

# Hockerill News

Issue 11, Lent Term 2008



The Equipe Performing Arts Competition saw some energetic and exciting performances of extracts from famous musicals: The Lion King (Brunel); Chicago (Da Vinci); Bugsy Malone (Goethe) and Moulin Rouge (Pascal) which the judges chose as their favourite

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## Principal's Column

Governors fulfil a largely unnoticed but extremely important role in the running of any school. I would like to pay particular tribute to our longest serving Hockerill governor, Adrian Cowell, who steps down this year after 14 years dedication to the development of Hockerill. His advice on property maintenance and development has been invaluable to the College throughout this time and I am extremely grateful for his personal support throughout my tenure as Principal.

I am very pleased that we have another important addition to our list of prestigious Patrons. Will Hutton is currently Chief Executive of the Work Foundation, a weekly columnist and former editor of The Observer, and author of a number of influential works including *The State We're In*, *The World We're In* and most recently *The Writing On The Wall*. Congratulations also to another of our Patrons who became "Sir" John Sorrell in the New Years Honours list. If any parents have links with any similarly influential leaders who may share our College's aspirations I would be pleased to learn of these.

I have already met twice with Simon Dennis, who takes over as Principal in September. We are confident of achieving a seamless handover with, in best relay traditions, no reduction in pace of the baton!

Speech Day will soon be with us, on the last Saturday of term, the 28th June. This must be an all ticket event and these will be available very soon. The 1,000 seater marquee on Thames Lawn provides the setting for this celebration of the individual achievements of our students, my annual report to parents and an address from our Guest of Honour who this year is Helen Bamber OBE. Helen has devoted more than half a century to the care of survivors of horror and violence and created the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

On the evening of Speech Day the Marquee and grounds will also provide the venue for the major social event of the year which, as last year, is styled "Hampers & Champers". Musical entertainment will be provided by our own students, staff and friends of the College. Tickets will be available very soon and last year they sold out extremely quickly. In view of the limited places for this event I am afraid tickets are only available for over 18's. Please do support it and buy tickets as early as possible - you can be assured of a really memorable evening.

R Guthrie



## Jammy Dodgers go Underground - The Musical



*Jammy Dodgers go Underground*, a musical written and directed by a year 11 student, Chloe Tingey, was performed in St Alban's Hall four times at the end of February by a cast of forty Hockerill students.

The author of the Jammy Dodgers books, Bowering Sivers, who had given Chloe permission to adapt the book, came to sign copies at both sell-out Friday and Saturday shows. The local Observer had devoted a whole page to the musical, but otherwise the audience had no idea what to expect: they knew it had been written by a fifteen-year-old and possibly begrudged handing over their fiver for a ticket, dreading sitting through a couple of hours of deluded teen lunacy!

However, doubts were fast dispelled as the band struck up the first bars of *Best Foot Forward*, the curtain swung open onto the brightly painted caravans of Devil's Acre, and Ma (Harriet Pugh) tipped her basket of odd boots all over the stage: this was going to be an original, vibrant treat.

The musical took two years to write and four months to rehearse. Including the sound and light team, the musicians, the backstage crew and parent helpers, it involved more than eighty people and raised over £3300, to be split



*The cast receiving a standing ovation*

between Bosco's projects in Rwanda, the Iasi Special School in Romania and the Hockerill Development Fund.

In all, it was a huge amount of fun and effort, bringing together students (and parents) from all years.

An American agent has already asked to see the dvd, so, you never know, this show might make it to Broadway! (After all, 'Joseph' started off as a school production!)

**The Jammy Dodgers Team**

# Tudor London

During March, Year 7 students took a coach to London and visited three historical sights.

## Shakespeare's Globe

The first place that we visited was Shakespeare's Globe. Here we were given a tour of the Globe. We learnt a lot about the building, the conditions in Tudor times, the types of seating and views people had of the stage and each other. Next we were included in Drama exercises, acting out a scene from *The Tempest*. Our tour also explained the actors' techniques of learning their lines and parts and how this is different to today's way. We enjoyed this and learnt a lot of historical facts.

