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*** A REMINDER OF RULE 4 ***

“It is the responsibility of any person playing for the Club in any sport to have in place adequate public liability insurance cover.”

CLUB NOTES

Lector si monumentum requiris, circumspice

The famous epitaph on Sir Christopher Wren's tomb came back to me as I remembered, along with a fair few others, another Christopher. A Marlburian with the surname of Martin-Jenkins was given a send-off of some style at St Paul's Cathedral – a Wren creation, of course – on April 16th. MCC ties and cricket reminiscence was never far away as one of the voices of the sport was recalled.

For those of you who never quite paid full attention to the likes of Christopher Knott, Martin Brooke or Mike Cleaver, the Latin of the start translates thus: "reader, if you seek his memorial, look around you". Wren's towering creation is not easy to match – and a physical edifice is by its nature more imposing – but the same notion had also occurred to me the month previous, at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, as the Club celebrated its 90th birthday.

I have written a separate appreciation of the dinner that follows these notes, but I will make two observations here. The number of Pilgrims present bodes well for the current and future health of the Club. That is of no small value. The Committee would do well to commence the planning of the centenary dinner with several years to mark out its run-up. The value of organisation realised high dividends in March but the ambition should be to do better and more in 2023. Already some thoughts have emerged and more would be welcome at the appropriate time.

A dinner is a splendid thing, but the lifeblood of the Club remains the on-pitch activity. Here as in every year, the Pilgrims rely on the dedication and commitment of a small group who manage and organise, and a gratifyingly larger one who turn up and play. Despite a cricket season decimated by the appalling summer of 2012, and a hockey season butchered by the cold snap of earlier this year, there remains a strong core of participation throughout the Club. I am typing these on a summery April evening, hoping that we see more sunshine than we have done for much of the preceding 12 months.

Although the weather last year was appalling, it did not stop Jimmy Adams from leading Hampshire to success in the CB40 competition, beating Warwickshire in an extremely tight Lord's final (and scoring 66 into the bargain, being named man of the match). Jimmy is Hampshire skipper again this year and is intending to lead them back to the first division of the County Championship at the first attempt.

I will draw readers particularly to the progress of the squash side to the semi-final of the Londonderry Cup in April, where Tonbridge emerged victorious. As Nick Lamb notes, if history is a guide, better things may await in 2014.

After the disruption caused by Paul Miles's untimely departure from the staff, it appears that the School's sport is back on an even keel and headed in the right direction once more. This will again be of lasting benefit to the Club.

I would like to conclude by noting the contribution of three outstanding Pilgrims and regretting that one who would have been an outstanding Pilgrim never got the chance. Hugh Archer stood down last year as President of the Club and it is right that tribute is paid to his contribution going back half a century. I remember Hugh being helpful and enthusiastic when I contacted him 23 years ago while researching my book on the School's rugby history – and that attitude has persisted ever since whenever we have come into contact. And I know that I am not alone in holding that view.

I have paid tribute to Mike Cleaver before in these notes and will not repeat myself, save to recall again how much both the School and the Club owe him (not forgetting Carol). The Club last autumn presented Mike with a much-deserved decanter in appreciation of his long service, which has been profound. David Watney at the same luncheon that followed the AGM was also given warm gratitude for his contribution, both playing and non-playing, down the year.

Which brings me to the melancholy. James Harding would by now, I am sure, have been a fine and committed Pilgrim had he not died after a match on the Upper in 2002. On December 1st last year, there was a match played between that year's vintage and a Club XV in his memory that was, as James Moubray relates later in this booklet, a wonderful and life-affirming afternoon. We should all be proud of being part of an extended family that can rise to the occasion in such a fashion.

The date of the Club's AGM is Saturday October 12th, in the Westcott Room at Sherborne at 12.15pm. The XV will be playing Cheltenham that day – please do come along if you can. My thanks as ever go to Charles Eglington for his work in helping me to produce this booklet.

Robert Hands
April 2013

90th Anniversary Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club on March 22nd 2013

Any cricketer will understand: you reach the nineties and you're not quite sure what to do. The century looks invitingly close but not close enough, it feels like a solid achievement but you're conscious that another ten will make it definitively so. This event, the sixth anniversary dinner that the Club has held, will surely be upstaged by the one a decade hence ... but we all must live in the present.

It is therefore both encouraging for the future and a strength from the past that the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Sherborne Pilgrims was marked memorably and in numbers. An excellent representation from the youthful end, no doubt much assisted by the prudent provision of subsidies, with a good sprinkling of generations going back to the Forties, meant that just over 140 members gathered to eat, drink and recall.

There was history, too, with a debut appearance at the function of a lady – and no better debutant(e) than Sheila Harding, whose commitment to the Club as scorer for the cricket side over the past decade has been profound. From the likes of David Davies (f 44) and Harry Brewer (a 46) through to a smattering of 2010 leavers, the Club's very recent past and its past of long ago was on display.

David Leakey, the Chairman, took the microphone a little earlier than is customary, but this proved a sensible move to allow for the speechifying to overlap with the eating time, allowing greater post-prandial reflection and drinking, with friendships renewed. Leakey noted that there were 20 present who had been at the inaugural anniversary dinner, the 50th, in 1973 and that the number of Pilgrims present from the previous decade was high – 40 per cent.

There were the customary notes of gratitude, of which I shall pick out a handful: the success of the dinner was very largely down to its organisation – and here yet again, the Club is in the debt of Hugh Archer, whose commitment to the Pilgrims over half a century stands comparison with the best of them. Jimmy McKillop too rates more than honourable mention in the same context.

Leakey also noted the contribution of three members whose collective endeavours would have impressed even G.M. Carey, the Club's founder and among the hardest of taskmasters. In terms of service, both clerical and sporting, Charles Eglington, Patrick Gent and Ed Lyons have more than done their share. It prompted me to think that for the jamboree of 2023, there needs to be a roll of honour of service in the Pilgrim cause. No club, whether large or small, can hope to thrive without a dedicated core. All three fall squarely into this category, collectively spanning around 150 years of association.

Carey would have enjoyed the occasion at the RAC, while perhaps bemoaning the relatively modest number of Pilgrims who hailed from Abbey House, where he was housemaster for so long and to such effect. And the principal reason why he would have felt at home was not the rousing rendition of the *Carmen* (first verse only), nor the fine surroundings and good nourishment, but because the club that he set in motion so many years ago, as his own physical health began to fail, is arguably thriving as much as it ever has done. The dinner marked a celebration of that rude health as much as of 90 years of existence – as evidenced by the turnout.

So too would Carey have relished the after-dinner speech of John Barclay. Of Etonian stock he might be, but Barclay prowled the floor with brio and panache, giving Andrew Wingfield Digby in particular plenty of verbal lashing, and regaling his audience with tales involving such cricketing luminaries as Imran Khan and Vivian Richards. Plus one or two lesser lights, mainly of a Sussex extraction (even though Tony Pigott did make an England tour).

Barclay spoke for just short of half an hour and frequently had the Pilgrims in creases of laughter. One observation struck home: "There is compensation," Barclay announced, "to be had from incompetence."

The sentiment is clear: you do not need to have the stellar talent of an Imran or a Richards to enjoy yourself at sport. As Pilgrims laughed, drank and chattered long into the chilly London night, what better way to mark the passing of another milestone in the history of this fine Club?

Robert Hands

NEW MEMBERS

As leavers:

T A Acland (d), D G Bane (b), A B Berkley (g), H S Birley (m), J J Birley (f),
J L Bridger (c), C R Brinkworth (c), H A D Bulbeck (d), J J Clayton (a),
R A D Compton-Welstead (m), O W S Coombe-Tennant (e),
W B Cunningham (a), J A Dawson (e), P Y de Meillac (b), G S Dorey (g),
H W Dudgeon (m), G P D Ellis Hancock (d), P D Evans-Bevan (m),
W E Findlay (a), J G N Fox (c), O M F Franke (g), W H Franklin (d),
C E C Freeman (e), C A Fricker (e), V M Gan (a), H S Gill (f),
W G C Goulding (m), J G S Gulliver (g), J J Herring (g), T H J Hole (b),
T St J Hopkins (g), C P C Howes (d), H D Hudson (g), T G Irvine (e),
W H B Isles (m), C R A James (b), R C Kesley (a), F J Kirkland (g),
L R F Lambert (d), W R J Lane (g), D B Leach (e), H C Leveson-Gower (m),
R J Moriarty (m), A J P Morton (g), J H W Norris (m), T J Nott-Bower (m),
A H C Pearmund (m), F de G Pilkington (f), T S Pope (f), A P Pusinelli (d),
J A Ritchie (e), H O Robins (c), D L Scaglioni (g), J E B Smart (c), T H Smith (a),
O C Toomey (g), G F White (g), J E L Wieland (c).

