



# AGSB SPORT TERM REVIEW

## ISSUE 7



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AGSB HAVE REACHED

6

NATIONAL FINALS

OVER

260

FIXTURES ACROSS  
ALL SPORTS

# YEAR 9 BARCELONA FOOTBALL TOUR

During the week before half term, the year 9 football team were granted the privilege to go on a football tour to Barcelona. We arrived late on the first night for dinner and an early night, which would be followed by training the next morning. Following a fun training session in the intense Spanish heat, we met in the afternoon for a few hours visit at the Camp Nou, where we had a chance to buy original FC Barcelona merchandise. Unfortunately, the stadium was under renovations, but we were still able to experience the Barcelona immersive tour, which proved to be very popular amongst the opinions of the boys. Dinner that evening was followed by a closely competitive Quiz Night, which was won by only two points. Tuesday was matchday 1, after some morning football on the beach, we prepared for our game in the late afternoon but due to a 40-minute delay from the opposition, we played a mixed A and B team game.



On Wednesday, we walked around the city centre of Barcelona with our tour guide, which included historical streets, gothic architecture, and political buildings; we also celebrated the birthdays of our two players, Ehsan and Eric. That evening was our real matchday 1, coming against the local Castelldefels FC. The small stature of most of their players meant their technical ability was immaculate, however, with the constant high press from Isaac, Daniyal and the midfield, along with the brick wall that stood as our defence, we would win in the second half comfortably, scoring 4 to round up a 6-2 win. The B team on the other hand, were not so lucky, coming up against a team a year older. Much to their credit, spirits on both teams remained positive.

On our final day, the morning started with another walk to the beach in recovery for our final match of the tour. It was an early game, scheduled for the early afternoon against the British School of Barcelona. Arriving at the same location as our A team game the previous night, the A team would play first as we came up against a tough midfield and a defence of comfortable passers. Despite starting strong, getting caught on the counter would be our demise. We would fight back, as we did in the first game, with the score fluctuating until the half ended 2-1 to BSB. The second half was one to watch, end-to-end, comebacks, penalties and disallowed goals made for a spectacular end to our tour. An early free kick from David equalised early on in the half but would be cancelled out by BSB's strong attack. 4-2 to the home side. A goal from Philip's speed – as always – would bring one back and BSB would regain their two-goal cushion from the penalty spot. Once again, the team's fight and spirit came on display, as the ultimate goal of the tour from Philip came late on, followed by another free kick, this time catching the keeper off guard. 5-5. A tap-in only a minute later from Isaac would be disallowed for offside, and the game ended in a draw. Special honours go to Joe Booth, Frank Bowden, Philip Sharp and Ehsan Amri for winning their respective awards; and much appreciation for Mr Smyth, Mr Cammack and Mr Bailey for providing such a class experience for us all, making for a brilliant tour which we all enjoyed.





# KHO-KHO



## National Dharmic games

On the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024, three teams of teenagers from AGSB, AGGS and SGS, two Kho-Kho teams and one football team, went out to conquer the best of the best and compete against top units in the national dharmic games ran by NHSF (National Hindu Student Forum).

The dharmic games kicked off with football and our Trafford football squad led by captain Dhruv P (Yr13) and vice-captain Yuvan S (Yr13). They began with a 2-0 victory with our vice scoring two ridiculous penalties showing age is just a number and we weren't there to simply just have fun. The games continued with an astounding 6 clean sheets thanks to our brick wall Arjun N (Yr13) and we remained undefeated until the final with Portsmouth, which unfortunately ended in a 3-0 loss. However, the lads put on a commendable performance and got to the final beating everyone else there with the smallest amount of time to train - simply unbelievable!

Towards the end of football, the Kho-Kho group stages began, with Trafford A

led by Gautham R (Yr13) and Arjun A (Yr12) and Trafford B led by Vibhul VC (Yr12) and Dylan P (Yr12).

The B team had to beat everyone in their group to qualify which unfortunately they just fell short of, putting them one point off qualifying but still putting on an amazing performance considering the team was formed last minute with a bunch of new players.

Trafford A won each game in the group stages except for the game against Nottingham. Nottingham dominated in the first half putting us under great pressure. It was all down to the second innings. We did our best, made mistakes here and there under pressure, our vice put life and limb on the line dislocating his finger in the process and was no longer allowed to play. The refs finally announced that the game was tied on points putting us in contention for qualification. After 3 more games we came out on top of our group and moved on to the quarter finals.

We were undefeated every game that followed, beating the Manchester team led by the best player in England by a large margin in the quarters and only just beating Loughborough by half a point in the semis. Finally, the last challenge, the final vs Queens Mary. The game was extremely tight throughout, so much so that it was a draw first time around! No one could have anticipated that. Then they announced there will be another 2 min each half round (like extra time in football). We were beaten and bruised up but still wanted the win. We began the first half, and all went to plan with only 2 of our players getting out. We were confident. Even in the second half the opposition seemed to be struggling against our skill and finally the final whistle arrived. We were buzzing. They announced the scores and after all the blood, sweat and tears they said... A tie again. It was eventually decided that both teams would share the title.

We had to endure many injuries, close games and extreme pressure however each team did their very best and we finished with a national champions title in Kho-Kho, as well as runners up in football. We are not only the first non-university team to compete against this level of sport in NHSF but also the first non-university to have the title of national champions. Having to go up against top universities such as Sheffield, Warwick, Cambridge and Imperial and winning speaks for itself.

Written by : Pranav K (Yr11)

# OLD BOYS & SENIOR SPORTS AWARDS

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March saw the annual 'Old Boys' fixtures and senior sports awards evening.