## St Paul's Cathedral



After a short walk across the Millennium Bridge we arrived at St Paul's Cathedral, which was the group's favourite sight. A guide showed us around the building, he explained many memorials; such as Nelson's tomb and Sir Christopher Wren's tomb as well. The views from the highest point of St Paul's were amazing, right out on the roof in the Golden Gallery, but many of us felt queasy because of the heights. This sight added excitement to a great day out.

## National Portrait Gallery

By now many of the group were tired out, but still found enough energy to explore the Portrait Gallery. In the gallery we were shown interesting portraits from Cubism to Pop-Art and famous Tudor pictures

This was an amazing day out, and one we will never forget.

**Harriet Baylis, Florence Chamberlain and Fiona Shields**



## Taste of Success

Laura Sheahan won 1st Prize in the 11-14 cake decorating competition at The Squires International Sugar Craft Exhibition held at Farnham in March.

# Boarding At Hockerill - Lent term 2008

We are well over half-way through this academic year and as usual the boarders have had the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities. The usual shopping/sight-seeing trips have been made to Brighton, Cambridge, London and Bluewater. A memorable evening was the annual fancy dress disco with impressive costumes donned by many but the most memorable being Canterbury's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (courtesy of 'seamstress' Mrs Masson). However the highlight of the evening was stolen by the resident gorilla aka Michele Russo! A splendid evening of Scottish entertainment was organised for Burns Night including Mr Sinclair toasting the haggis and culminating in an enjoyable Ceilidh.



*Rochester Girls in Fancy Dress*

This year's Boarders' Easter Dinner was coordinated in honour of Dr and Mrs Guthrie and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP was invited as the guest speaker. Mark Heydenreich kindly returned to Hockerill to make his tribute to Dr Guthrie having been the Thames House Captain in 2002-2003.

A sumptuous meal was prepared and served by Mary Livingstone and her catering team with the addition of a specially commissioned chocolate dessert made by Mr Bekaert.



The music department then organised a stylish and glamorous cabaret as a special tribute to Dr and Mrs Guthrie.

The St. Alban's girls are very grateful to Mrs Ketteridge for kindly taking over some of the duties during Mrs Pierrejean's maternity leave. On a similar note, St. Alban's has been indebted to Mrs Guthrie who kindly agreed to return as Head of House taking up the helm of the Junior Girls' since September. Her efficiency and duty of care to the boarders has been hugely appreciated.

A big thank you to all who make boarding at Hockerill so enjoyable.

**N Pierrejean**



## Political Animal

Congratulations to Hailey Badger on being elected to the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP). UKYP is described as enabling young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP gives the young people of the UK, between the age of 11 and 18 a voice, which is heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people. Hailey would like to thank all those who voted for her.

## Model United Nations



Students of Hockerill attended the Bath Model United Nations Conference this March adopting roles as foreign diplomats and participating in simulated sessions of an intergovernmental organisation. Those partaking were then sub-grouped into separate committees to argue in the interests of their nation; whether it be in

the aspects of political, disarmaments, health, economic, environment or human rights. The conference enabled us all to develop skills in public speaking, technical writing, negotiating and conflict resolution.

The trip commenced with a day of culturally enriching activities in Bristol whilst the evening held our first experience of lobbying- here we considered resolutions which attempted to solve global issues, and signed the motions we believed to be most appropriate.

On Saturday we debated the chosen resolutions and amended them, in order to create a more focused solution to the issues raised. The topics we debated varied from Nuclear Disarmament to Current Threats in the Security Council. We were able to express the views of our countries where, in some circumstances, the results were somewhat amusing and controversial. For instance a resolution was passed by The Health Committee stating that environmentalists were annoying and therefore should be eradicated; whilst the Political Committee decided that the USA ought to have its states split equally between the undersigned countries. After many a humorous debate the USA was eventually abolished - perhaps a little extreme!

Sunday consisted of debates on emergency scenarios and once resolutions were reached we attended the general assembly to convey the views of our country for the final time before leaving the conference for our journey home. As a final note we would like to thank Ms Davids and Tristan, for making the experience so worthwhile and enjoyable.

Hailey Badger

## Adult Language Classes at Hockerill



The Adult classes that we are now offering at Hockerill are proving a great success. People are busy learning French, Spanish, Italian and English as a Foreign Language in our familiar but unique Hockerill way and are making great progress. We plan to offer the classes again from September and would like to add Mandarin and Japanese to the list.