Other new members:

C R Barke (d 95), R I H Brennan (a 05), A J Bunnell (c 07),
J G St P Burrige (f 73), S A Church (m 88), R P F Cumming (f 06),
R A Howland-Jackson (c 05), C G Minter (g 04), R T Morgan (a 07),
J D Punter (h 74), H A S Rose (d 09), N P Scott-Underdown (c 05),
A H Tongue (d 05), E W Tuckett (c 05), J G S Waite (a 73),
M R W Warren (d 76), R G I Wilson (g 05), M D Winter (a 07)

OBITUARY

O N Brey (a 58), N M Campbell (b 47), J C M Eldridge (h 40),
G A Fawcett (b 46), P S D Griffin (g 38), B Kilpatrick (a 44), J S W Lush (c 47),
D E C Russell (d 41), M V Taylor (f 57), J P T Trelawny-Ross (g 44)

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CRICKET 2012

Played 7; Won 2; Lost 4; Drawn 1; Cancelled 8.

Because of the very wet summer the following matches could not be played: HAC on April 29; Old Wellingtonians on May 6; Marlborough Blues on May 20; Haileybury Hermits on May 27; The School on July 7; Bryanston Butterflies on July 11; Clayesmore Cormorants on July 12; and Canford Cygnets on July 13.

Sunday June 10, v Radley Rangers, at Radley – lost by 37 runs
Radley Rangers 201; Pilgrims 164

The match at Radley was a week before the first round of the Cricketer Cup and so it was agreed that a limited-overs format would be played, albeit a 45-over match as opposed to the 50 overs in the Cup. Conditions at Radley were overcast but with a good track prepared, the Rangers elected to bat after winning the toss.

Jonti Dampney and Charlie Clifton opened the bowling, both considered strong prospects for the Cup side. Dampney's figures were tidy with one for 35 in eight

overs and Clifton was economical, going at three per over. However, the injury that Clifton sustained in his first spell ultimately ruled him out of the Cricketer Cup; this would prove to be a big loss.

A second-wicket partnership developed steadily and added 69. Wickets then fell quickly owing to the bowling of Tom Gibbs, Roy Haycock and Fergus Taylor. The last's figures of one for 26 off nine overs would later earn him a call-up to the Cup side in the second round.

Wickets continued to fall, with Roo Howland-Jackson claiming one and Henry Butt a couple. With a run out being the last wicket, the Rangers were all out for a below-par 201 in fewer than 43 overs.

Jimmy McKillop and Simon Lamb opened the batting for the Pilgrims and McKillop's 46 gave the innings some backbone. However, the middle order was unable to support McKillop and the scorecard slumped to 115 for eight. Taylor and Dampney fought hard to revive the innings with 30 and 15 respectively but it proved too little and the Pilgrims were all out in the 39th over for 164.

Sunday June 17, v Old Amplefordians, Cricketer Cup first round, at Sherborne – won by 92 runs

Pilgrims 270-2 (O J D Kelly 112, C A R Esson 86 not out); Old Amplefordians 178 (T S C Cooke 4-30).

The Pilgrims went into this match with several of their players from the successful 2011 campaign either injured or unavailable. For several years now there has been fierce competition for places and those absences gave the Club the opportunity to test the depth of the "squad".

The general consensus before play was that winning the toss would be especially useful on a pitch that had received some rain while uncovered the previous day during a School match. Fitzherbert, the Ampleforth captain, called correctly and Olly Kelly and George Ellwood opened the Sherborne innings with understandable caution. With the odd hard-hit shot keeping fielders on the edge of the ring, both were quick to exploit the opportunity presented for quick singles and this allowed the scoreboard to turn over without the need to employ undue risks. Bad balls were rare but when Kelly received a long hop with the score on 15, he pulled it straight at comfortable height to midwicket and was dropped.

It was the stroke of luck that is so often needed in compiling a big innings and Kelly was giving no second chances. Together with the Cricketer Cup debutant, Ellwood, they accumulated runs steadily and it came as a surprise when Ellwood, having looked in no trouble at all, was trapped leg-before in the 27th over with the

century partnership in sight. Kelly took responsibility for maintaining the rate while his captain, Charlie Esson, took stock of conditions and at the 35-over mark and a rate at four runs per over with wickets in hand, the Pilgrims were perfectly set for acceleration through the final 15 overs.

There were many instances of ones being turned into twos by running the first run really hard. Esson marked the return of the tall and whippy Craig in the 43rd over with an assault that saw Ampleforth's opening bowler concede 31 runs in his last three overs. Particularly memorable was a straight six back towards the Sherborne supporters in the Pavilion.

Kelly lacked nothing in aggressive intent and reached his century with an appropriate well-placed, promptly called, single. This was the seventh Pilgrims century in the competition and it is a mark of the Club's improvement that six of these have been made in the past ten years with only Bob Tozer's hundred in the initial competition in 1967 representative of the first 35 years.

Kelly's innings was notable for an excellent understanding of the limitations imposed by the lack of pace and bounce in the pitch, combined with excellent calling and running, a lot of which also benefited his partners' efforts. That his hundred contained only six boundaries shows that conditions and outfield were certainly not batsman-friendly. Such was the acceleration in the final 15 overs that he and Esson (86 not out from just 76 balls) had doubled the 35-over score and the Pilgrims finished their 50 overs on 270 for two.

The Sherborne faithful agreed that this was a target that ought to be defended given a well-disciplined performance in the field. After a wayward first over, Henry Lamb settled into a better line and length while the admirable Jonti Dampney firmly plugged up the other end, bowling his ten overs in a single spell, conceding a miserly 23 runs. About his only loose ball was responsible for severing the opening partnership with Spencer slapping a short one straight to Selfe at point with the score on 19.

Stanley and Bromet batted sensibly with only the odd missed drive betraying the fact that batting was still not easy until Bromet edged Henry Lamb to a diving Charlie Cooke behind the wicket. Fitzherbert soon got an under edge trying to cut Andy Nurton and Ampleforth were 64 for three in the nineteenth over with the home side appearing well in control.

This brought Phillips to the crease and his immediate fluency indicated that here was a man that could get the visiting side towards their target. So well did he bat in partnership with Stanley that at the end of the 28th over Ampleforth (113 for three) were ten runs ahead of the Pilgrims score at a similar stage.

Spin was introduced for virtually the first time in the game in the form of Theo Cooke. His second ball would have bowled Phillips if the stumps had had an additional coat of varnish and a leading edge to his fourth ball saw a return catch from Stanley fall agonisingly short of the bowler. Stanley played all around the final ball of the over and was sharply stumped. A key stand had been broken at a vital time. Cooke's fine first over gave Esson the encouragement to immediately introduce his co-spinner, Simon Lamb, from the other end.

With the score at 145 and the need to accelerate increasing, the batsmen called for a hard-run two. Ellwood, making great ground to the ball, executed a lightning pick-up and throw to leave Codrington short of his ground at the bowler's end. Ampleforth's last realistic hope soon went when Phillips edged Theo Cooke through to brother Charlie to curtail an excellent innings. The Ampleforth effort subsided quickly with the spinners mopping up the tail without difficulty.

The Pilgrims had won by 92 runs. Several encouraging trends are developing. Firstly, they are learning to win – since 2008 their record in this competition reads won 8, lost 4. Several of the victories have been against sides that would have counted themselves as overwhelming favourites both before and, often during, matches. The Ampleforth game underlines the fact that they are judging playing conditions better and learning to build an innings based around a clear assessment of what is a good score.

Secondly, they are developing a pool of players available for selection and the absence of first-team regulars does not herald automatic defeat. The newer players coming into the squad are contributing in a big way. Grainzevelles, Theo Cooke, Selfe and Ellwood all look assured at this level. Thirdly the Pilgrims' outcricket is probably as good as any side in the competition. Every time that a partnership looked dangerous, it was a fine piece of fielding that relieved the pressure.

Wicketkeeping connoisseurs must have been purring at Charlie Cooke's performance. He gave us the full repertoire – a diving catch to his right standing back to Henry Lamb, two good catches and a really sharp stumping off his brother's bowling and, best of all, that most difficult of takes, an under-edge off a fierce cut while standing up to the medium pace of Nurton.

Sunday July 1, v Bradfield Waifs, Cricketer Cup second round, at Bradfield – lost by 92 runs
Bradfield Waifs 278-7 (W H Chaloner 78, R K Morris 56); Pilgrims 186 (C A R Esson 50)

The Waifs had five players with experience in first-class and Minor County cricket, while the Pilgrims had one, and two others probably capable of playing at

that level. Henry Lamb and Jonti Dampney opened the bowling for the Pilgrims in far from ideal conditions with light rain falling and a damp outfield. There is probably more chance of Madonna becoming a nun than Lamb bowling an over without recording at least one wide. Dampney bowled the Waifs' opening batsman with a full-length ball that he hit across. The rewards for bowling straight were never more apparent. Chaloner meanwhile feasted on some short-pitched and often wide balls.

Andy Nurton replaced Lamb and immediately created problems with a couple of half-chances going through the slips. He eventually dismissed the Berkshire player Morris from a bat-pad catch expertly taken by Charlie Cooke. Cooke seems not only to do his own particular job of work but also to relieve the in-fieldsmen of some of theirs. Nurton's figures were an inadequate reflection of his qualities considering a large number of runs came off the edge and the reluctance of an umpire to make a positive decision – or any decision come to that.

Fergus Taylor made a promising debut bowling leg spin and struck aggressively with the bat later in the day. Ed Kelly always reminds me of Ted Dexter, who also never made the most of his exceptional talents both at cricket and golf. Ed did bowl a line and length and looked in control of where he was putting the ball. He must continue to play club cricket and be a prominent Cricketer Cup campaigner for several more years.

