



Midhurst Rother College

Press Cuttings

October 2011



Midhurst Rother College

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PRESS CUTTINGS

Midhurst and Petworth Observer

6 October 2011

Sport

Ton up for tag teams

MIDHURST Rugby Club played host to a Year 3 and 4 tag rugby festival for pupils from local primary schools.

One hundred boys and girls took part, many of them playing tag rugby for the first time.

The players were coached by seven leadership students from Midhurst Rother College as well as two coaches from Midhurst RFC.

All the players took part in a series of matches after two pupils from Camelsdale school performed the Haka to get everyone in the Rugby World Cup mood.

The event was supported by the RFU, which allowed each player to go away with an England rugby goody bag. Midhurst RFC always welcome new players – for further information visit www.midhurstrugby.co.uk



UNDER-15

Midhurst & Easebourne 13 Worthing Town Youth 2

Although the result shows Midhurst dominating the game, Worthing did play good football.

Midhurst could do no wrong once the goal was in sight. They played well as a team and continued to do so throughout.

Burtoo netted four and Midhurst's best goal was from Field Millard with a long-range shot. Mephram, Papaj and Warren got two each and there were also goals from Murphy and Greet.

MIDHURST: Greet, Wilson, Lorgan, Thompson, Thornley, Wysocki, Murphy, Cain, Field-Millard, Warren, Oomen, Burtoo, Mephram, Papaj.



PICTURE BY LOUISE ADAMS

■ Harry Leleu's lead-off leg for the under-15 boys was a scintillating lap of 9min 3sec in the 2,800m circuit, knocking seven seconds off Chichester's James McKenzie's record.

■ Handing over to **Dan Eeles** and with Josh James on the final leg, the club's lead had stretched to nearly a minute at the finish over a battling Hastings team.



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Athletics

Cross-country relays bring record numbers – and record times

ATHLETICS

A RECORD number of 400 of the county's best cross-country runners were in action in the Sussex relay championships at Goodwood.

Perfect conditions and strong fields resulted in a number of course records being set.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the final race of the day when the times of the fastest five senior men ran they now occupy five of the top seven places in the history of the event. The individual lap record and the course record were smashed to conclude the event with a flourish.

Among the fastest times was that of Chichester stalwart James Baker, who set a new personal best time by five seconds – having run every year since the first race in 1992.

Once again Chichester's juniors set the ball rolling by winning no fewer than four team medals in the four races.

Fresh from their top-ten finish in the South of England championships, the under-15 boys showed the way with a dominant display of front-running, leading from start to finish to win gold in the second fastest time ever, two seconds shy of the course record – full details are in the panel on the right.

Showing Chichester's strength



The women's and girls' race under way in the warm sun at Goodwood

PHOTO BY LOREN ADAMS © 11/10/11

In depth, the club's B team snatched the bronze medals, having been given a great start by George Dempster with the fourth fastest time of the day and with Ed Gevart and Harry Lyne holding off a fast-finishing Harsham team.

Casey Keates and Harry Pink were in a non-scoring third team with Keates the seventh Chichester athlete to make the top 20 times of the day.

In the girls' under-15 event, pre-race favourites Hastings justified their billing with an emphatic win, breaking the Sussex record in the process.

Consistent running from Chichester secured a well-deserved silver with Charlotte Reading, Hannah Crood and Rose Ellis separated by just 24 seconds after

Reading posted the fourth fastest time of the day. The club's second team ran consistently to finish seventh with Tara Bage, Emma Maynard and Holly Deaton in action followed by Lucy Ellis and Nicola Mead for a non-scoring C team.

Mead has shown the most dramatic improvement in the past year by slicing a staggering 1min 48sec from last year's time.

In the under-13s, the boys finished with two teams in the top four with Zac Hurst, Brudie Keates and Sam Pink holding off the B team of Josh Eeles, Adam Crood and Ollie Poole for bronze.