If you are interested in joining the classes or for more information call me on **01279 713946** or email me on **smithc@hockerill.herts.sch.uk** for more information.

If you would like to become a tutor for one of the classes get in touch too, we would be very interested to hear from you.

C Smith

## Maths Team in the Netherlands

For Justin, Tom, Matt and Laura in year 13 plus Miss Scott and myself, the February half term break culminated in an exciting 3 day International Maths competition at the International School of Amsterdam. There were 185 students from 33 schools. They filled a huge gym for the main events and the atmosphere was both tense and electric. Some of the world's best young mathematicians used all their skills to solve really hard problems in a very short time without calculators. We didn't win, but Hockerill achieved a respectable 35th out of 63 teams.

I asked our team to describe some of their best moments: Justin said the level of maths was eye-opening and he was happy when he realised in the breaks between the rounds that he had got some answers right. Matt and Laura particularly enjoyed the team rounds where the students work in a group, discussing the problems. The disco and bowling social event in the evening was also a highlight. Laura found the general international atmosphere at the school and the host family very interesting.



The final words should go to Justin, who is a veteran of 4 competitions:

"This was my last competition and I really enjoyed all of them. I want to encourage people to keep going on them and Hockerill to keep running them, as it fits with the international ethos and provides a unique opportunity for those who don't excel at languages or music."

A Goldsmith

# Language College

This has been a typically busy half-term culminating in 4 different trips involving 100 students.

There are 6 after-school primary classes - 2 in French, 2 in Spanish, 1 German, 1 Japanese and 1 Italian class. We shall be offering French primary lessons for new schools for September and have provided an intensive training session for our primary staff in techniques and strategies with input from four members of staff.

Our three master classes continue to be very well-attended. The members of our two secondary classes will be going on a 4-day study visit to La Coûme (French class) and Freiburg (German class) over the May Day period. We hope to start a Spanish Master Class next September.

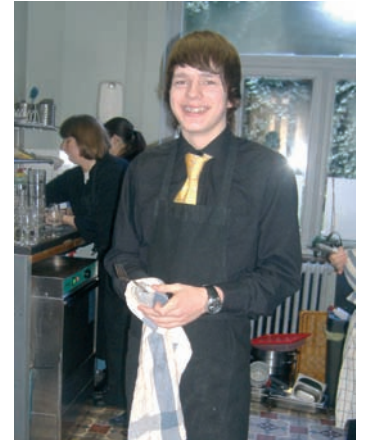
Since the last report there have been a number of highly successful trips and exchanges, including Berlin which was enjoyable and successful as always.

This term we have already had two very worthwhile visits - 50 went to Liège (our largest number for an exchange) including 28 Year 10s on Work Experience and 14 did Work Experience in Münster (three of whom are pictured).



We continue to benefit enormously from our base in the French Pyrenees at La Coûme. Year 7, 8 and 9 students, engaged in the MYP programme, have had several sessions over the video-conferencing link with Olivier and Marta and will be interacting with them and French school children on many future occasions this academic year.

The Global Curriculum is being enhanced through the continuation of our collaborative project with our partner school in Gisenyi, Rwanda and the growing number of students being



sponsored from the Hockerill Community. Money raised from Mr Gdula's and Mr James' bike marathon last summer and from a myriad of other events have enabled us to finance the refurbishment of the refectory in our partner school as well as major developments of their sports facilities. I visited Rwanda briefly in February with Do Coyle and Rolf Wiesemes from Nottingham. We visited Gisenyi and were very impressed at the work being carried out in the sports area.

We also spent time at the Kigali Institute of Education furthering our training links between the Institute, Nottingham and Hockerill. Finally we visited Greenhills Academy in Kigali, an IB and MYP school with bilingual sections with which we are also forging tentative links. We were honoured to meet the First Lady of Rwanda, Mrs Kagame, during this visit as she is the founder of Greenhills.

As I write 19 students are just leaving for Aix en Provence and all will do a week's Work Experience while another group from Year 12 will do their Work Experience in La Coûme. In late March students from Japan and Liège pay return visits to Hockerill. 28 of the Liège students will be doing Work Experience in the Bishop's Stortford area. The Spanish Exchange takes off in the Easter holidays and the group from Valladolid comes back to Hockerill at the start of the summer term.