Apart from the extras it was poor fielding that resulted in the opposition reaching 30 or 40 more runs than one had hoped. Lack of anticipation, and being slow to move to the ball were two factors that contributed to this situation. Consideration should be given when defending to get the most mobile fielders on the boundary and the less athletic in saving one positions particularly when the boundaries are comparatively short.

Although wickets were taken, the Pilgrims never were in a position to prevent the opposition sending late-order batsmen in to hit with reckless abandon. This in spite of the best efforts of Charlie Esson, who showed as captain to be a quiet, calm, sensible individual, sound and undramatic. Esson showed his pedigree with a classy half-century and also demonstrated his determination to improve his game. He has eliminated the tendency to play across his front foot and hits down the ground handsomely now. He deserves an extended run at Minor County level where he has the ability and temperament to do well. Charlie Cooke showed his determination with the bat too. However, with far fewer loose balls being bowled and therefore fewer boundaries being struck, it was a case of pushing the ball into gaps for ones and twos. Esson and Cooke both did this successfully but when the run rate had increased to more than eight an over after the first ten overs, it is all but a lost cause.

What this game demonstrated to a young and promising Pilgrims team is that there are few easy games in this competition, and that there are some very experienced and talented players in most opposition teams.

Monday July 9, v Sherborne CC, at Sherborne - won by 2 wickets
Sherborne CC 179; Pilgrims 182-8 (T P Atkins 53)

Despite the torrential rain that had fallen over the weekend, causing both scheduled games to be cancelled, remarkably the Week's Monday fixture, against Sherborne CC, got under way at the anticipated start time of 2pm and the full 35 overs a side were possible, despite the odd brief interruption.

The Pilgrims, led by Sherborne CC regular Andy Nurton, won the toss and chose to field first on what looked like a flat but slowish wicket. Sherborne CC started slowly with Nurton and Humphrey Gibbs bowling accurately, the latter picking up the first wicket of the week, well caught by Wayman behind the stumps. Sherborne CC's best player was then run out and they found themselves in a bit of trouble after the first seven overs at 25 for two.

However, the middle order came in and was willing to play a few shots and with three of them scoring more than 30 (two of whom were the School's Australian gap year students), they were in a strong position with six overs to go on 178 for six. The big hitting had taken its toll on some of the Pilgrims bowlers with Roy Haycock, Charlie Taylor and Tom Gibbs all taking some punishment. Meanwhile Tom Atkins bowled dangerously, picking up three for 20 in his five overs.

So it looked like a score in excess of 200 might be on the cards but with the reintroduction of Nurton and Humphrey Gibbs, Sherborne CC lost a flurry of wickets and were bowled out for 179 with still 4.3 overs of their innings remaining. It certainly felt that this was only about a par score.

Pete Langly-Smith and Charlie Taylor (who had to leave early) opened the batting but both were quickly cleaned up by the impressive Sherborne CC opening bowler who sent down some absolute jaffas. At 18 for two from the first five overs the victory target seemed a long way off but first George Ellwood and George Wayman rebuilt before Fergus Taylor struck some lusty blows to get the team back on track with the required run rate.

The two crucial innings though came from Atkins (53 at better than a run a ball) and Haycock (41 not out) who combined for a quick-fire partnership of 61 to take the score on to 145 for six. There was still enough time for bit of panic at the end when first Atkins and then Tom Gibbs were dismissed in quick succession, but a

really well-contested game of cricket ended with Humphrey Gibbs edging the winning runs through the slips with two wickets and two balls to spare.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to play a game at all on The Upper given what had fallen from the skies during the preceding 48 hours and for that we are very grateful to John Atkins and all of his ground staff whose hard work made it possible. The Week had got off to a positive start for the Pilgrims, both in terms of the result and the brand of cricket that had been played by both sides in this exciting encounter.

Tuesday July 11, v Butterflies, at Sherborne – drawn

Pilgrims 307 (H W F Gibbs 130, T A J Gibbs 50 not out); Butterflies 214-5 (J Roy 79, J Everton-Wallach 50)

Humphrey Gibbs and Fergus Taylor opened the batting and set the tone for the rest of the innings, with the first wicket falling at 86 and Taylor unfortunately falling one shy of his fifty. This wicket was followed with some quick mid-order runs by George Ellwood (19) and Ben Lyons (30). However, it was not until the brotherly introduction of Tom Gibbs that the runs really started to flow.

Reminiscent of the Waugh brothers, both Gibbs looked imperious with Humphrey only being removed from the crease on 130, owing to retirement (for a dentist's appointment) and Tom on 50 because of the declaration. A sizeable, but achievable, total of 308 was set off only 39 overs, with a sporting declaration allowing the Butterflies 45 overs to reach the target.

On a flat wicket the opportunity was there for the Butterflies. Early runs came quickly in the form of Tom Atkins (a donated Pilgrim for the day) who scored an aggressive 22 runs off 20 balls. However, after this wicket, it was clear the Butterflies had decided batting for averages was the order of the day. Spirited efforts were made by Roy, scoring 79 off 88 balls, and Varney, scoring 39 off 40. However, it was captain Everton-Wallach's 50 off 80 balls, following up his 12 overs for 100 runs, which ensured the game ended in a disappointing draw, with the Butterflies only scoring 214 for five off their 45 overs.

Praise must be made to all the Pilgrims who attacked in the field throughout the day, in particular to Fergus Taylor, Piers Foster and Andrew Nurton who all bowled well.

Saturday/Sunday July 28-29, v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford – lost by 95 runs

Hampshire Hogs 271-5 dec (H G Wakefield 101, J Sutherland 92) and 259-4 dec (M W Costin 125, O J D Kelly 59 not out); Pilgrims 301-6 dec (P F C Langly-Smith 134, G H Wayman 72) and 134.

While billions were tuning into the Olympics, a marginally smaller crowd gathered in Hampshire. This was obviously not going to be a game that would trouble the newspapers but it did have significance for those participating as it was the first two-day game played by the Pilgrims since 1962, and the 69th in total.

After losing the toss, the Pilgrims were put into the field. Charlie Clifton snared one of the openers early, while Nick Southwell picked up the other. With the Hogs quickening their run rate, no more wickets were picked up until lunch and the subsequent introduction of part-time bowler Pete Langly-Smith, who not only steadied the run rate, but took three wickets in a golden spell of ten overs.

The Hogs' declaration of 271 for 5 came at 3.30pm, leaving the Club until 7pm to bat out the day. Langly-Smith, not tired from his bowling spell, then put in a stunning performance with the bat. Despite telling his team-mates that it was really important for all the batsmen to play themselves in and concentrate on keeping their wicket, he raced to a 24-ball half-century, all of which were boundaries. Fellow opener, Ed Westlake, who having averaged more than 40 with the bat in 2012 (by his own claim), obviously took the words to heart as he grittily defied the opening bowlers claiming a solitary single off his first eight balls before being bowled by the ninth.

That was to remain the lowest score of the day. Langly-Smith kept going and going, with some exceptional support from George Wayman, who scored 72 from 37 balls, including nine fours and four sixes. Alongside Langly-Smith's monumental 134, this put the Pilgrims in a healthy position at the close of 301 for six. We were then treated to a truly wonderful evening by the Cliftons, who could not have been more generous and hospitable hosts.

Rain greeted the start of the second day, prompting the declaration. There followed a frustrating period of play in which we were constantly going on and off because of rain. In an attempt to force a positive result, the Hogs were given some tame bowling to allow a target to be set.

The eventual declaration left the Pilgrims needing 230 to win from about 30 overs. Into bat went Langly-Smith and Westlake again. The latter could not improve on his first innings and was out second ball. Langly-Smith, however, started brightly and for a while victory seemed possible, especially with Wayman scoring at two a ball for his 43. Some fine bowling from the Hogs, though, pegged the Pilgrims back and as the last 12 overs of play began, the Club had only three wickets intact. Thoughts of a Panesar-style resistance were not forthcoming and the Hogs finished off the match.

Saturday September 1, v Eton Ramblers, at Eton – lost by 4 wickets
Pilgrims 252-7 dec (C E H Carline 77, W M Smibert 75); Eton Ramblers 256-6
(J Willis Fleming 55)

Whoever coined the phrase “catches win matches” was most definitely not lying. The Pilgrims batted first and were off to a good start through the gracious Charlie Carline and the ever aggressive Tom Atkins. However, Atkins was caught on 11. Mackay-James came to the crease and took over from where Atkins left off but, after a string of boundaries, nicked one to the wicketkeeper.

Carline and Will Smibert comfortably saw Sherborne through to lunch with Carline passing 50. Carline looked nailed on for three figures but a bowling change from the Ramblers had him yorked in the first over after lunch for 77. Kipling came to the crease and timed the ball beautifully, with Smibert following suit at the other end. Then came some quick wickets with Kipling (27), Cheal (11) and Smibert (75) all caught and Merritt bowled first ball. Late runs from skipper Charlie Warren (46) left the Pilgrims on 252.

