your best. It takes hours and hours of good, hard practice to produce a superb Barnes Squad team. I feel that A block went out with the right mind set and discipline that was needed and like every other Orchard boy who done Barnes squad, they tried there

hardest. Their weapons skills were not quite the standard needed, but this wasn’t too much of a problem, as the team excelled in other areas. We did some fast laps of the obstacle course, and for our efforts achieve 2nd place which is good going. In the Drill part of the competition I felt A Block did well, but Captain Wadsworth obviously saw that they had made mistakes. Unfortunately we

didn’t make the top three in the marching. This meant that we were unlikely to get the overall trophy, as the Marching gives the team the bulk of their points this meant that we also did not win overall. I would like to thank A block for their support and cooperation throughout the training, they tried their hardest, but it was not to be their win. Well done and better luck with Russell cup next year!

House Fives

The fives teams this year both made it to the semi finals. The seniors got a bye to the semi final and were missing their second best player in Butters to a severe illness. However Murrall who would’ve been

partnered by Butters was with Hodges, Pearse and Pywell played together as well as Smith and Balkanski, all pairs put up a good fight against a superior Latham team. The juniors thrashed Cross in the

first round with Blackwood, Fearn, Greatrex, Markham, Hyde-Barker and McEnery all winning. However, they were then defeated by New House in the semi – final by 2 sets to 1. However, good house spirit.



Senior Hockey

Senior hockey started unfortunately for the Orchard this year as we were faced against Priory and New House. Nevertheless, the Orchard didn't fail to put up a fight. We first faced the Priory who had Rich Lawrence (first XI captain) scoring 3 out of the 5 drag flicks against Goal-

keeper Jack Smith. However, brilliant passing at pace managed to acquire the Orchard 2 goals, but not enough to take the victory. We then faced New House with 4 first XI players to our none, but this didn't stop the Orchard trying until the very end. Opportunities came rarely, but when

they did we took advantage of them (apart from Chris Murrall's unfortunate penalty flick into the post). However in the end our team was unfortunately not strong enough to fight back and we lost against New, but are looking forward to next year.

Junior Hockey

Junior Hockey this season unfortunately was not great. Although we were the better team on paper, sadly we didn't play as competitively as we should have. Due to this

as a team we lacked confidence to win. He had started off with a good match verse Latham and with a good fought match we managed to draw 1-1. However the same

could not be said when we played cross. Where unfortunately we lost 2-1. Despite it not being the best term for the Junior team we still had fun and look forward to next year.

General Knowledge Competition

Our valiant general knowledge team took to Pears' School, armed with a team member from each year group, and knowledge of how to make a pina colada. We answered questions on varied and occasionally bizarre topics, ranging from miscellany to sport through food and drink. We were outstandingly consistent throughout the competition,

with every member of the team contributing successfully to our team effort. Tristram Fane-Saunders (O) and Dom Neill (U6) were outstanding in the miscellany rounds, with their obscure and usually useless general knowledge finally coming to the fore. Chris Murrall (L6) and Charles Bracegirdle (A) dominated the sports section, with varied knowledge of

many sports, from cricket to golf to football. George Moss's (B) knowledge of food and drink was unparalleled, and I answered predominantly the music questions. We finished second overall, not far behind the eventual winners School House. It was a closely fought competition, and we were unfortunate not to win the trophy.

Harmony

This year's harmony was a fantastic success. We were left slightly disenchanted after last year's disappointing result, which corresponded to neither the effort put in by all the participants or the end product. This year we sang 'Fix You',

arranged by Dave Young (U6), and the amount of time and effort that we had put in to this harmony was reflected in the result. We came a close second to Field, fighting off strong competition from School House and several others. Dom Neill (U6), Dave

Young (U6), Tristram Fane-Saunders (O), Greg Fearn (O), Andrew Bushby (A) and Charles Bracegirdle (A) all put in fine performances on the night, and their dedication throughout the term was rewarded when our waistcoat-ed effort got its just reward.



Steeple Chase

The annual steeplechase is an event that is looked upon by many as a real challenge; it is an opportunity for an ambitious B-blocker to make a name for himself and the seasoned runners to put themselves to the test. The race is a challenge; it is a real achievement for the whole house to be able run the course. The two courses that are run are long, hard and often very muddy. This year the course was not in good condition, the huge quagmire at the top of

Askew Hill made the run all the more difficult. There were some outstanding performances, Greg Fearn in particular, ran a fantastic race and truly deserved the victory in the junior event. Another fantastic performance was that of Daniel Buckland, who ran the race bearing an injury and he managed to finish in a very good position all the same. Ed Dickinson, the house steeplechase captain, finished in a very good position. Jake McEnery finished a commend-

able 19th and truly showed his potential as a runner. It was encouraging for the house to grasp the first and second spots in the junior event (Greg Fearn and Frank Flight) and hopefully this performance can be repeated in years to come. Hopefully, some of the current A-blockers will step up to the mark and emulate this year's performance, so chin up lads, its only 302 days until next years race!
Frank Flight

Charity Cabaret

This year's Charity Cabaret has been widely hailed as the best ever, by staff and pupils alike. This is fantastic news for the long list of Orchard boys who were involved in this production, which was by far the highest number of pupils from any house. We pulled off another exceptional stomp, working with RF to bring together Spanish rhythms and body parts. Many other Orchard

boys were involved, with Tristram Fane-Saunders (O) and Dave Young (U6) being in various acts, Dom Neill (U6) beavering away behind the lighting desk and Andrew Bushby and Calvert Hyde-Barker (A) once again showing their juggling prowess, even in the face of adversity on the Saturday night performance, missing one of their jugglers. These are just a few of the exam-

ples of Orchard boys throwing themselves once again into the cabaret experience, and we have every confidence that boys from throughout the house will be involved again next year, to carry on this fantastic Orchard tradition. Many thanks to everyone involved, particularly in the stomp.