Things continue to move forward at an electrifying pace in the Language College.

M Ullmann



## SCUBA in the Red Sea



During the February half term break 14 students and three members of staff and a diving instructor explored the diving resort of Sharm El Sheik .

Following on from their confined training, 6 students and Mr Dinwiddy

completed their PADI Open Water qualification. Later in the week 6 already experienced divers achieved their PADI Advanced Qualification. In between, everyone experienced some fantastic diving including Yolanda Reef in Ras Mohammed National Park, considered one of the top 10 dive sites in the world, plus a superb night dive into a very different world of marching urchins, feeding lion fish, pulsating coral and sleeping parrot fish, until, that is, inquisitive Hockerill divers turned up with torches!

Although we didn't see any sharks (a pity) we did see young divers developing in confidence. We thank Emperor divers and the crew for looking after us so well. We also thank Steve Manton from Planet Scuba who has worked tirelessly with our divers.

This will be the last 'Sinclair' organised Diving Trip although we hope that someone will take this on for next year. We thank all the young divers who have shared our underwater world. You have made us laugh and at times cry, you have impressed us with your enthusiasm and humour, you have been a pleasure to dive with. To all our young diving 'buddies' thank you.

There's a great underwater world out there, so keep diving, keep exploring and keep making bubbles.

**D & S Sinclair**

## MYP News

This has been yet another action packed term for the IB Middle Years Programme. While the teachers plan for the forthcoming IB pre-authorisation visit, the students have been exploring London, building structures and considering the importance of human rights as well as celebrating the 1920s and 1930s through music, art and drama.

Conor Rohan, Year 9, spoke at the staff training day at the start of term. Invited to share his recent MYP experience on 'Communication' Conor confidently demonstrated the skills he had learnt the previous term during a combined project with BT.

The cross curricular days have continued to question and inspire many of our students. Recently, Year 7 spent two very informative days in London exploring Tudor London.

At the beginning of term, Year 7 students explored the concept of non-gravitational structures, linking together their work in Mathematics, Science and Design Technology. The results were extremely creative and very much 'outside of the box'. Year 9 students also had the opportunity to shine, later in the term when they came together to celebrate the 20's and 30's. Using drama, music and art they explored the issue of economic

## Hockerill in Berlin

The annual winter trip to Berlin has become an established and extremely popular tradition - for many it is the initiation into Hockerill's extensive trips and exchanges programme. 45 somewhat nervous but equally excited Year 7 and 8 students, together with six staff, made the trip to Berlin.

The programme was exciting, varied, jam-packed and a lot of fun. It included a sight-seeing tour by coach, which enabled us to get to know the centre of Berlin and its major attractions such as the Brandenburger Tor, the Deutsche Reichstag, Berlin's main shopping street Kurfürsten Damm, the Olympia Stadion and innumerable Christmas markets. On foot we went to see the Museum at Check Point Charlie near the infamous border crossing between East and West Germany exhibiting remnants of the Berlin Wall. We also returned to the Deutsche Reichstag and went up into the magnificent glass Kuppel, designed by Sir Norman Foster, which gives a fantastic view of Berlin. The sky-high radio tower Alex and the impressive Holocaust Memorial were two more highlights.

By Saturday night everybody was tired and ready to come home having mastered their first school trip successfully. The students were a credit to themselves and the College and I am sure that each and every one of them will have come away with several good memories. So all there is to say is: Vielen Dank, bis bald, auf Wiedersehen!

**A Geissler**

depression and the subsequent demonstration of relief and excitement through the music of jazz and the Charleston. Ending yet another action packed term the Year 8 students explored the concept of 'Human Rights' and in particular children's rights through workshops, presentations and dance.

I thank all my colleagues for their commitment to the MYP. Next term we will welcome Andrew Mitchell from Helsinki, who will be spending the first three days of the summer term with us, training staff and assessing whether we are ready to move forward with the MYP towards full authorisation with the IBO. I have every confidence that the outcome will be a positive one.

**D Sinclair**



## Refectory Lounge Project

The observant among you may have noticed our deliberately vague posters, dotted around the College campus. As members of the year 12 Design Technology class, we have been liaising closely with the Sorrell Foundation, working on a project which we hope will greatly improve and invigorate our school environment.