The Sherborne quick bowlers struggled to find their length with Eton cashing in on some long hops. Archie Isles managed to claim one of the openers for 24. Ashley Merritt was brought on first change, bowled beautifully and economically on debut, picking up two wickets. Henry Cheal came into the attack and was immediately successful with three wickets. However, what let the Pilgrims down was their catching. Twelve misses shows that it was not Sherborne’s day, with the usually reliable Tom Atkins dropping three. The Pilgrims thought that they would at least claim a draw, but some late big hitting from the Eton middle order saw them over the line with two overs to spare.

Reports by John Harden, Mike Nurton, Peter Langly-Smith, Roy Haycock, Nick Southwell and Alastair Pusinelli

CRICKET FIXTURES 2013

Sun April 28 HAC (a); Sun May 5 Old Wellingtonians (a); Sun May 19 Marlborough Blues (a); Sun June 9 Radley Rangers (a); Sun June 16 Downside Wanderers (a)*; Sat June 29 The School; Sun July 7 Twenty20 at Bryanston; Mon July 8 Sherborne CC; Tues July 9 Dorset Under -17s; Weds July 10 Bryanston Butterflies (a); Thurs July 11 Clayesmore Cormorants; Fri July 12 Canford Cygnets (a); Sat/Sun July 27/28 Hampshire Hogs (a); Sat Aug 31 Eton Ramblers (a).

* 1st round Cricketer Cup; 2nd round June 30; 3rd round July 14; Semi-finals July 28; Final Aug 18. If successful, the 2nd and 3rd rounds as well as the semi-final would be at home.

RUGBY 2012-13

While it is with a certain degree of pride that I am able to report an unbeaten season, and one in which no game was won by fewer than fifty points, the sad truth of the matter is that a Pilgrims XV made only one foray on to the field in 2012-13 and that against fellow Shirburnians. Games against Downside and Canford were cancelled owing to frozen pitches while Royal Holloway were unable to raise the team they had promised.

You might think that this leaves me with rather little to report, but in many ways this has been a vintage year for Pilgrims rugby with links with the School being rekindled and involvement at an all-time high. This trend was begun on the August Bank Holiday Sunday with the first, of what most be hoped will be many, Pilgrims sports day. Six teams, representing year groups of Sherborne leavers 2006-2011, convened on Carey's for a ten-a-side tournament which, while at times nothing shy of attritional on the hard summer pitches, was much enjoyed by all. Although the class of 2010 were in another league on the day, and ran out worthy winners, scores were being settled and old inter-year rivalries reinvigorated all over town, 2006 being particularly smug at getting the better of 2007.

The undoubted highlight of the Pilgrims rugby year, however, came on the Upper on December 1st when the tenth anniversary of James Harding's death on that same pitch was commemorated, following a service in the Chapel, by a game between James's year group (2003 leavers) and the Club. I would venture to suggest that never before has a Pilgrims match manager had such an embarrassment of riches to draw on, such was the desire to take part in what was universally recognised as being a very important event. By way of example, Alex Willis had spent the previous seven years telling all-comers that a knee injury had ended his rugby career in the Upper Sixth. He ended up playing 60 minutes and was in touch the following week to ask when our next game was.

The problem with this abundance of talent among the Pilgrims ranks (to say nothing of an equally lavish replacements bench) was that it made life a little uncomfortable for the class of 2002-03 who, it should be noted, were older to a man than the most senior of their opponents. The eventual 60-10 scoreline did little to reflect the competitiveness of the fixture, however. The 2002-03 side's heads never dropped and it was well deserved when their spirited effort was rewarded with the last, and arguably the finest, try of the day, after which a little-reported visit by the All Blacks to Twickenham put the icing on a truly memorable day.

James Moubray

HOCKEY 2012-13

Unfortunately, the Club were unable to play any matches. The traditional Haileybury tournament, played in early January, had to be cancelled because of snow; and a brief hiatus whilst the management of the School hockey was in temporary limbo resulted in the Pilgrims being unable to agree the longstanding annual School fixture, although frustratingly the usual Sunday date was a blank on the fixture card for both the 1st and 2nd XI. Attempts were made to try and salvage a last-minute fixture which sadly was just not feasible with the wide geographical spread of the Pilgrims squad.

However, we are planning some fixtures for the latter half of 2013 including participation in the Pilgrims Day in August and a 6-a-side tournament at Haileybury College in October. Further details will be available on the Pilgrims website.

Jimmy McKillop

SOCCER 2013

The strength of Pilgrims soccer was acknowledged by the School with the annual fixture being granted Saturday status, rather than the Sunday slot that it has occupied in the past.

Interest in old boys association football has grown due to rising popularity and participation at School level. This was demonstrated this year, with two Pilgrims XIs taking to the field to play the 1st XI and an A XI, respectively. This was the first time this had ever happened and it will certainly not be the last.

The Pilgrims, having not lost against the School 1st XI for four years, entered the game with some confidence as the team was made up of several players still playing regularly at university. However, on this occasion, the School were too strong. As the time on the referee's watch faded, so did the Pilgrims' fitness. After competing for an hour, the School were able to pick off the Pilgrims and the game ended 5-0. Sweet revenge for years of hurt!

The School thoroughly deserved their victory and the quality of their play was a clear sign of the hard work done by the coaching staff and the ever-growing quality of the game at the School.

Fortunately, the second game gave the Pilgrims something to cheer about. The School A XI were defeated in a 5-4 thriller, leaving the School and the Pilgrims with one win each. It was a fantastic weekend that saw slightly fewer than 30

leavers return to the School to play and catch-up with friends and former teammates.

Plans are in place to play against Radley in September 2013, and a game against Charterhouse has also been discussed to boost the fixture list.

Christian MacLaren

SQUASH 2012-13

We had a great run in the Londonderry Cup last year, before losing in the semi-final to Norwich in unfortunate circumstances. This year, we were hoping to go one or even two steps further. It started in fine style against Wellington for the team, but not quite so well for me. After inspecting the team sheet on arrival at the Hurlingham Club, I immediately recognised the name of former England junior, Nicholas Hopcroft, and knew my unbeaten Pilgrims record was in severe danger and I was in for a tough night. Sure enough, after three hard fought but fruitless games it was Wellington 1 – Sherborne 0. After wins from Jeremy Bishop and Will Pope, and a post-skiing holiday loss from James Leakey, it was left to the second string to battle out the deciding match. Tom Morgan produced a heroic display when he came back from 2-1 down and significant deficits in both the 4th and 5th games to grab victory from the jaws of defeat.

In the next round, we met our almost yearly rivals Eton at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall. James Leakey and I discovered our winning ways again with easy wins, but unfortunately Will Pope and Ed Leakey discovered it is not easy to keep the fitness regime going at the same time as a the needs of a ‘proper’ job and medical school, respectively. However, Jeremy Bishop pulled us through with a battling victory against an awkward and wily opponent.

The semi-final against Tonbridge was played on Monday April 22nd. I’m sad to report that we let a very winnable match slip from our grasp on the breathless courts of Lord’s. Jeremy Bishop kept his 100% record for the season intact but, unfortunately, I managed to lose a match that I was controlling, Tom Morgan couldn’t produce the heroics of his previous appearance, and James Leakey came across an opponent in great form. We were also honoured to have an appearance by Ed Elliot-Square, who made an appreciated effort by travelling up from Sherborne for the match, despite being ill. He typically battled hard, but I feel confident he could have edged the tie in our favour if he had been fighting fit.

It is 50 years since Tonbridge last won the Londonderry Cup so maybe it will be their year. We won in 1964 so watch this space in 2014.

I am hoping to increase our number of fixtures in the 2013/14 season and so Will Pope has kindly agreed to help me with my endeavours. On top of the usual School fixture and the Londonderry Cup, we intend to hold a tournament open to all standards in London one day in January and a match versus Dorchester Squash Club after the School match during the Old Shirburnian weekend in March. We also intend to hold a match in London between Pilgrims who left the School in the last ten years against ones that have slightly more experience but slightly weaker knees, hips and backs.

If you fit into either of the above categories and would be interested in getting involved please don't hesitate to contact Will Pope or me.

Nick Lamb

TENNIS 2012-13

It has not been the busiest of years among tennis-playing Pilgrims. The match against the School, which was scheduled to be played at Commem in 2012, had to be abandoned before a ball was hit as a result of at least a month of solid rain. After discussing which two Pilgrims were worthy of their place on the Ark, those of us who weren't required to bail out water from the family home battled it out on the squash court instead with David Leakey and son Ed coming out on top.

We have also recently taken on the yearly challenge of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the D'Abernon Cup. This challenge of finishing in the top two of the qualifying competition has been taken on by Charlie Grant-Peterkin and me on a number of occasions in recent years, but the third place of four years ago continues to be our best showing. However, our efforts have also won us a few friends and a reputation for the odd trick shot which was only strengthened again this year.

Hopefully, this summer will allow for a little more tennis on our calendar. We will once again be playing the School at Commem on Saturday June 29th. In order to coincide with the Pilgrims rugby tens competition on the August Bank Holiday, we also intend to hold a 'ten year match' in Sherborne on Sunday August 25th. This would involve a team of players who have left School in the last ten years versus a slightly more mature bunch of Pilgrims.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in either of these or any future fixtures.