Sam Reading, Tim Mead and Harry Carter brought the C team home 11th while Oliver Finnear and Ben Collins ran for non-

scoring teams. Chichester's fastest lap was run by Eeles with a 10min 38sec clocking.

In the girls' race, Caitlin Paul gave the team a good start in the leading pack, a position maintained by Emily Morley and Maddie Smith to bring them home fifth. Molly Whatmore ran well for an incomplete B team.

With complete teams in all five categories in the senior men's race, Chichester scooped two more team golds with wins in both the over-30 and over-40 categories, both new events – see panel on the right.

Chichester's other three teams were just outside the medals.

Ollie Pickersgill, Callum Adams and Greg Smith were a close fourth in the under-17 race. For the over 40s, Tony Roddis, Chris Tucker,

Andy Maynard and Tony Cooley were fifth while the senior quartet of Baker, Joe Corbett, Martin Harwood and Ed Parker came up against the best men's field of all time and finished sixth in a time which would normally have given them bronze.

In the senior women's race, Chichester looked in with a chance after the second lap after fine runs from Lucy Criddle and Nicky Upton put the team second but Maria Wright was up against most of the day's fastest runners on lap three and wasn't able to hang on to a medal position. But sixth was their best result for several years.

The over-35 team of Eva Mikuska, Rachel Austin and Jill Rensan huffed to finish sixth while the two over-40 teams were fourth and fifth at the end of their race.

Katie Michael, Persephone Hagan and Jess Leonard finished one place outside the medals while Amanda Godfrey, Tracy Jayant and Sue Balzer were a further two minutes back. Leonard was the fastest over-35 in the race to win the fastest lap prize while in the same race Georgina showed a speedy turn of pace for the under-17 team with the fourth fastest time in her age group.

This weekend Chichester Runners go to Farley Mount near Winchester for the first Hampshire League race of the season.

PHIL BAKER



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Students reach for the stars and rocket to success in exams



Principal Dr Joe Vitagliano with the successful science astronomy club students PICTURE BY JANET GIBBS

EIGHT science astronomy students felt they were reaching for the stars when they took their GCSE exam early.

But they successfully rocketed to their ambitious target after committing their own time to their studies at a Midhurst Rother College after-school club.

Joe Casebow, Matthew Payn and Iwan Johns, who were in Year 8 at the time of the exam, passed it three years before their main GCSEs are due, and Sophie Bosley, Alison Collins, Reece Onslow-Dewey, Lisa Taylor and Jacob Calvo Penfold were two years ahead.

The eight have been members of the college's science astronomy club which meets after the school day ends.

Science teacher Lamia Ibrahim said the group worked hard.

"It is not an easy subject, but they all were clearly fascinated and were thus able to put a great deal into their coursework.

We were all very proud they were sufficiently prepared to take the exam," she added.

Meet Midhurst's marvellous martial medallists

TAE KWONDO

MIDHURST is home to a major haul of tae kwondo championship medals thanks to a sterling performance by martial artists who travelled to the south eastern regional tournament in Crawley.

Lucy Tucker (nine) won gold in the peewes group, while Lucy van Zwanenberg (13) took bronze in the individual middleweight girls' competition. She was also first in the tag team event when she teamed up with Catherine Pearson from Andover and Nikki Francis from Bourne.

Her brother Oliver (15) won silver in the individual heavyweight boys' category. Among the adults, Paul Kingswell formed a tag team with Dean Roberts and Gary Mitchell from Bognor and came third in the red/black belt sparring.

"It was a tough competition this year," said Kingswell. "We all took a few knocks.



South Downs club members with the medal haul

There were some strong teams to beat, but we were determined to get into the medals."

The next challenge for Kingswell and Roberts will be their black belt grading;

both are eligible to enter and are working hard on the preparations.

Joe Tucker (11) said the day was a great experience even though he was just squeezed off the podium in the boys' lightweight individuals.

The South Downs Tae Kwondo club have been running at Midhurst Rother College's sports hall (Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.15pm) for about five years and instructor Alan Burnell says the competition results represent a coming of age.

