



The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation  
**Adams' Grammar School**

*A Member of the Family of Haberdashers' Schools*  
Newport, Shropshire

**Headmaster's News**

**Sports Issue**

**2 October 2009**

As the new school year is now well and truly underway our sportsmen and women have made a tremendous start to the new season, both with their sporting achievements as part of the school teams and also, in certain cases, in their individual activities. I thought it would be a good idea to dedicate a separate news sheet to the many sporting activities which have been taking place in recent weeks.

### Cross Country

The cross country teams enjoyed a tremendously successful day last Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Birmingham League** The Senior Cross Country team competed against Queen Mary's, Walsall and King Henry VIII's from Coventry in the first of the Birmingham League Fixtures. Adams' won convincingly, with 6 runners in the first 10 places. Winner of the race, was new sixth former **Alex Russell**. Alex was closely followed by **Thomas Buckley**. This promised a tough battle when they faced each other in the House Cross Country competition.

**Telford Schools League** The junior boys teams also excelled in the first round of the Telford Schools League 2009 at Abraham Darby Academy. All four teams won their age groups and there was a good turn out in each age group: Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Years 10/11 combined. Individually, results were as follows:

Year 7 James Haywood (5<sup>th</sup>) and Jamie Mickelwright (6<sup>th</sup>).

Year 8 Arthur Charlesworth (1<sup>st</sup>), Glyn Sheldon (6<sup>th</sup>), Jamie Grimdsdale (8<sup>th</sup>), Jack Stewart (10<sup>th</sup>).

Year 9 Will McCartney (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Stephens (4<sup>th</sup>), Ryan Cullen (5<sup>th</sup>), Tom Clark (7<sup>th</sup>),  
Ed Morris (9<sup>th</sup>), Ryan Law (10<sup>th</sup>).

Year 10 James Turner (4<sup>th</sup>), Ollie Claxton (5<sup>th</sup>), Ryan Cattle (6<sup>th</sup>), Ed Fowler (7<sup>th</sup>)

The next fixture in the League will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at home. A good turn out is expected

**The English Schools Cross Country** first round takes place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Longford.

A team has been selected. Spectators may like to come along to watch the year 9 and 10 boys at about 4:10pm at Longford. You would be very welcome.

### English Schools Fell Running Championships

#### Sedbergh, Cumbria

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Adams' competed in the second English Schools Fell Running Championships, held on the beautiful hills above the village of Sedbergh in the Lake District. Most of the 13 boys and girls were competing in their first ever fell race. Fell racing, for the uninitiated involves running (and walking where the gradient becomes too steep) up a hill and then without pausing for breath, dashing and often stumbling back down. The course was a true test of endurance and lung capacity for all competitors, featuring many steep sections over a distance that the students would expect to run over a flat cross country course. Years 10-13 had to ascend over 1400 feet over a distance of 4 miles. The BBC reported on the race, the footage will be shown on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The top positions were dominated by northern schools, but the Adams' teams enjoyed the experience. (I hope!).

Very well done to all who took part. For those who are interested, there are several local fell races, mostly held around the Church Stretton Area.



## Individual Achievements



**Oliver Claxton (11D)** has secured selection to the England U15 squad. He is also one of several pupils to have links with premiership rugby teams. **Callum Perry (11T)**, **Stephen Byrne (11C)** and Oliver are all connected with Leicester Tigers. **Aquile Smith (11T)** plays for Worcester.

Oliver now reports on a rugby camp he attended during the summer:

*"In mid-august I went to Leeds University to join 38 other players who had been selected from the academy matches at the England under-15 performance camp. There I played with some amazing players, many of whom were from large public schools such as Millfield, Sedbergh and Bromsgrove. Over the course of the camp there were numerous physical tests, rugby sessions and lectures. The standard of rugby was very high but I feel that I played well and held my own with the other players. The camp was a very good experience as I met and played with new players whose talent I had never seen before. I think that it has made me a better player."*

*Two weeks after the camp I played for Leicester Tigers in a tournament against Sale , Northampton , Worcester , Leeds and Newcastle . We drew three matches, against Northampton , Sale and Worcester, lost one against a very strong Leeds side and won against Newcastle "*

### **Daniel Scriven (11W)**



has been selected for the ASA Regional Talent Programme, West Midlands Youths. Camps will be held throughout 2009/10. Only twenty swimmers throughout the West Midlands region have been selected for this programme. The aim of the camps is to provide swimmers with a stepping stone to move forward in their swimming careers and hopefully onto podium success. Selection was based on times completed at national Youth Championships, held earlier in the year at Sheffield.

### **National Tetrathlon Championships**

During August **Abi Gregory (U6)**, **Ellen Young** (a recent former pupil) and **James Wilkins (L6)** competed in a series of National Tetrathlon Championships. This is a multi-disciplined event consisting of shooting, running, swimming and cross-country horse riding, for competitors up to the age of 21. This event is often seen as a natural stepping stone to the Modern Pentathlon.



Firstly the three of them were selected to represent the Central England Team at the UK Regional Championships which took place in Scotland near Arbroath, a long 10 hour drive with 3 horses! James finished 6<sup>th</sup> individually in the UK competition, while the girls' team finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall. The National Championships then took place two weeks later at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire. James came 11<sup>th</sup> individually with Abi and Ellen's team finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

## Netball

### Adult Netball Tournament, Prestatyn 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September

On the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September the Adams' 1<sup>st</sup> Netball Squad entered an adult tournament at Prestatyn, as a joint team with players from the Newcastle Regional Squad. As one of only two teams (out of forty three!) to have a squad predominantly consisting of players still at U19 level, they faced a tough task ahead of them. The team played with enthusiasm and determination on the Saturday and only narrowly missed entering the Cup competition the following day.