Nick Lamb

CROSS COUNTRY 2012-13

It was a gorgeous December day for the Diamond Jubilee of the Thames Hare and Hounds Alumni race over 5 miles on Wimbledon Common. The course was wet and muddy, but this did not prevent a record turnout of 18 schools and 131 runners. The first man in was a Cliftonian in 27.53. The results of the Sherborne runners in the main race and our handicap race for the Chataway Trophy were as follows:

	Main race		Chataway Trophy	
	Time	Position	Handicap Time	Position
Peter Woodburn	30.20	18	30.20	6
Ed Raymond	31.00	26	29.00	1
Simon Dawson	31.59	33	29.59	5
Louis Mayes	37.57	71	34.57	8
Tim Love	39.34	87	29.34	3
Jonathan Love	42.37	102	29.37	4
Angus Cater	43.27	109	30.27	7
Fiona Lohman	46.06	116	29.06	2

The handicap was extremely close with Ed Raymond only just coming out ahead of Fiona Lohman (SSG) by 6 seconds. Tim was irrationally pleased to have beaten his brother by 3 seconds. The winner of the King Henry VIII trophy was Sedbergh. Sherborne were 6th. Our best result was in the over 50s where we were 5th. As I say every year, we could win this very prestigious event if only all our best runners could turn out. Sadly it is never so. This year we were without the Pitt Fords, Tom Robinson and the Knudsens, so 6th was not a bad result. Afterwards we retired to the Crooked Billet for a well-earned and enjoyable pint.

We entered the Hyde Park Relays on February 9th but were unable to raise a side.

Angus Cater

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2012-13

Grafton Morrish 2012

Having had a very good run in the qualifying and match play since 2006, we failed to negotiate the qualifying at Royal Ashdown in May. We only managed 69 stableford points for the three pairs, and this was five below the cut.

Mellin Salver 2012

The Mellin and associated events this year were notable for two things – one was the problems of availability of several of our players and the other was the dreadful weather.

For the Bunny Millard Salver (over 75s) we were unable to field a single pair, most of our doughty over-80 year olds having, reasonably enough, announced their retirements.

In the Peter Burles Salver (over 65s) we prevailed in the first round against Hurstpierpoint. Shirley and Youngman won by 6 and 5 while Brown and Dinkeldein lost by 3 and 2. By common consent Shirley and Youngman took over for the play-off and managed to win at the first extra hole. In the afternoon there was a team change – Brown played with Shirley and Hughes came in to play with Dinkeldein. We lost both matches to Cheltenham and that was the end for the over-65s.

The following day we were due to play Hurstpierpoint in the Mellin when their captain notified us that they could only produce two pairs, even that with some difficulty, and would have to concede the third match. However, Arbuthnot failed to appear so that Falconer was without a partner and, being unable to present a complete pair ready to play, we could not claim the match. Fortunately our top two pairs, Francis with Farley and Cannon Brookes with Youngman, both won by 6 and 5 and we were through to the second round. Shirley, who was on his way home, magnanimously agreed to return and make up the team for the afternoon match against Cheltenham. He and Falconer were up against a very strong pair and succumbed at the 14th but in the top match Francis and Farley maintained their unbeaten record winning a tight match on the 18th. Cannon Brookes and Youngman also won by 2 and 1.

And so to the semi-final against Shrewsbury who have won several times in recent years. Early on we were ahead in both the first and third matches, Dinkeldein having come in to relieve Shirley. The weather had been wet off and on during the first two days but on the Saturday morning a downpour of tropical proportions hit us and, the course flooded and became unplayable, so play had to be suspended for some two hours. At this stage the top pair were still ahead and the third pair were all square, while the middle pair were two down on the 10th green. When play was resumed, we discovered that Francis and Farley had not heard the suspension and had played on. They met some very good sub-par golf from the opposition and eventually lost on the last green while Falconer and Dinkeldein also lost by 3 and 2. Cannon Brookes and Youngman were generously conceded a half by their opponents and so we had lost by 2½ to ½.

All in all it was an eventful time though not for the best of reasons and certainly stressful for the captain! However, our overall performance was a marked improvement on recent years and we can expect to gain further reinforcements to the Mellin team from next year.

Family Day 2012

Rodney and Jonathan Short won the Peter Currie Cup at Woking in October with 38 stableford points: Pat and Jamie Farmer were second with 37 points.

Brent Knoll 2013

On Friday evening we already had two casualties for the weekend. Ed Kelly was unavoidably detained in London, and Gordon Curtis managed to break his wedge getting out of some deep rough in the practice round. Fortunately, John Youngman had boldly stepped in to take Eds place and Gordon seemed unaffected by the missing wedge.

With half of the country covered in snow, the Brent Knoll started on the green but cold grass of Burnham with our first match against the Erratics. The pairings for Saturday were; Nigel Whalley and Jos Pralle; Nick Aubin and Gordon Curtis; John Youngman and Robin Irving. On Sunday, Ed Kelly played in place of Youngman. With many of our best Hewitt players unable to play, the “B Team” had some tactical discussions on Friday night about going for the Plate to avoid the Navy on Saturday afternoon.

Aubin and Curtis put paid to that plan, playing the first six holes in one under par and finishing level par on the 14th to win 5 and 4. Whalley and Pralle were playing top against two former Welsh rugby internationals. After a poor start and some mixed golf to follow, the opposition faded away and we won by 4 and 3.

As predicted, the Navy were the opposition for the critical match on Saturday afternoon and some strange games followed. Aubin and Curtis were two up after six holes, but should have been four up. Meanwhile, Whalley and Pralle should have been five down at the same stage, but were only two down. The second match then lost the next five holes, before a turnaround and strong finish to win the next five holes and the match by 2 and 1. The top match was a bit up and down with mistakes on both sides. We won the 17th with a three to go one up. On the 18th both missed the green on the right. The Navy were in the bunker and played out to 20 feet or so. Whalley had a delicate lob to play over the bunker. Fortunately winter rules enabled a decent lie to be found from a patch of bare ground, and a crisp chip pulled up six feet from the hole to win the top match.

With one Armed Forces team dismissed, the other surprise of the afternoon was the Leatherjackets beating the Army. When we discovered that the Army total handicaps were plus five, we wondered how good the Leatherjackets must have been to beat them. We thought their total handicaps were similar to ours at 23.

So on to Sunday morning for the semi-final against the Leatherjackets. Ed Kelly arrived from London at the crack of dawn, and was already on the practice ground

before the rest got to the Club. The top match was tight all the way and the opposition very steady. All square on the 17th tee, with a fine shot from Pralle to the middle of the green. The Leatherjackets were in the bunker and two putts put us one up. On the 18th we were right of the green in two with the bunkers to go over. The Leatherjackets were in the left-hand bunker for two and the hole was halved in five for us to win the top match.

Aubin and Curtis had lost by 2 and 1; and the bottom pair were one down on the 18th tee. The Leatherjackets drove 50 yards off line to the right near a bush but not in it. We drove 50 yards off line to the left in deep rough, but somehow found a good lie. Both second shots were right of the green with the three greenside bunkers to negotiate. Kelly played a good pitch which ran on 30 feet past the hole. The Leatherjackets deliberated for ages about club and shot selection and fortunately chose the lob wedge, which they fluffed into the bunker. With two for the win, Irving holed the 30-footer for a four in grand style.

So on to the 19th: with no signs of tension, we made a simple four with a huge drive down the fairway, a tidy wedge to 20 feet and two putts. The Navy were also on in two, and left with a nervy three-footer for a half, missed it. We were therefore in the final against the RAF, and also due on the tee in five minutes' time! Not being rushed too much, with lunch pre-ordered, we had 30 minutes for a quick meal, whilst the RAF were eagerly waiting on the putting green and getting cold. The afternoon match was very different.

The top pair played well and had four birdies to win the match 5 and 4. We were pleased to hear that the second pair were four up after a poor start and won the 14th to win 5 and 4. The bottom pair was two up and took a half. We walked back to the Club to get out of the cold, very happy and victorious. Many thanks are due to all the team for a great victory. This was our third in the Brent Knoll Bowl: previous wins were in 1984 and 2003.

Halford Hewitt 2013

An ominous draw emerged out of the East India Club in January with Harrow as first round opponents on the Friday morning, with Loretto likely second round opponents and the likes of Malvern, Tonbridge and Bradfield looming large.

The team was finalised well in advance of the event and the line-up was: Robbie Busher and Jos Pralle; Nick Aubin and Gordon Curtis; Stuart Gillett and Toby Couzens; Nick Hyde and Ed Kelly; Rhys Francis and Clive Martin. Confidence was high after the success at the Brent Knoll and a practice match against Radley was planned for the Thursday. The result of this wasn't a positive one; however, it certainly focused the mind for the challenge that lay ahead on Friday morning.

We knew the Harrow match would be tough and so it proved. Busher and Pralle played very well after the turn where their ball striking and length helped beat the experienced Harrow pair; they won 1 up. Aubin and Curtis kept their game tight, but struggled into the wind on the closing holes and lost 3 and 2. Gillett and Couzens kept being pegged back by the Harrow pair of Warman and Tindall; however, a birdie, par finish led to a 1 up victory. Hyde and Kelly lost another close match 2 and 1 which left it all to do for Francis and Martin. Harrow were ahead for most of the match and stood four up on the 15th tee, and things did not look good for Sherborne. A classic Hewitt finish was to come.