The Sorrell Foundation itself was set up primarily to work with client teams of students, and in 2004, Hockerill was selected to work with the company. The previous client team, our predecessors, decided that the Refectory was the area of the school most in need of a re-vamp. Since it has been handed over to us, the needs of the school have changed and new classrooms are becoming a necessity.

We plan to construct a two-floor building which will contain two new versatile classrooms and a 'refectory lounge'. The lower classroom will be adaptable enough to be used for any number of events, classes or clubs. The 'refectory lounge' will be a new area to accommodate lunch queues and will also provide a space for quiet studying and relaxing. This structure will be erected between the current Refectory and the boiler room (pictured). We plan to continue with the idea to refurbish the Refectory.



The process is now in full-swing and we have attended several meetings with the designer and architect (Jose De Matos and Mike Gibson) to discuss and finalise our plans and ideas. As students, we feel that our participation in these meetings represents the best interests of the student body.

Hopefully construction will begin during the summer holidays. We hope you are as excited as we are to see the results.

**Emily Frost & Emily Austin**

## Prague

During the Lent half term, the Music Department and 41 students embarked on their second annual Music Tour to Prague, one of the most famous cultural cities in Europe. The excitement and restlessness could not be contained as the group sang and slept through the twenty-two hour coach journey. The group, singers and instrumentalists alike, had been put through a gruelling rehearsal schedule ahead of the highly anticipated tour in order that they performed to their potential. The tour was a chance for Hockerill's best musicians to show off their talents and cap off the hard work they had put into it. The three appointed venues for the performances were distinctly different in stature; a historic church Hall, a cultural centre and a modern concert hall. The students played exceptionally at all three venues and even had the opportunity to play alongside the Prague Big Band. It has to be said that the students by all means held their own, with an undeniable professionalism evident. The city of Prague itself is a spectacle to behold. The breathtaking sights and its rich and romantic history made the tour an incredible experience. Furthermore, the chance to soak in the various sightseeing activities provided a pleasant contrast to the concerts, providing the



students with a well deserved and relaxing outlet. There is no doubt that everyone who took part on the tour will hold great memories of the city as well as the performances. There were inspirational visits to the famous Mozart museum, the Palace and Charles Bridge, fantastic views from the TV tower and a light and tranquil dinner cruise on our last evening.

All in all, the tour was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyable combining an incredible high standard of music making with the outstanding behaviour and spirit of the students. We eagerly await the next Music Tour with high anticipation!

**M McCarthy**

## The Role of the School Sport Co-ordinator (SSCo)

With provision of school sport and the increasing incidence of childhood obesity much in the news recently the Government decided to act to try and reverse the trend. They tasked every school in England to strive to include at least 2 hours of curriculum PE and a further easy access to 3 hours of Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) (i.e. extra-curricular) per week. To enable schools to achieve this every secondary school has appointed a School Sport Co-ordinator (SSCo) whose role is to increase participation in sport and healthy activities, bring into their school alternative activities to appeal to a wider range of students and ensure links between the school and local sports clubs are established.

The SSSCo's secondary role is to support the local primary schools' PE subject leaders in the delivery of various PE initiatives to increase participation in sport, leading to long term healthy lifestyles.

I spend 2 days a week in the role. During the last year I have introduced a Year 7s lunchtime activities club, a Year 9 fitness club, various student led break time tournaments as well as organising a primary school mini-hockey festival and a speed stacking festival. If students wish to know how to access external sports clubs or have a particular interest in a sport not currently offered at the College please speak to me and I will assist in finding the relevant information.

**G Hodder**

## Sports Dinner & New Sporting Colours

With the Sports Dinner fast approaching (Saturday 26th April), when traditionally sports colours are awarded to various individuals, the PE department have decided to introduce a new 'exceptional performer' colour that will only be awarded to a few students who, in the opinion of their coaches and the PE staff, have performed consistently at a high level during matches and showed above average commitment to training. These will be larger and black with gold text. The other usual 'half' colours will continue to be awarded to those students who have been consistently picked to play for College teams and regularly attended training sessions.