Sunday saw the knockout rounds for the Plate commence and the Adams' girls continued to impress everyone, especially the regional players on the team, with their ability to take on board advice and compete against tough opposition. Every squad member played a part in the knockout stages and indeed the strength of the squad allowed fresh legs to take to the court at half times. Having progressed all the way to the final the girls were determined to go on and win the competition. Notable performances from **Charlotte Baker-Williams, Lucy Bratton, Charlotte Gammon** and **Fiona Yang** saw Adams' win in style and convincingly 15 – 8. It was a great way to end the weekend and the other squad members, **Sophie Flanagan, Laura Hoy** and **Stephanie Wood**, who played a big part in getting the team to the final, were also seen to be supporting enthusiastically from the sidelines. A fantastic experience for all involved – well done on a brilliant start to the netball season!

Miss Jones



*The victorious squad*



*In action*

### AGS 2nd team vs Shrewsbury High School Report from 16 September

A great start to the season for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team with a victory over Shrewsbury High School away from home. It was a fairly tight affair in the first few quarters with both teams putting pressure on the attack and keeping the score fairly low. The Adams' defence worked their socks off, particularly **Sophie Flanagan** who was voted Players' Player of the match. In the last quarter the attack really pulled it away from the opposition, driving forward to the ball and linking up well. The coach's player award went to **Annabel Heath** for her consistently well timed and well positioned drives into the circle, though a special mention must also go to **Becky Harris** for her efforts in the centre court. The final score was 17 – 11 to Adams'. The squad was Sophie Flanagan (c) Megan Eardly, Abigail Gregory, Becky Harris, Annabel Heath, Laura Hoy, Lucy Kesek, Georgia Middleton and Stephanie Wood.

### AGS 1st / 2nd team vs Newport Girls' High School Report from 25 September

Newport Girls' fast and feisty attack caught the Adams' girls off guard, who soon found themselves several goals down. After the first quarter Adams pulled themselves together. Tighter defending and more effort bringing the ball up court saw the final score level at 25-25, with four goals being made up in a very exciting last quarter. Coach's player was **Stephanie Wood** for effort levels and skilfully recycling the ball when the pass into the goal circle was not on. The squad was Charlotte Baker – Williams (c), Pippa Adams, Lucy Bratton, Laura Davies, Sophie Flanagan, Charlotte Gammon, Annabel Heath, Laura Hoy, Georgia Middleton, and Stephanie Wood.

Miss Jones

## Hockey News

### AGS vs Old Swinford Hospital Report from 16 September

It was the early friendly fixture of the year, with a chance for the Adams' hockey 1st XI to flex their Shropshire Cup winning muscles against Stourbridge-based Old Swinford Hospital. Under the captaincy of **Rajesh Dhulashia**, the squad was a mixture of Upper and Lower sixth form pupils, all keen to stake a claim for those illustrious starting positions in the team. Fortunes were good as Adams' slotted nicely into the groove and took a deserved lead in the first five minutes as **Nick Middleton** converted the first short corner. Not to be outdone by the school's resident top scorer from last year, the captain then notched up his first goal of the campaign with a well worked move, still within the first 10 minutes of the match. Already it was clear that we were the dominant side and the floodgates seemed to be slowly but surely opening up as **Craig Parry, Ashley Gillum, Patrick Lynch** and **Nick Middleton** (again!), all scored before the break. We had the luxury of using a squad of 16 players and, despite the fact that a number of them did have a stint playing out of position, we continued the domination in the second half, with **Ben Keeble** getting in on the act; **Middleton** completed his hat-trick; **Mitch Smith**, new to the sixth form scored on debut and, to complete the 10-0 demolition, **Patrick Lynch** capped off a fine man-of-the-match performance with his second of the game. The victory was comprehensive, with the seal of approval from the watching Headmaster, which bodes well for the tough fixture against Wolverhampton Grammar School. next week.

### AGS vs Wolverhampton Grammar School Report from 23 September

It was the first REAL test of the year. Having disposed of OSH last week the hockey 1st XI were up for the challenge of Wolverhampton Grammar School, with their resident England U18s, Cannock maestro, Nick Bandurak, looking to wreak havoc on the Adams' machine. The away team started the stronger and it was Bandurak who picked up on a defensive error to slot home and take the lead. Not to be outdone **Nick Middleton** soon brought the home side level from a well worked short corner. Adams' were clearly the dominant side, but it was the Bandurak-factor that was separating the sides early in the first half, as he got his name on the score sheet a further 2 times to take a 3-1 lead. Just before the break, it was the home side that pounced on a defensive mistake as **Ash Williams** squeezed the ball home from about 3cm out and, as the team sat in the goal contemplating the second half, they knew that the next goal would be crucial! It didn't take long for **Middleton** to get back on the score sheet. Having had a shot stopped on the line with a foot, he duly stepped up and converted the resulting penalty flick. By sticking to the game plan and grinding the opposition into submission, Adams' first took the lead, again through **Middleton**, and then extended it further and further. Despite one more moment of expertise from Bandurak, with his fourth goal of the afternoon, it was the Adams' team that emerged victorious, with Nick Middleton having scored six goals in the afternoon. The man of the match was deservedly awarded to **Peter Grech** for his fine performance in the centre of the park, keeping Bandurak at bay for the most part and helping to orchestrate this fine victory!

*Mr Armstrong*

### Free Children's Tickets for AFC Telford United

Free tickets are available for anyone in Year 11 or below to Any Blue Square North match at the Buck's Head, Telford during October and November 2009 (maximum of 5 tickets at any one time).

Please see Billy McClure (11C) for tickets and more information.



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With my very best wishes  
**M J Barratt**  
Headmaster