Both the football and rugby fixtures were a huge success. The old boys took the bragging rights this year, winning on pens in the football and 5-0 in the rugby. Both games were extremely tight, with some superb individual performances. Finn S took man of the match in the rugby match and Zain H took the award in the football fixture.

In the evening 120, pupils, old boys and parents turned up to the senior sports award's ceremony.

Awards were given out for, cricket, hockey, football, and rugby along with the 'Jon Hughes' prize for outstanding contribution to sport, 'Roy Coleman' trophy for the team of the year and the 'Dunkerly Cup' for the victor ludoram.

The evening was a great success, and the awards winners can be seen below.

Les Cope Memorial Trophy for Cricket – Yuvan S

Rea Trophy for Hockey – Oli H

Jon Hughes Trophy – Dan W

JW Brown Trophy for Rugby – Rhys H

JR Thompson Memorial Trophy for Football – Will S

Esprit De Corpos Football – Stephen E

Esprit De Corpos Rugby – Charlie C

Roy Coleman Team of the Year – Hockey

Dunkerly Cup – Ed L



# BRIAN KEAN

# TABLE TENNIS

Our very own Brian Kean, has been awarded, 'Table Tennis England Lifetime Achievement Award'

Brian began his table tennis career at Edinburgh Boys Club and then went on to win the Scottish singles, double and mixed championships as well as representing Scotland in World, European and Commonwealth Championships.

Brian moved to Manchester in 1963 and joined the YMCA team and made great progress with hard work.

His coach Derek Schofield suggested that he returned to Scotland to compete in the National Championships which took him to the top level with great success.

He was the Scottish national team trainer and coach for five years and was the UKCC qualified coach and ETTA North West Coaching co-ordinator and then the ETTA regional coach.

He has coached table tennis at Altrincham Boys Grammar School for ten years with considerable success and is the Greater Manchester Schools team and individual organiser as well as enjoying playing plenty of golf to a good level.

His award for his services to his sport was the 'Table Tennis England Lifetime Achievement Award' which he was delighted to receive.





# BASKETBALL

The U16's squad have gone the entire season unbeaten and have been crowned Trafford Champions.

The U14's also had a great season, with only one defeat to St Ambrose, well done to all involved.

Special thanks to Mr Land who took the teams this year.



# FOOTBALL

Years 7/8/9&10 have all progressed into the Trafford Cup quarter-finals.

All the teams are showing promise and are coming into form for the later stages of the local competition. We wish them well for the fixtures ahead.





# SPORT FOR ALL CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

Our new Astro turf cricket wicket has been laid and is ready for the new season. This along with the outdoor cricket nets will help AGSB cricket, go from strength to strength.

Thank you to all that have donated!



## HOCKEY

It's been another stella year for AGSB Hockey. Both the U16 & U18 squads have made it through to the County Cup Finals.

In the National Cup the U16s got through to the national semi-finals losing narrowly to Bedford School. The U18's did one better reaching the national finals (being played on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April) beating a strong Perse side in the semi-finals.

The U18s also made it to the National Finals in indoor hockey, earlier on in the year. Many thanks to Albert Marciano for all his hard work and dedication to school hockey.





# BADMINTON



During 2019/2020, the school had entered a KS3 badminton team to play in a North-west tournament at Manchester Grammar School. The team progressed in to the Semi-finals of that tournament where they had to play a strong MGS team. AGSB managed to win, and then went on to win the tournament. We were in to the next round, which was to be played at the velodrome. However, due to Covid-19, this didn't happen. This led to there being no badminton for a few years. However, badminton began to emerge again and in 2023/2024, the school managed to get an U14 A and B team, and an U16 A and B team.

Trials were held for each team, and soon enough the teams were sorted and ready to play. The first competition that took place was the Schools Sports Magazine tournament, a knockout tournament consisting of lots of schools from England.

Starting with the U14s, the B team managed to win in the 1st round and 2nd round, but they narrowly lost out to Grammar School at Leeds. The A team managed to reach the quarter-finals after winning their previous 4 matches. They faced King Egbert School and lost on point countback, to only just miss out on becoming Champions of the North.

The U16s also had great success in this tournament. The B team won their 1st round, and then beat MGS 4-2. They then beat Grammar School at Leeds. Unfortunately, the A and B teams were then drawn against each other, where the A team won. If the two teams weren't drawn against each other, the B team could have gotten further in the competition. The A team then progressed in to the quarter-finals, with previous wins against Wilmslow High School, Wirral Grammar School, and Penrith. The A team beat Tapton School to become Champions of the North. The next task was the Semi-final against Bedford School. Going in to the doubles the score was 2-2 with AGSB ahead on points. The match then ended 3-3 with AGSB winning on points. This was a very hard match for the team, so they did extremely well. We then travelled to Aylesbury, where we had to face Reading School. Unfortunately, they were too strong for us, but we did still did very well to reach a badminton national finals.

All 4 teams then entered the Badminton England schools tournament where the U16 A team and U14 A team won the county round and entered the regional finals. The regional finals was held in Bolton with both teams playing on the same day. The standard was high, but the resulting of winning would be advancing to the national finals. The U14s played very well, and beat both their opponents, securing a place in the national finals. The U16s had to fight very hard for the first match, as the team won 3-2 in the end. We then played another school beating them 5-0 to also head to the national finals. Therefore, both the U14s and U16s managed to reach the national finals, which will be played soon.

Overall, it's impressive to see such success in these recent tournaments for the U14s and U16s considering the circumstances with Covid-19. You've also got to remember that the people in these teams may have only played with each other just this year, so there's been a lot of good teamwork and communication between players. Therefore, a huge congratulations has to go to the players involved in the teams for doing as well as they have done. A huge thanks to Mr Rawson as well, who has spent a lot of time organising the fixtures and driving the various teams around the country. Without him, the school's success in badminton this year wouldn't have happened.