

## **Sports Report – Summer 2015**

The sun didn't quite shine, but the rain didn't come. The whole of Year 7 took part, along with most of the rest of the school as competitors or supporters. Two records fell, as the Year 9 300m record was broken by Josh Hole and the Year 10 4x100 team also broke a record, narrowly beating the staff, who finished a commendable second in the staff v student relay. Sports Day really did show BWS in all its glory; we had a great day, in a competitive but supportive atmosphere. The highlight of my day was the Year 9 200m; I don't think I have seen an event so close before, it was brilliant, as three young men hurtled down the home straight dipping for the line, one race winner, but all mates, all congratulating each other nonetheless. My thanks to Mr Hole for organising the day; I know a lot of work goes into making the day run smoothly and with the impending bad weather another dimension was added, let alone the blowing of bubbles....

I'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has supported school sport this year by giving up their time, be it by taking a team, driving or supporting us; without you we wouldn't be able to put on the array of sports available. I'd also like to thank all those who have contributed financially, it has made a real difference this year and will continue to do so, without this generous support we would be unable to enter the various competitions and run the numerous teams. Unfortunately the more success we have, the more it costs.

I include in the above thanks the Parents' Association who have helped us in other areas and as a result we have been able to 'do up' the gym with new weights and a new look to support our growing number of academy sportsmen. Also to the Old Wordsworthians who have kindly contributed funds to enable us to display representative jerseys of boys past and present and sports teams who received honours, now we just have to find some wall space for them.

In terms of teams and sports we have had eight activities during the last term, including some from last term, as well as our leavers' events. One sport brought back this year fully was cricket and with a very strong cohort in both Years 9 and 10 the county was taken by storm. The U14 team lost narrowly to Marlborough College in the Lord's Taverners Semi Final, while the U15 team (largely made up of the U14s) beat Dauntsey's en route to the final of the T20 competition, where they beat Warminster to be crowned county champions. They then went on to the regional competition, beating Clifton College before defeat against Bourneside, who knocked them out. This was a great return from one season in formal competition and some top schools were toppled. The U13s did their bit by retaining the Cathedral School VIs competition and the leavers once again defeated the staff in the annual Paul Collins Leavers' game, in a very tightly contested match organised again by Mr Gilmour.

Sports that rolled over included both basketball and football. The U16 basketballers went down to a strong Ivybridge team in the last 32 of the nationals, while the footballers experienced success in their respective cup finals. The U12s beat Wellington and the U14s defeated John Hanson in their Salisbury Area finals, while the U15s were runners-up. The seniors did their bit as well retaining both the

Wiltshire Schools' Trophy with a win over Kingdown in the final and also winning the league.

The athletics and tennis teams have also experienced success this term with the school winning Area Sports Athletics at all age groups, and a number of boys representing Wiltshire at the Regionals, with two boys making it to Nationals: Aaron Campbell in the triple jump and Callum MacTaggart in the 400m were both selected. Aaron couldn't make it, but Callum competed well, finishing 19<sup>th</sup> overall nationally, and will hope for more as he competes in the U17 Nationals this summer.

In the team events both the Year 8 and Year 10 teams reached the regional rounds after strong county events, but were unable to progress to Nationals this year. However the Year 7 Super 8 team were able to win the School Games and be crowned County Champions.

Tennis has a lot to live up to this term following the Seniors' success last term and the boys didn't let us down. The Year 8 boys were crowned County Division 1 league winners, beating Dauntsey's on the way, while the Year 10 team finished second to Marlborough, but with a young team hope to progress further next year. In the Aegon National Championships the team were beaten by a strong Bournemouth Collegiate School, but were buoyed by their performances, while the non-school/club players went to the School Games and finished second overall in a 10 team competition. Finally congratulations must go to Nishant Talpallikar for winning the Schools' Road to Wimbledon competition and coming in the top 5 at the county event, while Ben Rolfe, representing Salisbury Tennis Club, won the event and will go to the finals at Wimbledon this summer. Olly Martin has also progressed through to the next round of the Road to Wimbledon International event.

In a round-up of other events and competitions, the Year 11 Table Tennis team, led by Tom Barrett, came second at the School Games after losing narrowly to Sheldon. The Year 11 leavers demonstrated what school sport is all about on their final day with two hotly contested competitions in football and dodgeball. The Year 10s took Godolphin on at Lacrosse and drew 8-8 after a year of lacrosse on their enrichment curriculum. Mr Duckett led another successful Angling trip, Mr Oldham the Year 9 Pencelli trip and I had the pleasure of taking 8 boys to Wimbledon. One trip I've planned, but won't be on, is the forthcoming rugby tour and I would like to send my best wishes to the boys and staff on tour in Argentina and Brazil this summer; I wish I could be there! To the boys in Year 9 and Year 10: information on your tour in 2017 will be out in the new term.

Finally a huge "congratulations and well done" to old boy Will Oldham who completed 340 miles in 8 days visiting all of our rival schools to raise money for 'Wheels for Life' a charity in memory of another old boy Rory Walworth.

Good luck to the No 11 Lawn Wanderers and Exeter Street Elite teams playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fishwick 7s tournament on 26<sup>th</sup> July at Wimbledon RFC, all in aid of old boy Jack Fishwick. It is great to see so many old boys still taking part and competing in sport while supporting and remembering their mates, it again only highlights how special BWS is and sport in particular.

I wish you all a great summer and very much look forward to the start of the next academic year where we have more football competitions entered than in previous years, the Seniors Tennis Team begin their assault on Bolton again and rugby kicks off with a tough first weekend match against Clifton College. Although the summer is a time of rest and reflection it is also a time to prepare for the sporting season ahead and I hope the boys do this, so we can hit the ground running in September and once again compete on all fronts for top honours. As the Head of Sport It has been I have been proud and privileged to see so many of our boys represented on a local, county, regional and national stage. Enjoy the break and support the boys abroad via our twitter feed @BWSRugby.

R Demain-Griffiths  
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