

Vikings win the day at Shiplake College

Shiplake College 1sts 0, Old Viking Society 18

Old Vikings' skipper, Rob Gurney, invited a formidable collection of former Shiplake College 1st XV players for the annual old boys' challenge. Immediately powerful forward drives from John Robinson and Will Paddison produced an early lead from a penalty.

It was the forwards who made the Old Vikings' opening try. A midfield turnover produced quick ball for Richard Lightwing, and electric broken-field running set up Ashley Hutton's try. An 8-0 lead spurred the Vikings forward but the College 1st XV defended the fringes well. Chan and Mills

worked hard in the loose while scrum-half Duckworth and fly-half Winthrop combined well to clear the ball despite the pressure.

Just before half-time the powerful presence of the Old Vikings forwards sucked in the College defence once more and Finch Field-Hall had the pace to make the corner.

Territorially the Old Vikings continued to dominate the second half but Max Williams disrupted their supply of line-out ball and Basil Holiasmenos showed that he could halt the charging ball carriers. Some big tackles from Charles Price, Paddy Colman and Myles Coker deprived the Vikings of their momentum. Even when they were beaten, full-back James Bailey was often well-positioned for the try saving tackle.

The Vikings' third try arrived when yet more secure ball from a scrum gave Tom Michell time to weigh up the options. A beautifully timed pass to Alex MacDonald gave the substitute winger a channel to the try line. The Vikings ran out 18-0 winners and didn't even need their England man. Old Vikings qualified Chris Cracknell, fresh from his victory over Ireland with England U19s last week was not permitted to play due to his Harlequins contract.

Shiplake College: J. Chan, C. Cort, B. Holiasmenos, M. Williams, M. Jackson, D. Squire, C. Mills, P. Colman, I. Duckworth, S. Winthrop, C. Price, T. Sampson, G. Hackford, J. Fordham, J. Bailey, T. McKean, G. Osbourne, O. Thornton, M. Coker.

Old Viking Society: R. Gurney, S. Wood, T. Lowndes, W. Paddison, C. Armitage, J. Hopkins, J. Wilkinson, T. Michell, J. Robinson, R. Lightwing, A. Hutton, A. Webber, C. O'Descalchi, F. Field-Hall, C. Ellaby, T. Bellamy, T. Clarke, N. Lowry, T. Gouldstone, A. de Borman.

Shiplake secure final spot

Shiplake College U15s 49 Wheatley Park U15 0

Shiplake College's U15 team swept their way into the final of the U15 Oxfordshire Cup with a powerful performance.

Shiplake piled on the pressure right from the kick off. Richard Lloyd stepped up from the B team and took centre stage with a nippy performance at scrum-half. It was Tristan Harpur's second game back after injury and the No. 8 was hungry for action and tries.

Harpur drove over for Shiplake's opening score. Ever alert for the pop-up and pick-up he went on to score a total of four tries.

Charlie Sparkes, one of the unique front of triplets, attracting so much media attention on TV and in the press, grabbed the second try.

Martin Unsworth, from Henley Rugby Club, working alongside coach Shane O'Brien, has created a pack of forwards eager to dominate. Chris Alstadt, at flanker, tackled everything and skilfully linked the forwards and backs. When the ball went out to the forwards Lloyd's slick service gave fly-half Ali Sloane the opportunity to unleash Phil McIntosh and Charlie Page who both had electric games.

It was winger Alex Woolnough who benefitted from the space created as he ran in a hat-trick of tries. Second row Alex Geary was keen to crash over for his slice of glory as Shiplake scored nine tries.

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE GETS £2M SIXTH FORM EXTENSION

By Maria Brunsten

A NEW £2 million upper sixth house which will prepare pupils for university life was officially opened at Shiplake College on Saturday by governor John Bowcock.

The house is modelled on the style of university halls of residence, with single rooms grouped around kitchens and bathrooms, and even includes connection to the college computer network.

Headteacher Nick Bevan

said the development will provide room to properly accommodate the sixth form day girls now entering the college.

He added: "It's the seventh building development we have opened since I arrived at Shiplake and I would like to pay tribute to the pupils and staff, particularly housemaster Shane O'Brien and tutor Jane Barr, who helped

the move to progress so smoothly.

"It's not just the sixth form who will benefit. With the upper sixth form moving out of their boarding houses, junior pupils will enjoy more space and additional leisure facilities in their existing houses."

Mr. Bowcock, who had taken responsibility for many aspects of the construction programme, paid tribute to the architects Nichols, Brown and Webber as well as builders George and Harding.

Gratitude was also expressed to their supervisory staff and praise given to 'the home team', led by bursar Jim Mansergh and estate manager David Greer who helped to ensure that the project was completed in less than 12 months.

After a prayer of blessing for the new house from chaplain Robert Prancé, parents and visitors were invited to tour the accommodation



Pictured (left-to-right) are headmaster Nick Bevan, chairman of governors Nigel Gilson and governors John Bowcock and Sir William McAlpine.

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