

NEW HOUSE NEWSLETTER

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2011

UNISON DROUGHT IS ENDED IN SPECTACULAR STYLE (by A. Teal, U6th)



On the 28th January, New House emphatically won the House Unison competition with an arrangement of Robbie Williams's 'You Know Me'. After several years of near misses, the New House boys tore apart the competition. For too long we had heard "New House should have won" or "the judge was wrong", so this year, we were aiming high. Jeffrey Man created an aura of sentiment and peace with his striking piano introduction; you could hear a pin drop. With beautiful singing and perfectly combined choreogra-

phy, we showed the remainder of the school how it should be done. The adjudicator, Mr James Burton, described the performance as "world class" and stated he had never heard a boy's House sing half as well. Celebrations carried on for a long time afterwards, including chants of 'Green Army' on the way back to the House, and renditions of previous Unison songs were sung over pizza in the Dining Room. The Unison trophy was back where it rightfully belonged and for the first time in as long as anyone can remember, the out-

come was not contentious. The day after, 8 boys returned to the stage for the House Harmonies, in which we performed Simon and Garfunkel's 'Sound of Silence'. While being a difficult piece to sing, with a great amount of words to be learned, and with only a week's worth of practice, we managed to receive the award for Highly Commended Boy's House. Mr Burton applauded our efforts and congratulated every boy on a fantastic display. Every boy had done their house proud. Well done to all the New House lads!

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STEEPLECHASE STRENGTH IN DEPTH



Just before half term, the keenly contested Steeplechase competitions took place in which we always knew we were going to struggle in the Seniors, but in the Juniors we secretly fancied our chances.

On a typically cold day, Will Hughes was first home for the House, and second overall, in an outstanding 26m.14s. for the 4.5 mile course, swiftly followed by Oscar Copley in fourth place, whose impressive running ability bodes well for the future. The first B Blocker home for New was Alex Needham, who narrowly missed out on the overall first B Blocker home trophy.

“This, like the Unison, was a truly all-round House effort...”



Determined runs from Oakley Elsom, Henry Teal, Dom Thompson, Shimma Murase, Josh Robinson, Janny Holst and Alex Haysey meant that the top 10 from New House all came in the top 40 overall. Once their positions were tallied, we knew it was going to be close, but we had done enough to win once again.

This is a competition in which New House have always had strength in depth (in 2008 we won both Junior and



Senior events) and this year proved no different and congratulations must go to our victorious Juniors.

Our final points total was 235, with Orchard defeated into second by just 8 points. This, like the Unison, was a truly all-round House effort, and speaks just as much for those boys who came in 8th, 9th and 10th as it does for those who led the way. Once again, the New House lads did themselves proud and their efforts were unstinting.

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JUNIOR HOCKEY TITLE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED & SENIOR FIVES SUCCESS (by W. Buckley, A Block, and S. Keen, U6th)

JUNIOR HOCKEY

When New House was drawn in the same group as Orchard and School there was definitely doubt as to whether we could get through to the next stage. We were seen as underdogs against a strong Orchard side on paper. However, we secured a hard-fought draw where either side could have won with several penalty corners at either end. Special mention should go to Oscar Copley, who had never played in goal before, but kept brilliantly throughout the tournament, including some crucial saves as it turned out in that first game against Orchard.

Our second game was against School, who weren't as good as Orchard, but still posed a threat. We knew we had to win to get to the final, and it was 0-0 for most of the game until, with just a few minutes left on the clock, Joel Mitchell's good work at the top of the D saw a shot on goal that was coolly deflected in by Will Swann. We then defended bravely for the remainder of the game, thanks largely to Sam Williams, who was solid at the back, and Oakley Elsom, who led fantastically in defence all day.

The final was against Cross and the game was over by half time. Three excellent short corner strikes from our most skilful player, Janny Holst, visibly made Cross heads go down and although they clawed one back in the second half, the tournament was ours.

SENIOR FIVES

We entered the Senior Fives competition not knowing how much strength in depth our team possessed. The first round, against Orchard, was over very quickly as the 1st and 3rd pairings of Luke Cosford and Connor Matthews, Will Hughes and Sam Keen respectively defeated the opposition comfortably. In the semis, we faced Latham, which in years gone by would have probably meant certain exit from the contest, such has been their dominance in recent years. This was our toughest match of the whole tournament and while Will and Sam won their match in straight sets, Olly Teal and Rafe Dumbleton lost their match, meaning that our hopes rested with Luke and Connor. They came from a set behind to win a close game and we had made it through to the final. With the feeling we had probably beaten our trickiest opponents in the semi, New entered the final against Priory on a high. This time it was Will and Sam in the deciding game and they didn't disappoint, winning a trophy that dates back to the C19th.



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1st XI PLAYER OF THE SEASON - WILL HUGHES



In the final Lists of term, we were delighted to see yet more silverware head to New House as the 1st XI Players' Player of the Year was announced. Will Hughes was rightly recognised for his brilliance and no less courage on the football field. For an O Blocker to win the award is a rarity, and it is to Will's great credit that he has devoted so much time and effort to the school's football, given his commitments for Derby County. He follows in illustrious old New House boys' footsteps who have also won the considerable trophy in recent times, including Al Evans (2009) and Rich Evans (2006). Well done Will!

A WORD FROM THE HOUSEMASTER...



This has been one of the most successful terms I can remember. To win the Unison after so many years was a fantastic way to start the ball rolling, and richly deserved success for the effort and concentration put in by the boys. To then come second in the Harmony the following day was the end to a pretty good weekend's work! So good was the Unison that we were asked to perform it at the Cabaret which was something of a first.

The first half of term was finished off with victory in the Junior Steeplechase, and this

too was an excellent example of the commitment and dedication of the New House man! What I liked about the Junior Hockey and Senior Fives performances was that whilst not favourites on paper, the workmanlike and determined approach of the 'fringe' players was often the difference.

This resolve and determination will become increasingly important in the coming weeks and months - not in the musical and sporting sense - but an academic one, both in and outside the classroom. With A Block facing an increasing number of public exams, the Easter holidays have become crucial to nearly all the year groups' futures. I would therefore urge all New House boys (and their parents!) to grasp the nettle and make the most of the next few weeks off, actively and effectively laying the foundations for the exam period this summer. Good luck!

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