The 15th, 16th and 17th were won and Harrow hit it left off the 18th tee and laid up short of the ditch. Martin and Francis made their 5, and Harrow had a four-footer for the match, which they duly missed. Francis had been put at 5th pair as he has had the best record of any Hewitt golfer in extra holes and now was the time to prove it.

A nervy 19th led to Francis having a tricky downhill putt for the match, which was left short. Both drives went into the fairway bunker on the 20th and at the green it was Harrow's opportunity for the match but another short putt was missed. Martin hit a good tee shot on to the 21st fairway and Harrow proceeded to clear the sea defences to the right. A provisional ball was hit and the search started on the beach. One of the Harrow pair declared the ball lost and advised his partner to play the provisional, however, the original ball was then found on the beach which led to much discussion as to which ball Harrow should play. Luckily, a Hewitt marshal was on hand who declared the provisional to be the ball that should be played. A good fourth shot from Harrow put added pressure on Martin's short pitch into the green. A marvellous shot, using the contours of the sloping green, was executed to around 4 feet leaving Harrow having to hole to take the match on, they missed. A great comeback and a great result from Francis and Martin.

The extra holes led to a short lunch before setting off against a Loretto side featuring a number of plus handicap golfers and a young lady off plus four. It was clear from the outset that we would have to play well and all the matches were fairly even at the turn. A cold putter led to the top pair of Busher and Pralle losing on the 18th, Busher's first Hewitt defeat. Aubin and Curtis were beaten 3 and 2 by a very solid pair. Gillett was struggling with his long game and he and Couzens lost the first three holes. However, some magnificent golf from Couzens led them to a good 3 and 2 victory. This meant we needed to win the last two matches. Hyde and Kelly were two down on the 17th tee and an adventurous win led to another pressure cooker situation down the 18th. Two solid shots by both pairs to the green meant an up and down was needed by Sherborne. Kelly's putt slid by the hole, resulting in a win for Loretto. The final game was called a half.

Players and spectators were all very relieved that the bitterly cold wind of the previous weeks had changed direction; a strong southerly was much warmer but made the closing holes a real challenge. Rain was never far away, and there was a very heavy downpour in the afternoon.

A long day will be remembered for a great comeback against Harrow, and further realisation that we have a competitive team, but one that must start to believe and deliver under pressure if we are to progress to the later rounds.

Reports by John Youngman, Nigel Whalley and Stuart Gillett

SCHOOL CRICKET 2012

The 2011 side had set a superb example as cricketers and set some impressive personal achievements, and the feeling was that these could be equalled, if not surpassed, with the right application in 2012. However, the very wet summer spoiled any dreams and 11 matches had to be cancelled.

So it was slightly gingerly that we took to the field for the first time on May 12th against Millfield. The bowling showed signs of efficiency and David Buck unfurled a sublime range of shots to bring victory, and a personal hundred, into view. Four overthrows (to conclude the game) left him high and dry on 98, a disappointing end to a successful eight wicket win.

Marlborough were demolished in front of the OS Day marquee, and this time a new name did go up on the board. Ed Coulson seized on anything loose to dominate the opposition bowlers, finishing on 108. He has played at a high level, and looked in touch throughout the summer. Tim Pope's increasingly positive 75 took us out of reach, and the 133-run victory was well deserved.

A rearranged T20 game with Bryanston saw us score too many to be anything but winners, with Pope, Coulson and Sale scoring quickly on a slightly two-paced pitch. With this match played on the Friday evening, the toss at Blundell's the next morning seemed to be quite important on a hot day. Tim Pope was not popular with his "I didn't lose it, they won it" refrain and we bowled poorly before lunch, before some wise words from coach Willows instilled a new sense of purpose. We were left chasing 257, but this proved to be achievable thanks to early Buck-Coulson cameos and a marvellous century partnership between Pope and Sale.

This left Millfield in the T20 regional play-off as the only other match before half-term, when a lesson in how and where to hit the bad ball was dealt out. They went on to win the tournament, having defeated us by 39 runs.

Taunton beat us on the Upper; exposing our difficulty in keeping players off strike when they were the dominant partner. Tom Abell played beautifully for his hundred, and this was part of the 1,196 runs he scored for Taunton in the term. Hugh Barron lit up the game with an astounding caught and bowled, well deserved for such a whole hearted and popular team player. Set in excess of 260 we were always slightly behind the chase, although at 219-6 we had a chance, but a flurry of quick wickets saw us well short. Edward Fricker stood out with a sound 62. The Taunton coach wished us the best of luck for our last seven matches, and we only played once. An enjoyable game against Somerset College, South Africa, resulted in a 23-run win, after tight bowling had restricted their run chase.

We were indebted to the mature, thoughtful approach of Tim Pope as captain. Hugh Barron and Oliver Sale were the mainstays of the bowling attack, with Barron naggingly back of a length and Sale with genuine pace. Buck was a steady change bowler and always looked like taking wickets. Buck and Coulson threatened to score heavily early on in the season, before the weather and lack of match practice took their grip. Both scored at close to a run a ball. Pope, Sale and Barron scored important runs when needed in the middle order, although Ben Nott and Dominic Scaglioni struggled with the task of opening the batting. Nott has the chance to make a difference in 2013.

John Atkins produced pitches of great quality in unbelievably trying conditions and is a real asset to the School. The lanches were, again, ‘the best in the west’, for which we are very grateful. Finally the boys owe a huge amount to Alan Willows, whose time, patience, knowledge, willingness to help and energy make such a difference to all the cricketers throughout the School.

Played 7; won 5; lost 1; drawn 1.

May 12th: Millfield 197-7 (A T Merritt 4-35); School 199-2 (D S Buck 98 not out); won by 8 wickets. **May 19th:** School 257-5 (E C Coulson 108, T S Pope 71 not out, M Cattermule 4-42); Marlborough 124; Won by 133 runs. **May 26th:** Blundell’s 255-8 (S J R Wyatt-Haynes 64); School 256-7 (O R T Sale 58, Pope 54); won by 3 wickets. **June 16th:** School 219-9 (W R J Homer 51); Canford 28-0; Rain – drawn. **June 23rd:** Taunton 264-8 (T B Abell 114, G P Hallas 68); School 220 (E P Fricker 62, Abell 4-33); lost by 44 runs. **June 25th:** School 275-5 (Coulson 113, B J H Nott 64), Downlands, Australia 115 (A Pechey 51 not out); won by 162 runs. **June 29th:** School 227-6 (Pope 59 not out); Somerset College, South Africa 204 (L Degenaar 70, Sale 4-26); won by 23 runs.

T20 Played 2; won 1; lost 1

May 25th: School 164-3 (Sale 53 not out); Bryanston 111 (Buck 4-14); won by 53 runs. **May 31st:** Millfield 151-5; School 112-5; lost by 39 runs.

SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2013

Thur Apr 18	Sherborne C C	Sat May 18	Millfield (away)
Sun Apr 21	Free Foresters	Sat June 8	Blundell's
Thur Apr 25	Bradfield U 17's (away)	Sat June 15	Canford
Sat Apr 27	Taunton	Mon June 17	St Peter's Australia
Sun Apr 28	National T20 qualifier	Fri June 21	MCC
Thur May 2	Bryanston (away)	Sat June 22	Taunton (away)
Sat May 4	Dauntsey's	Tues June 25	Clifton
Sat May 11	Marlborough	Sat June 29	Sherborne Pilgrims

SCHOOL RUGBY 2012-13

Played 17, Won 9, Lost 8 - points for 408, against 296

School fixtures

Peterhouse, Zimbabwe, won 31-15; Blundell's, won 53-7; Radley, lost 22-27; Bishop Wordsworth's, lost 17-27; Marlborough, lost 8-17; Millfield, lost 21-27; Cheltenham, lost 22-25; Wellington College, lost 14-34; Prior Park, won 18-12; Bryanston, lost 5-32; Canford, won 10-3; Clifton and King's Taunton cancelled.

Daily Mail Cup

Thomas Hardy, won 54-7; Downside, won 43-15; Beechen Cliff, won 48-18; Bishop Wordsworth's, won 13-5; Marlborough, won 19-5; Dulwich, lost 10-20.

Pre-season preparations seemed to have gone well with a good performance against a very physical team from Zimbabwe. Peterhouse had already secured wins against Uppingham and Oakham on their tour, but were greeted on the Upper by a very committed Sherborne squad of 40 players who were all keen to get those early season hits in. Some excellent defensive efforts and good handling ensured that the winning tour was brought to an abrupt end for our visitors. This performance was repeated two days later with a comprehensive win at both 1st and 2nd XV level against Blundell's.

Radley was, in the eyes of all, the start of our season. The XV got off to a poor start when the Radley pack established a strong rolling maul that gave them an early score. Sherborne were soon back in the game, but a combination of silly errors and an insistence of running the ball from poor field positions ensured that the predictable but effective Radley pick-and drive and driving maul game would see them victorious in a tight affair.

