

25th ANNIVERSARY - CHESS MASTERS

In February, we were treated to an extravaganza of chess with the visit of Pia Cramling and Manuel Bellon-Lopez who played exhibition matches at the school. Both visitors are professional, international grandmasters and indeed Pia Cramling has been placed women's world number 3 and Juan-Manuel Bellon-Lopez has been the leading Spanish player.



In an atmosphere of hushed excitement, both played simultaneous matches against 25 pupils and staff, and were victorious in all of their games without exception. Later in the day, with moves being broadcast on a giant electronic display, Pia played Mark Harris and Juan-Manuel played Mr Michael Pointon in the semi-finals to decide the EIC champion. After intense struggles and gallant displays under both time pressure and the glare of the unrelenting lighting, both Mark and Mike eventually succumbed.

Pia and Juan-Manuel then played the final, and after the game ebbed and flowed the eventual result was a draw, and with the title shared, marital harmony was maintained!

Mike Pointon

