

College have the edge over Vikings

Shiplake College 20, Old Viking Society 19

A large crowd enjoyed a tense match which came to life after ten minutes when Ben Farmar intercepted on his own 22, sprinted 80 yards and shrugged off two tackles to give Shiplake the first try.

For much of the first-half the Old Viking Society scrum-half Richard Lloyd gave rapid service to Kit Stormont, until Lloyd opted for a blistering inside break. James Belgum picked up the sweetly timed off-load, made 20 metres and gave another off-load for Alex Woolnough to sprint the remaining twenty-five metres for the try of the day.

The College's second try came from another turn-over, a well-placed kick and Henry Levison winning a fifty metre race to triumphantly dive over for a try. The Old Viking Society soon replied by working the ball wide onto the left-wing for Ryan Donovan to sprint into the corner to make it 12-12 at half-time.

Into the second-half, Old Viking

Society began to play with greater cohesion, deciphering the mysteries of their own line-out calls and conceding fewer penalties at the breakdown. A brave and determined College goal-line stand denied the Old Viking Society. Then it was the College's turn to threaten the Old Viking Society line with a penalty five metres out. Jaime Diaz-Faes powered his way over to give the College a 17-12 lead.

Into the dying minutes it looked as if Jamie Orpwood had sealed the game for the Old Viking Society. He seized on a ball squirting out of a ruck and proved unstoppable from thirty metres out. Yet the College just had time to pass their way up field and allow a cool-headed Max Witting to kick the match-winning penalty.

Shiplake College XV: W. Milton, R. Weare, O. Venn, R. Gascoigne, M. Bull, J. Pinto, J. Diaz-Faes, S. Moss, M. Witting, H. Levison, B. Farmar, W. Ewart, O. Loudon, R. Jackson, R. Pusey. Replacements: T. Kemp, M. Lee, J. Colman, M. Laurenson.

Shiplake students train with Barbarians stars

Tyrone Howe, Ireland and British Lions winger, was one of four Barbarians — the world's most prestigious rugby club — who coached the Shiplake College U14s squad at RAF Benson.

Fellow Ireland centre Johnny Bell joined Howe, Newbury's Andy Dalglish and South African Chris Malherbe as they gave 32 Shiplake boys some tips on passing, movement and off-loading.

The Barbarians, captained by Dalglish, were at RAF Benson to prepare for their annual Remembrance fixture versus a Combined Services XV played at Newbury. Before the coaching from the professionals the RAF Benson players warmed up the Shiplake squad with some active physical training.

The RAF Benson players are no strangers to Rugby success having won the RAF Rugby

Cup for the last four seasons. With players frequently having to serve overseas, their scrum-half had just returned from ten weeks in Iraq, the station needs plenty of cover for every playing position.

The Shiplake boys shared the limelight with the Barbarians stars as BBC Radio recorded features on their news show. "Best day of my life," said one boy as he climbed back on the minibus, clutching his Barbarians shirt and souvenirs presented by the RAF.

Andy Dalglish went on to captain the Babas to a 33-25 victory over the Combined Services, clinched by an injury time try.

Shiplake travelled to Lord Williams in the quarter-final of the Oxfordshire Cup and put their running rugby into effect with five tries, three for winger Sam Quelch, as they powered into the semi-finals with a 31-17 away win.

Arabian Nights at college

Next week the Tithe Barn at Shiplake College will be transformed into a Arabian Tent for the Mad Dogz Theatre Company's production of *Arabian Nights*.

Written by Dominic Cooke, *Arabian Nights* was first staged by the Young Vic Theatre Company. It is wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning the new Queen Shahrazad is to be put to death but she has one gift that can save her — the gift of storytelling.

From Wednesday November 29th to Saturday December 2nd, audiences can join Shahrazad and a cast of 25 actors, who between them play over 60 parts in a specially constructed Arabian tent in the Tithe Barn Theatre.

Catherine Saker, head of drama and theatre studies at Shiplake College said: "When designing the play I kept thinking about Bahrain — where I lived for a short while as a child, and I kept coming back to the idea of deserts and so there has to be sand, five tons of it to be exact!"

Arabian Nights takes place at 7.30 p.m. each evening. Tickets are available from the college on 0118 940 2455. There is no charge for tickets, but donations will be asked for each night for WAR CHILD, a children's charity that works with children caught up in the war torn areas of the world.

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Ready, steady, fire!

Pupils at Shiplake College shot to the top of the class last week with a lesson in catapult making.

The mini-replicas of trebuchets — used in medieval times to batter down city walls — were built by the year nine youngsters as part of a design competition.

Pupils used pine, elastic bands and chain to create the mini-weapons. The winning device was 20 centimetres higher than the others and had a leverage arm of 90 cm, propelling a squash ball 32 feet.

Teacher Michael Edwards said: "If any fortress storming is required in the near future Shiplake College has a number of well-qualified engineers ready to take up the challenge!"



Michael Syropoulos (left) and Christopher Troup try out their trebuchet.