The next match against Bishop's was one that the XV targeted to get back on track. Three injuries from the first weekend's game, and then another three injuries in the first ten minutes of this game soon tested the team's resolve and strength in depth. A missed penalty at one end and a last-minute penalty try at the other saw the Bishop's team secure the win at home against a very weary and battered Sherborne XV which finished with eight players on the field who had started in the 2nd XV a week earlier.

Continual injuries and the absence of some luck saw us lose all the next four games by fewer than nine points. Marlborough away under floodlights at Newbury RFC finished with each team scoring one try apiece but a great kicking display from their fly-half resulted in a nine-point loss. Four days later Millfield were the visitors to the Upper and with Sherborne up at half-time, it seemed our run of close defeats would come to an end. A sin-bin offence ten minutes into the second half, which prevented Millfield's driving maul from ending in a try, was the turning point. Sherborne believed that this infringement had prevented a try but, with 14 players on the field, Millfield exploited the spaces and two tries were scored to give them a narrow victory.

An away trip to Cheltenham started in the worst possible way when it was announced that a member of the College's sixth form had died. To the credit of the College, staff and players, all the matches went ahead after a minute's silence in each game at each venue. The game saw another narrow defeat and the continuation of the injury "jinx" we were under with influential open-side Archie Hamilton breaking his leg, and one of the second rows making the short trip across the road to A & E for stitches to a facial wound. The only high in this game came from a piece of individual brilliance from England Under-18 player David Buck, who ran in from his own 10-metre line, beating six Cheltenham players on the way to scoring.

The two defeats at Wellington and Bryanston certainly highlighted our issues at the set-piece. These two sides were certainly bigger than the Sherborne pack and with injuries continuing to force weekly changes, the set-piece ball we needed to give our backs a good platform to play off was certainly lacking. The Bryanston game was, despite the result, the changing point of our season. Some reflective sessions after this game and more importantly a few days to rest and train properly meant that the season would take a turn for the better.

It seemed that as injured players returned others would go out but the flow was slowing down and against Canford, a game played in appalling conditions, the XV actually played as a XV. The commitment that the boys demonstrated towards one another was the ingredient that had been missing in earlier games. This year's XV certainly contained a number of very gifted individual players, but the message that

one individual does not win a game at 1st XV level was one that we failed to recognise early in the season.

Following the win against Canford, the XV were looking forward to the final two games against Clifton and King's Taunton; however, a stomach virus broke out in the School and they were cancelled. The season had ended prematurely and certainly from the 1st XV's perspective, with unfinished business.

For the first time, following in the footsteps of the School's under-15 side, the XV entered the Daily Mail Cup. Early rounds helped to keep the boys' confidence up in view of some disappointing Saturday results. Victories over Thomas Hardye, Downside and Beechen Cliff saw us through to the last 16 of the competition with a home draw against Bishop Wordsworth's on the first Saturday of the Lent term. In conditions that were without doubt some of the worst I have ever experienced, the XV reversed the defeat against Bishop's earlier in the season with a display of sheer grit and determination, along with a superbly executed game plan. This result brought about another opportunity to play against Marlborough in the last 16.

With only four days between the two games, there was little time for rest but this did not affect the XV. With conditions a lot better than those of the previous weekend, and an Upper that looked transformed from the mud bath that it resembled after the Bishop's game, the XV took to the field supported by some 200-plus pupils. The first 20 minutes were some of the very best rugby we have played all year with two unanswered tries giving us a comfortable lead. Marlborough managed to score just before the half ended with a well-worked lineout move, but the second half brought about a Sherborne revival and a combination of tactical superiority and fully committed defence ensured that Marlborough would not cross the Sherborne line again, and that the reward for an outstanding effort by the pack would be a score in the last five minutes of the game to see us through to the quarter-final draw.

The draws for both the Junior Colts XV, who had reached the same stage in the Vase competition, and the 1st XV would see both sides having to travel to London. The Junior Colts travelled to Emmanuel School and in a fantastic game almost stole an away victory but some heroic defence by the home team and a late break away brought about an end to the Vase run. The positive turnabout in the performance from this team in view of the difficult Mini-Colts season was enormous. The best indication of this was the reversal of a 70-point defeat at Bryanston last year with a last-minute conversion securing them a win against the same team 12 months on.

The 1st XV, filled with confidence following the two home wins, awaited the draw and were not fazed when they were drawn away to Dulwich, the holders. A week

of preparation and some reviews on how we would stop the inevitable barrage of driving mauls and monstrous ball carriers that we heard Dulwich had concluded with the forwards having a full contact session against the 1st XV pack from Sherborne Town. The game at Dulwich was well supported by parents and OS. The XV got off to a poor start when an error straight from the kick-off gave Dulwich excellent field position. The team moved nervously through the first ten minutes conceding a penalty and a try but with ball now becoming more readily available, grew in confidence and had two very good opportunities to get points on the board but failed on both occasions.

Playing into a very strong wind meant that we were always going to find ourselves deep in our own half and as Dulwich continued to hammer our defence a second try followed by another penalty saw them go in 20-0 up at half-time. This did not deter the Sherborne players and their energy and commitment throughout the second half resulted in us scoring two unanswered tries, but as the clock ticked by it was the Dulwich defence which held out to end our first run in this competition. Dulwich showed their dominance by retaining the cup they won in 2012 by defeating Hampton in the semi-finals and Northampton School in the final at Twickenham.

With the XV's season ending later than normal, we were well into term by the time we turned our focus to sevens. The 1st VII were scheduled to play at Portsmouth Grammar School Sevens before the end of the first half of the term but the extended winter weather saw that competition cancelled.

Bryanston held their annual Sevens on the second weekend of the February half-term and a squad of ten turned up to represent Sherborne in our first competition of the season. Early group wins against Hampton and Clifton put us into a group decider against Brighton, who had a little too much pace for us after we lost Tom Jennings with a dislocated ankle in the first three minutes of the first match, against Clifton. A quarter-final against Wellington was well contested but fresh legs from the Wellington bench saw them score two late tries to win the game 17-7.

The next competition was the West of England Sevens. As plate holders we hoped to go one better this year but a last minute loss to King's Taunton (who won the overall competition) by a conversion meant that despite winning all our other matches we would end up in the Plate competition once more. Group wins over Truro, Prior Park and Kingswood put us into a semi-final against Bryanston who we would also face at the Rosslyn Park National School Sevens. On a pitch which had no grass on it and in a driving snow blizzard the Sherborne VII's defence saw us win the game 19-0 and give us a chance to retain the Plate which we did by beating QEH Bristol in the final. The Under-16s also attended the same competition and, after a great win over Millfield in their Plate semi-final, had

looked in with a great opportunity to win the Under-16 Plate but a strong Taunton VII had too much for them in the final.

An opportunity for some of the front five players came when we attended the school's Six Nations Tens held at London Scottish. The live draw saw us pitched against St Paul's, Downside and a French school, Lycée Comte de Foix. A narrow loss to St Paul's in the first match followed by two very comfortable wins put us through to the semi-finals, which would take place after a sponsored dinner held in the Rose Suite at Twickenham. The squad enjoyed a tour of the ground and a pitch side photograph before a fabulous three-course dinner and a chance to listen to Jason Leonard. One of the squad showed his support by bidding for an Ashes cricket bat in the charity auction but was shocked when his bid of £450 won! The Saturday morning semi-final pitched us against the group 2 winners, Lycée de Borda from the Dax region. The French flair proved too much for our squad but for the leavers not involved in the sevens, it gave them one more opportunity to wear the Sherborne jersey.

Upon our arrival in London for the National Schools Sevens, we were immediately made aware that the weather would have an impact on the competition as the rain poured on to already saturated pitches. Our worries were confirmed at 7pm when it was announced that the Under-16 Festival had been cancelled for the Wednesday and Thursday as the organisers favoured running the Under-18 festival and then left the pitches to recover for a day and ran the Under-18 Open.

The group draw had placed us in a group with Shrewsbury (48-0 win), Bryanston (12-12), Watford Grammar (70-0 win) and Arnold King Edward (41-0 win). The crunch game against Bryanston was a tight affair with the VII coming from behind twice to draw the game. With the group winner now to be decided by tries scored Sherborne set about trying to raise their try count and racked up 14 tries in the game against Watford to see us through to the last 16.

The first game on the second day was against a Colston's VII who had clinched their group after a victory against Bedford Modern. The game was a very evenly matched affair with Colston's taking the lead on two occasions and after scoring with less than a minute to play must have thought they had done enough. The final kick-off put us deep in our own 22 and Colston's pressed looking to force the error that would end the game and see them through to the quarter-final. The Sherborne VII set off moving the ball well and eventually broke down Colston's best efforts to score and convert to win the game 19-15.

The quarter-final against Tonbridge was determined by two Sherborne errors in the first half and some outstanding defence from a Tonbridge squad who worked every blade of grass for the full 14 minutes. I have been encouraged by the improvements

we have made throughout the XV and VIIs season but feel that there are still some cultural issues to overcome. My challenge to the 1st XV was to win the Daily Mail Cup. After our exit from the Daily Mail, I set our 1st VII the task of winning the Rosslyn Park VIIs. We did not fall far from achieving both these objectives.