"Earlier this year Oliver and Lucy became our first home grown black belts and we could potentially produce several more in the coming year. Our competition results have been improving steadily and it is notable how many members are keen to progress in both competing and grading," he said.

Taekwondo is an Olympic sport, with Britain tipped to do well in 2012.



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20 October 2011

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young pupils enjoy a big sing

MORE than 220 primary school pupils from the Rother Valley joined forces at Midhurst Rother College for the 'Big Sing.'

In two sessions pupils took part in songs, singing games and harmony practise. *No Wars Will Stop Us Singing*, the theme song for World Peace Day, fired up the young voices and the lively session was rounded off with *Pocketful of Sunshine* written by Natasha Beddingfield.

The Big Sing was hosted by Richard Brimacombe and Sally Tindley from the college's music department, supported by Year 8 students and led by Emily Barden. West Sussex County Council's 'voices and choirs' leader.

The college will host 'The Really Big Sing' next October in its new building.

Mystery art to go under the hammer

THE Wheatsheaf pub's function room at Midhurst is to host a 100-canvas anonymous silent auction which will feature paintings and photographs produced by artists both expert and amateur, to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust and Rother College's student materials fund.

Head of art Jeanette Sutton organised the auction after hearing of a similar one in which Damien Hirst took part - only to find his contribution didn't raise as much as that of a student.


The charity Teenage Cancer Trust was chosen following the recovery of one of the college's art students from leukaemia.

Each artist was provided with an A4 canvas for their work and donations have been received from artists such as botanical illustrator Mariella Baldwin, photographer Michael Chevis, previous Midhurst Grammar School heads of art, Stuart Neil and Allan Davies, and the current head of photography, Nour-Eddine El Ghoumari.


The event will take place on Saturday, beginning with the viewing and silent bidding at 5pm and ending at 8pm.

All work will be exhibited anonymously - information about the artist will only be discovered after the bidder has won the canvas.

The reserve on all canvases is only £1 and everyone is invited to attend.



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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

ICT and Network Technician

One year fixed term contract
(Salary: £18,000 per annum) Full time position 8am - 4pm

The College wishes to appoint an experienced and reliable person to assist in managing the schools ICT network. Must have excellent technical knowledge of Windows networking.

An application pack is available from the College website
www.mrc-academy.org/jobs

Closing date: 3 November 2011
Interviews: Week commencing 7 November 2011



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Final Press Cutting in this series

PRESS CUTTINGS

Midhurst Matters

Issue 34 October 2011



A NEW SCHOOL APPEARS

How quickly time flies by....

This is clearly apparent with the development of the £31 million, capital build project at Midhurst Rother College.

From the official commencement of the new build project at the special Turf Cutting ceremony held in March 2011 until now the site has been transformed. As we go to press the very concrete appearance of the new construction is being transformed as the wrap-around phase commences with weatherboarding and brickwork. Scaffolding has been erected and by the time you are reading this the roof will be on and the building watertight.

The large cranes will disappear in October and windows will be fitted during November. The landscaping programme has also begun and ground works for the all-terrain pitches and multi-use games areas are under way.

Attention to the interior has begun, with the modular installation of the main mechanical and electrical runs followed by internal partitions. Once these are in place it will be all hands



on deck to prepare the inside of the building for handover and occupancy September 2012.

The new building will offer superb facilities unrivalled in the county, including:

- State-of-the-art science laboratories, media suites, music rooms, dance and art studios
- Latest ICT technology in every classroom and shared area
- A space imaginatively designed especially for Sixth Form
- Amphitheatre

- All-weather pitches, tennis and basketball courts
- A dedicated transport terminal

When the building is complete, Midhurst Rother College will be one of the best-designed and best-equipped schools in the country. However, importantly, the new facilities will not only serve students and staff, but will also provide an invaluable resource for the local community, particularly with a high standard of performing arts facilities.



Artist's Impressions of the new academy