

College staff put through their paces



The groups, made up of college staff, who took part in team-building exercises.

After recently conducting a leadership programme for sixth formers at Shiplake College, leadership guru and team-building expert Anthony Wood returned to put the college's staff through their paces.

The teaching, estate, secretarial, matrons, technicians and catering staff formed six ten-member teams and were challenged with a number of exercises on the playing fields.

They included making a buggy from plastic drums,

timber and wood, as well as travelling from one 'island' to another using two ladders.

Mr. Wood said: "It's very trendy to talk about teams. Companies and organisations think that if they start talking about teams, they will get more out of their people. It doesn't always work like this and there is a lot of bullying in the workplace.

"That's why so many people dread going to work on a Monday morning."

Nick Bevan, headmas-

ter, said the work-out proved to be a great success. "I watched the year 12 exercise, and I thought it would be a great way of

bringing all the different people who sustain the community life of the college together.

"Cooks, chemistry teach-

ers, craftsmen and cleaners all worked together to solve the problems and everyone had a tremendous amount of fun."

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Schools sport

Brothers stay close in front row

LEE BESFORD

By John Goodbody

OPPOSING front rows do not just see double, but triple, when they scrum down against the Shiplake College under-15 rugby team. In a selection believed to be unique in the history of schools sport in Britain, triplets, two of whom are identical, make up the front row of the same team.

The 14-year-old Sparkes brothers came together as forwards last season after Rollo, the youngest, moved into the pack from inside centre. Rollo, now the team's hooker, said: "Opposing players see that my brothers are identical, but some of them are quite shocked when they realise that they are playing against triplets."

Martin Unsworth, the team's coach, said: "The situation confuses the referees and the opposition, although in fact they are very different boys. Will is keen on the technical side of the game. He gives it more thought. Rollo is



Will, Rollo and Charlie Sparkes bind for Shiplake Under-15

the most outgoing, while Charlie is a mixture of the two."

Charlie was born nine minutes before his identical brother, Will, with Rollo being delivered two minutes later. The first two are the props in the team and are the same size, at 5ft 10in tall and 12st 8lb. Rollo is 2in shorter and 22lb lighter.

The sons of an Army officer based at Sandhurst, they have one older brother, Tom. He is an 18-year-old prop and has played for Eastern Counties.

Will says that they are "reasonably close as brothers". However, they prefer to think of themselves as members of the same XV, which next week plays in the semi-finals of the Oxfordshire Schools Cup.

All three also row, although Will plans to switch to hockey, while they share many of the same subjects for GCSE.

Rollo sees himself as eventually concentrating on rowing, but his brothers would like to see how their rugby develops.

Shiplake College make county cup progress

Shiplake College U15s 19, Burford School U15 7

Shiplake College welcomed Burford for a home tie in the Oxfordshire U15 Cup and as with many a cup game it was nerves that dominated the early exchanges.

Shiplake showed great spirit and a determination to win but they found it difficult to establish any continuity. Ali Sloane, from fly-half, began to make use of possession fed back by a strong pack, taking some sound tactical options. Shiplake took an important early lead when their pressure resulted in a penalty try. Sloane slotted home the conversion to establish a vital 7-0 lead.

Into the second half a try from Alex Geary gave Shiplake some breathing space. On the previous Saturday Charlie Page had scored a hat-trick for the B team versus Bloxham and had been promoted to the A team.

It proved to be an inspired selection. His well-taken try gave Shiplake a clear 17 point lead. However, Burford continued to attack and they scored a consolation try in the final minutes. But it is a strong Shiplake squad who can now look forward to a semi-final place.