

Bootroom Bulletin

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Historic Tag Rugby Finals for both Schools!

Well, what a week it was at the Tag Rugby City Finals for both schools! Not only did the teams get the experience of playing in Headingley, a 21,500 capacity stadium (almost filled to maximum attendance by parent support!), they also showed the rest of Leeds what they're made of, but more about that later!

Both Bramham and Shadwell had strong showings at the Regional competition earlier in the half term, with both schools able to win all their matches. However, this was City Finals, where not only the best teams are in

attendance, but those we'd played previously now have more experience and were determined to get their revenge.

The format was as follows: 13 teams had found their way to finals, which meant three groups of three teams (all playing each other twice) and another group of four, with only the group winners qualifying into a final group where they would all play each other once.

Thankfully, Bramham and Shadwell weren't drawn in the same group, giving both schools the chance to qualify for the final. Not only that, but their pitches were right next to each other, allowing the Federation coaching staff to better co-ordinate teams throughout the games.

Due to the fact there were so many matches, timings of each game were reduced to 6 minutes and, if you've ever played Tag Rugby, you'll know that's not a very long time! Shadwell were able to get off to a 4-0 winning start in their first game! Bramham were able to get a credible 1-1 draw. The fact that both teams didn't lose their first game was massive in terms of getting settled into the tournament and building forwards. Shadwell were then able to see out the rest of their group by winning 4-0, 3-0 & 2-0. Bramham, no doubt in the 'group of death', were also able to win their second game 2-1. However, results

A potentially contentious moment came partway through the second half where a Churwell attacker weaved his way towards the box, playing the ball forward in the process. Taking an unusual bobble off the pristine Shadwell surface it bounced up from close range and hit Jackson on the hand; 'Penalty!' shouted the Churwell attacker! Mr B's refereeing rules have always stated that if your hands are by your sides, it's unintentional (and aren't basically blocking a shot on the line), then it's no pen; this rule also works for both teams. Now, not only is Jackson an honest lad, but he's also a smart one who knows better than to handle the ball deliberately in the box; which also comes into play in these decisions. VAR was consulted on the side lines and, just as keeper Dexter was adding an extra layer of chewing gum to his gloves, the penalty was waved away (not by Jackson though, his hands stayed by his sides...)

Defender Joe got player of the game award, decided by an esteemed panel of footballing experts, and rightly so as he didn't put a foot wrong all game keeping their pacey attackers under wraps and out of the way for the full match; a quality performance!

The 1-0 result sees the team through to the quarter finals of Leeds and will play Shakespeare Primary School **THIS THURSDAY!** (World Series Fixture organisers are already pulling their hair out at a congested schedule, but this is worth it!) So get yourselves down to support

the group who have the chance to do something really special with their season!

Netball season concludes!

A hectic last couple of weeks for both Netball squads saw both teams cram in the fixtures before the league deadlines. Shadwell were able to finish third in the league, and Bramham 5th in what's been a great season for both teams! Neither squad has many players who play Netball outside of school (Bramham don't have any, though judging by the great performances that won't stay the same for long!). Well done to all those involved, there really have been some fantastic matches!

Y5 Girls thrash it out!

The final fixture before the half term break saw Bramham Y5s travel over to Shadwell for a couple of matches. These games are great for players to get more experience, and both sides really threw themselves into it; literally for Bramham goalkeeper Poppy who made several outstanding saves in the first game in particular!

Shadwell Girls compete in Leeds Finals!

Finally, good luck to our Shadwell girls' football team who travel to Middleton this Friday to compete in the Leeds Finals! We can't wait to see how they get on!

between the other two teams in their group made it tricky. With two games to play, it looked very tight. To break it down, they basically needed to not lose their third game and win their final group game and they would be group winners.

So, we enter the third game. No room for mistakes in the shorter games from anyone as both teams still had a chance to claim top spot. It was indeed Bramham who took the lead; Captain Connor getting the ball down just in time! Unable to hang onto the lead, however, as the opposition equalised. Needing just the draw and time ticking down, the opposition had possession, their nippy wide-player found space and was heading towards the Bramham try line at increasing speed. The only thing standing between Bramham and defeat was Josh, who'd kept his position well out wide to the left to cover space and was now in a one-v-one against their onrushing player. Not to be fooled by any trickery, Josh stood up strong and made the last-ditch tag to save the game!

The whistle, done on a central timer, blew almost immediately and Bramham lived to fight another day! Josh was congratulated by his teammates on the way off the pitch and could clearly claim 'Moment of the Day'!

Onto the final group game, which could also have been Bramham's final game of the tournament; a must win match which was to be treated like any final! The team got off to the best start possible, with Connor scoring on

the very first possession! Bramham doubled their lead soon after and - despite conceding - were able to hold on till the end thanks to some more great last-ditch tagging!

The dramatic final results meant that both teams qualified for the final group stage where they would play the winners of the other two groups. Although Bramham were unable to win their first two games, they did win their final match which saw them grab 3rd spot overall! Their best ever finish!

Shadwell, meanwhile, were able to win their games 5-0, 2-0 and 1-0, making them Leeds Champions and the best in the City. Not only had the side achieved incredible success, but they'd done it without conceding a try all day, in 7 games! Credit to the whole squad for their defensive mind-set and determined focus, exemplified by Sharn, who hadn't had much to do during the tournament until the final game, where she made not one, but two try-saving tags on the line to clinch victory!

To have both schools finish in the top 3 in Leeds is truly remarkable and a testament to their willingness to sacrifice individual glory for team success! I could name countless times each player did something awesome but the school would run out of printing paper!

What I will say is that, after multiple setbacks and not much training time, these players deserve all the credit in the world!

Shadwell Boys Win in Champions Knockout!

Tuesday, before half term, saw the Y5/6 Boys' Football team host Churwell in the first round of the Leeds Champions of Champions play offs.

As the Leeds competition entered its latter stages, each regional league winners enter a knockout competition to see who the best in the city is; Churwell had qualified from the Morley league.

This level of competition is always more intense and competitive. Luckily for our boys, however, the end of their season was extremely competitive in itself with three teams able to win it on the least day! Thankfully, after coming out on top the lads were raring to go again and keep the momentum!

Arriving all the way from Churwell, meant a later than usual 4pm kick off time. As the opposition players filtered in one player questioned "Are we not on astro?" Now, the PTA are doing sterling work behind the scenes, but asking for an Astro turf may be pushing it! Besides, the Shadwell Crown Green Bowling team could play on

our pitch, and also not get that rubber crumb stuck in their shoes for the next five years!

Due to a kit clash, Shadwell donned their away kit for this fixture comprising of fluorescent yellow netball bibs! As the game got underway, it was clear the two sides were well-matched, and so they should be in theory! Lots of high-quality football was on show with slick passing and committed tackling; the midfield duo of Max and Archie covered every blade of grass (and their red faces showed as much!) to inspire their team.

Shadwell had the better of the chances and were thwarted on one particular breakaway when young George was through on goal only to have his shirt tugged from the opposition defender in what this (completely unbiased) reporter can only describe as horrendous cheating. Not much can be done in these instances, a free kick was awarded, and once George had got the rest of his bib back from the defender the game could resume.

George would have the last laugh as later in the half he had the ball once again, bulldozing his way to the edge of the area he saw the keeper clearly bracing himself for a powerful drive of a shot. George judged it perfectly, deliberately scuffing his shot so close to the post the Churwell stopper thought it was going wide only to see it sneak in the bottom left corner!