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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

What makes a memorable sporting moment? It seems pertinent to ask this question in this of all years, that produced last November a right-foot dropped goal that gave England the rugby World Cup in Sydney. So many Pilgrims will have been glued, as I was, to television sets either at home or in the pub on that Saturday morning, leaping exultantly when Jonny Wilkinson settled such a pulsating encounter in favour of the men in white shirts. I know of at least one lucky Pilgrim who was there in the Telstra Stadium - and wouldn't we all like to be able to boast that?

But although that kick will take - has already taken - its place in the sporting folklore of the nation, alongside Hurst's hat-trick, Wade's Silver Jubilee Wimbledon win and Bannister's sub-four minute mile run (and many besides), there are plenty of other moments that we sporting enthusiasts treasure as memorable for our own particular reasons. The first international that I saw in person at Twickenham was a terrible game (in 1985, when England beat Romania 22-15) but it included at the start of the match one thrilling move that ended with Rory Underwood being tackled into touch about 30 metres from the line. Everyone has their moments, whether as participant or spectator.

The two cricketing memories that endure from my years at the School - aside from one unlikely diving catch for the 3rd XI in an evening match against Thornford that bores those who played with me even today - are both victories achieved in fading light, in the final overs: one a defeat, the other a victory. The former was against Marlborough during the 1989 Festival at Cheltenham, on their (much smaller) second pitch, when their powerful No 6 smashed a six off Scott Stevens high over midwicket to win the match off the last ball of a tense contest.

The latter was against Cheltenham, also during the Festival, this time in 1990 and on the Upper. A score of 171 had been set as the target - but there were only two hours or so in which to get the runs, owing to a ponderous Cheltenham batting performance with little ambition or desire to achieve anything other than a draw. Marcus Ford and Ben Atwell, running well between the wickets (surprising, yes, given their usual respective fitness levels), and putting bat to ball in brilliant fashion, put the target within reach; Andy Rutherford smashed the winning runs with a couple of overs to spare to gain an outstanding victory against the odds.

There have been other exciting Upper matches before and since but the constant in both defeat and victory was the urge to play cricket in as positive a manner as possible. Steve Waugh is but the most recent of highly successful Test captains to observe that to win, sometimes you have to entertain the possibility of defeat, a philosophy that Mike Nurton has espoused throughout his 16 years in charge of Sherborne School cricket.

Mike retired last summer and the Sherborne community is poorer for his departure, both as man and as sportsman. He has become a friend and so I cannot pretend that this is a truly objective commentary on his achievements, but the warmth and affection with which he is held by numerous Shirburnian cricketers speak volumes. That Jimmy Adams, of Loughborough University and Hampshire, should have taken the trouble to send Mike a personal note of tribute when the Club made a presentation to him after the first game with the School in May last year says much, too. Adams is undoubtedly the highest-achieving Shirburnian cricketer of recent times and he was generous enough to give a large slice of praise to Mike for helping him to get there.

But it was that philosophy of playing the game that I think has set Mike apart. Many school coaches see the role as trying to forge a victory machine, to put the “W” letter in the results as much as possible to impress the headmaster or perhaps parents, present and future. Clearly Mike never found it easy to lose; like many former sportsmen of some distinction, he played the game to win - and in his case, to score stacks of runs for Oxfordshire. Yet his concern was more how to handle yourself as a sportsman, how to take defeat as well as victory, and how to ensure that you give of your best. It was not accompanied by a big stick and harsh words, for that has never been his style. But most Shirburnians were well aware when he felt they had let him down - and that could apply just as much in victory as defeat. The Club wishes him and Cherry well in retirement.

Another loss has been the retirement of Rupert Bagnall as the Club’s cricket manager. I do not think it either a slight on his immediate predecessors or an exaggeration to say that Rupert has been the best man in this role for a generation. Enthusiastic and devoted to the cause, he has cajoled a strong number of Pilgrims out on to the field, has been greatly responsible for the upturn in fortunes in the Cricketer Cup, and has been at the forefront of the social activities that form an immense part of any club. He has also often played pretty tidily, too, even after some considerable imbibing the night before.

Again I will have to plead guilty to accusations of bias since I have enjoyed Rupert’s company ever since, as a bumptious third-former to his status as School Prefect and sometime Head of House, we debated cricket statistics some 16 years ago. Even now he can occasionally catch me out. That he has been so diligent on behalf of the Club came as no surprise, since one of his outstanding characteristics, obvious all that time ago, was his loyalty to the people he valued. His loyalty to the Pilgrims has been unimpeachable and he has set the standard for others to follow in the coming years. Mind you, he still purveys the same dodgy left-arm over that he used in the House Barge Yard...

One final departure this year was Patrick Gent ending his tenure as President. Patrick has been a stalwart of the Pilgrims for more years than probably even he

cares to remember but equally has been a key component of the Club ever since he left the School some half a century ago. Formerly the Hon Secretary for 12 years, Patrick has been a welcoming face to many novice Pilgrims and a familiar face to Pilgrims of all ages. He has given great service and it is right, too, that we salute him as his tours of duty on behalf of the Club finally come to a close - although he remains very much part of the fabric.