This year's Sports Dinner is a celebration of the sporting success and achievements of all those who have represented the College in Rugby, Football, Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Rounders and Athletics in the last twelve months. We are fortunate to have, as our guest speaker, Mr Daniel Topolski, a renowned Great Britain Olympic rower, an Oxford Boat Race crew member and coach for many years and more recently a BBC sports commentator.

An exciting evening of sporting reflection and recognition is anticipated and will round off with a year 11 dance spectacular and disco.

G Hodder

## District Championships Round-Up

Since September HAEC College Sports teams have entered 26 district tournaments in all age groups representing Rugby, Football, Basketball, Netball & Hockey. In 10 of the competitions we got through to the semi-finals but unfortunately did not progress further. However in 12 competitions we progressed to the finals and ended up with 6 of our teams being crowned district champions, with each sport having at least one age group being overall winners.

G Hodder

## Grand Slam for Under 16 Boys' Basketball; Football teams enjoy mixed fortunes

The boys' basketball teams achieved notable successes in their annual district tournaments, winning two of the five titles and twice finishing runners up. All four finals were played against Bishop's Stortford High School, the Under 16 team retaining their title in a closely fought battle. Their success means that the boys have achieved a grand slam of four wins out of four since their first district tournament in year 8. The Under 13 team maintained an unbeaten record and now look forward to competing in the regional competition next year. The Under 14 and Under 15 teams both performed well to reach their respective finals, losing out to the host school.

The Under 14 and Under 16 teams reached the last sixteen of the East of England competition. The area comprises teams as far afield as Norwich, Ipswich, Luton and Bedford. It is a tribute to our small community that we provide stiff opposition to schools with over a thousand boys on their roll.

In football, the Under 14 boys reached the final of the districts football tournament for the third year in a row. Will Ekong led his team to victory via a penalty shoot out against Saffron Walden. This group of boys have won the district title in year 7 and year 9 while losing on penalties in the final of year 8. Superb result. This team also reached the last 16 of the County Cup.



## Year 8 Rugby - Emerging schools

The current Year 8 rugby team remains unbeaten throughout this season and is two stages away from the Emerging Schools Rugby final at Twickenham. They are at present through to the Southern Regional finals and will be representing Hertfordshire in this next round. Having been unbeaten throughout their rugby term they represented the East Herts district and defeated Sandringham, Sheredes and Leventhorpe without conceding a point. The next stage saw them come up against stronger opposition and a win and two draws against Knights Templar Sports College, Mount Grace and Nicholas Breakspear saw them through to the next stage. This was an excellent achievement as they were without their inspirational Captain Joe Humphries who was unable to play due to injury.

They are a highly motivated and capable set of rugby enthusiasts and they have throughout these last two terms trained and played with enormous determination. They have been a real credit to themselves and Hockerill.

J Hill

S Clark

## Results 2007/08

	Basketball						
	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	1st	Total
Played	3	5	5	3	5	4	25
Won	0	5	4	3	2	1	15 (60%)
Lost	2	0	1	0	2	3	8 (32%)
Draw	1	0	0	0	1	0	2 (8%)
Bskets +	12	153	157	82	172	160	736
Bskets -	48	85	126	54	171	228	712
GD	-36	68	31	28	1	-68	24

	Netball					
	U12A	U13A	U14A	U15	1st	Totals
Played	7	5	8	3	1	24
Won	3	3	4	1	0	11 (46%)
Lost	4	2	4	2	1	13 (54%)
Draw	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0%)
Goals +	48	101	143	63	65	420
Goals -	48	79	80	40	40	287
GD	0	22	63	23	25	133

	Hockey					
	U12A	U13	U14	U15	1st	Total
Played	4	9	3	8	8	32
Won	2	7	1	5	2	17 (53%)
Lost	1	2	2	2	4	11 (34%)
Draw	1	0	0	1	2	4 (13%)
Goals +	8	30	3	20	11	72
Goals -	7	7	12	8	14	50
GD	1	23	-9	12	-3	22

	Football						
	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	Girls	Total
Played	4	4	6	5	2	3	24
Won	1	0	4	2	2	1	10 (42%)
Lost	3	3	1	3	0	1	11 (46%)
Draw	0	1	1	0	0	1	3 (12%)
Goals +	3	3	26	9	10	4	55
Goals -	19	11	12	7	2	6	57
GD	-16	-8	14	2	8	-2	-2