David Muckalt

SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2013

Provisional 1st XV fixtures: September 7th Blundell's (a);
September 14th Radley (h); September 21st Bishop Wordsworth's (h);
October 5th Millfield (a); October 12th Cheltenham (h);
October 19th Wellington (h); November 2nd/3rd Oldest IV (Sherborne, St Paul's,
Cheltenham, Durham); November 9th Bryanston (h); November 16th Canford (a);
November 30th Clifton (a); December 3rd King's, Parramatta;
December 7th King's Taunton

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2013

Played 10; Won 5; Drawn 1; Lost.4

(* under-18 regional)

Dauntsey's drawn 1-1; King's Taunton lost 1-2; *Truro won 2-0; *Queen Elizabeth, Guernsey lost 1-3; Milton Abbey won 7-0; Canford lost 2-5; Bryanston won 2-1; Clifton won 3-2; Taunton won 5-0; KE VI Southampton lost 2-3;

The 1st XI started the season during the Michaelmas Term with some technical skills sessions, and this culminated with a tour to Barcelona before Christmas where they played at world-class venues and clubs including the Olympic Park pitches at Club Polo. With successful performances in Spain, the 2013 season looked promising.

Despite a slow start, the squad made real progress which was highlighted with strong performances against some of the toughest sides on the fixture list. With such a mature group of senior players, the team showed real character when dealing with mid-season disruptions and under the solid stewardship of Julian Bertie as captain, the second half of the season saw Sherborne play some of the best schoolboy hockey seen in recent years.

Arguably, the best performance came against Clifton after coming back from 0-2 down at half-time to win 3-2 in the dying moments. The season finished strongly with convincing wins against Taunton and Yeovil & Sherborne HC. Special

mentions must go to leavers and those who received their 1st team colours; Will Ellwood, Julian Bertie, Edward Fricker, Ben Merchant, Henry Chadwick, Angus Murdoch and Ben Simon.

Elsewhere, there were mixed fortunes. At senior level, the 2nd XI had a fine season claiming some notable scalps including Taunton by a score of 3-1, Millfield in an absolute cracker 6-4 and a well-deserved 4-0 victory over Downside 1st XI. However, there were losses to other schools' 1st XIs.

The 3rds and 4ths enjoyed similar success and this depth is most encouraging for Sherborne hockey. The Colts lost a number of players to injury or 1st XI calls, but this merely gave opportunities to other players to make their mark, which they did in a number of matches including a 3-2 win away to Dauntsey's.

The Junior Colts struggled to match their opponents in several games but showed signs of development. In a titanic battle, it was pleasing to finish the season with a hard-fought 2-2 draw with Millfield. At Mini Colts level, there were some hard contests for the players who rose to the challenge on several occasions. Despite some lessons to be learnt in defeat by Canford and Clifton, they did enjoy success in wins against Bryanston 2-1, Milton Abbey 10-0 and King's Taunton 3-0.

**SHERBORNE PILGRIMS CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2013**

General Fund	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income:</i>				
Subscriptions	5,648		3,008	
Donations	1,801		1,878	
Bank interest	-		485	
	-	7,449	485	5,371
<i>Expenditure:</i>				
Audit	100		100	
Booklet and website	674		964	
Corporation tax	97		119	
Cricket	1,913		2,003	
Cross country	48		48	
Hockey	-		310	
Rugby	2,000		500	
Soccer	-		100	
Squash	79		100	
Tennis	30		20	
	-	(4,941)	20	(4,264)
Surplus for the year		2,508		1,107
General Fund at April 1		39,499		38,392
Surplus for the year		2,508		1,107
General Fund at March 31		42,007		39,499

BALANCE SHEET AT MARCH 31 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Cash at bank	*42,007	39,499
Represented by:		
General Fund	42,007	39,499

*£35,000 was invested on April 6th 2012 in a 2.25% CD maturing on April 8th 2013.

I have examined the books and papers of the Sherborne Pilgrims Club presented to me and report that the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31 2013 and Balance Sheet at that date are in accordance with this information.

J D V Wheatley, 12 Blatchington Road, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5EG April 18th 2013

THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE

2013

PRESIDENT

A D Leakey

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

H C K Archer

VICE-PRESIDENTS

E D Fursdon and E P J F Lyons

TRUSTEES

C R J Eglinton, J P Hargrove and A D Leakey

COMMITTEE

Retiring 2013

R A Bagnall

N M Lamb

J I McKillop

A I H Prentice

S M Rees-Williams

A N P Searson

C E S Clifton (co-opted), D A R Guy (co-opted)

Retiring 2014

T A Andrews

N K Cook

J C Harden

C W C C MacLaren

J A J Moubray

R A Rydon

Retiring 2015

G P Gent

R Hands

P F C Langly-Smith

P J Lough

A D Nurton

T E Pitt Ford

HON SECRETARY

E P J F Lyons

0117 941 9533 (O)

edlyons@lyonslaw.co.uk

HON TREASURER

R H Green

CLUB WEBSITE

www.sherbornepilgrims.co.uk

EDITOR

R Hands

07876 653874 (M)

robert.hands@thetimes.co.uk

CLUB ARCHIVIST

C R J Eglinton

020 8946 3863 (H)

charles.eglington@blueyonder.co.uk

Club colours can be obtained from the OSS Office, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AP.
Tel. 01935 810558 oss@sherborne.org

Founder G M Carey

PRESIDENTS

1923-27 Nowell C Smith
1927-32 W H Game
1932-52 C F Stanger-Leathes
1952-55 A H Trelawny-Ross
1955-58 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
1958-61 D C D Ryder
1961-64 M E K Westlake
1964-67 R Eglinton
1967-70 T R Parry
1970-73 J D Watney
1973-76 D F R Evans, TD
1976-79 A A E Morgan
1979-80 R H Whiteway
1981-84 D I T Wilson, MBE
1984-88 M R G Earls-Davis
1988-91 C R J Eglinton
1991-94 J A Watney
1994-97 P R D Gould
1997-00 J P Hargrove
2000-03 G P Gent
2003-06 D C Watney
2006-09 P J Lough
2009-12 H C K Archer
2012- A D Leakey

TRUSTEES

1923-27 G M Carey
1923-28 Nowell C Smith
1928-48 A H Trelawny-Ross
1928-42 P E H Parry-Jones
1946-59 B Pickering-Pick, CBE
1948-59 Brig A H Moberly, DSO
1959-67 C R Hopwood
1959-99 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
1959-86 M S Glennie
1967- C R J Eglinton
1986-10 J A Watney
1999- J P Hargrove
2010- A D Leakey

HON TREASURERS

1966-86 J C Alan Smith
1986- R H Green

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1923-27 G M Carey
1927-48 L C Powys
1935-48 N H E Partridge
1948-52 A H Trelawny-Ross
1948-55 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
1954-58 D C D Ryder
1955-64 W E Tucker, CVO, TD, FRCS
1958-61 M E K Westlake
1961-64 R Eglinton
1964-67 T R Parry
1964-70 R F W Leonard, MBE
1967-70 J D Watney
1970-73 D F R Evans, TD
1970-73 M S Glennie
1970-76 A A E Morgan
1973-79 R H Whiteway
1976-84 M R G Earls-Davis
1979-81 D I T Wilson, MBE
1981-87 J C Foot
1984-88 C R J Eglinton
1987-91 J A Watney
1988-94 P R D Gould
1991-97 J P Hargrove
1994-00 G P Gent
1997-06 P J Lough
2000-03 D C Watney
2003-09 H C K Archer
2006-12 A D Leakey
2009- E D Fursdon
2012- E P J F Lyons

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

1923-35 N H E Partridge
1935-50 D C D Ryder
1950-54 J S W Lush
1954-72 M R G Earls-Davis
1972-88 C R J Eglinton
1988-00 G P Gent
2007- E P J F Lyons

RULES

1. The Club shall be called “The Sherborne Pilgrims”.
2. All OS who are members of the OS Society shall be entitled to apply for membership. Members of staff who are members of the OS Society may be invited to become an honorary member.
3. With the exception of honorary members, who shall pay no subscription, all new members shall pay a life subscription, which shall be determined by the Committee.
4. The objectives of the Club are to promote and encourage all forms of OS sport, and to keep members in touch with one another and with the School. It is the responsibility of any person playing for the Club in any sport to have in place adequate public liability insurance cover.
5. The Officers of the Club shall be the President, who shall hold office for three years, two Vice-Presidents, the immediate Past President, three Trustees, the Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary, if appointed.
6. The Committee shall be the Officers of the Club; two representatives from the School staff, up to 18 ordinary members, and such others as may be co-opted. A co-opted member shall be subject to annual re-appointment.
7. Ordinary members of the Committee shall retire after three years’ service, but are eligible for re-election.
8. The Club bank shall be the Sherborne branch of the NatWest Bank.
9. All investments shall be held in the name of a regulated nominee company, or in the names of the Trustees.
10. The financial year-end shall be March 31st and an AGM must be held by the end of the calendar year. An income and expenditure account, together with a balance sheet, shall be produced for approval at the AGM.
11. A Committee meeting shall be properly convened on two weeks’ notice and be quorate with five or more members present.
12. In exceptional circumstances the Committee shall have the right to refuse an application for membership.