Departures there may have been, but achievements there have been plenty, too, as detailed over the pages of this booklet. Although the Cricketer Cup campaign was not up to the standards of recent years, it did feature the Club's first century in the competition for 36 years (and only the second in the cup) by Ben Atwell. It was a nice coincidence that Bob Tozer, the first centurion, was there to witness it, even if both he and Ben would probably rather that the Club had beaten the Old Brightonians on a lovely summer's day. Will Hargrove has continued his sterling work with the rugby players, ensuring a high standard of football along with the off-field amusement that is vital to the health of the Club. Hockey players, cross-country runners, fives and tennis players, golfers and sailors have all held the good name of Sherborne high over the past year - and we should thank and applaud the efforts of those who administer those sports for their hard work in keeping the flame alive.

Some of them gathered this month at Twickenham to see a genuine first - a Sherborne XV playing on the hallowed turf. It was one of the most heartening experiences that I have had connected with the School in some years - and that despite defeat. Although the Junior Colts team lost to a much stronger and more physical side from John Cleveland College in Leicestershire (among whose old boys Dean Richards is numbered), they were not disgraced and were certainly not outplayed. Yet the really heartening aspect was the strength of the support for the side. Yes, it was the school holidays, and many Shirburnians had the chance to make the trip to southwest London to cheer on their boys - but that so many did so, and that the somewhat obscure chants that have adorned the Upper for several years now were given an airing at HQ, was quite inspiring.

I spotted a good number of OS, of staff and of members of both the School and the girls' schools of the town, all enjoying the day out and offering raucous support to the team. While the coaches and players deserve the majority of the applause for the exceptional run that took them to the Daily Mail Under-15 Cup final, there was much to commend in the demeanour and attitude of the teenagers there that reflects credit on the School and Simon Eliot's leadership. The future would appear to be bright for the School overall if this is anything to go by.

And in that light should be seen the disappointing results of both rugby and hockey teams for this year, as those who read on will discover - that the future is strong while the present is weak. It must be acknowledged that the intake for the late

Nineties was both smaller than before or indeed since and also that the image projected by Sherborne School during that time was not as lucid as it might have been. The School's sport is, to use an American phrase, on the rebound - and the Pilgrims will reap the benefits in the years ahead.

Once more I must thank those who contributed to this year's booklet, most particularly to Charles Eglington and Barbara Spencer, without whose expertise it would neither be completed on time nor as polished as it is. Although the date of the AGM has not yet been finalised, I would encourage members to make the trip if they can in the autumn down to Sherborne and watch what could be a fine XV on the Upper. (For the confirmed date, please visit the Club website at www.sherbornepilgrims.co.uk at the end of May, after the Committee meeting towards the end of that month.) To all those who play and administer the Club's sporting endeavours, the best of luck and success in the year to come.

*Robert Hands
April 2004*

NEW MEMBERS

Applications were received from the following leavers in July 2003:

H T Albers (g Soccer, Rugby), J D B Bailey (g Soccer, Rugby, Athletics), R F C Boughey (c Soccer, Tennis, Rugby), M J Clapp (c Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Swimming), H D I Clifton (g Cricket, Hockey, Tennis), G A R Cox (a Soccer, Rugby), T P Cracknell (m Rugby, Cricket, Soccer), S P Daniel (m Hockey, Soccer), W R B Dawson (b Cricket, Rugby, Soccer), R A Dowdall (b Rugby, Cricket, Hockey), T S Edwards (a Rugby), A L F Gold (d Rugby, Hockey), H M G Goldschmidt (b Hockey, Cricket, Rugby), L B D Holding-Parsons (g Swimming, Basketball), A J E Johnston (d Rugby, Hockey, Cricket), H P Lamb (c Cricket, Hockey), A J Leakey (b Squash), M J E Lyne (f Rugby, Swimming, Athletics, Fencing), C E Maltby (b Rugby, Hockey), B J Massey (a Soccer, Cricket), F J Mead (a Cricket, Soccer, Rugby), S L Peel Yates (m Rugby, Fives), D R Poraj-Wilczynski (g Rugby, Hockey, Cricket), E R Posnett (c Tennis, Hockey), C W H Quick (c Rugby, Athletics), M J O Robinson (b Rugby, Soccer, Swimming), M T D Scott (m Rugby, Cricket, Hockey), G E Smallwood (d Hockey, Rugby), N W V Southwell (c Hockey, Cricket), G W B Stratton (d Rugby, Hockey, Golf), M G Sudlow (c Hockey, Cricket, Tennis), G A Thow (m Hockey, Rugby, Athletics), H P Tinne (g Soccer, Rugby, Basketball), A J Waring (g Soccer, Rugby), A C G Windle (c Rugby, Hockey, Cricket), B J Wood (f Fives).

Other new members: E T Elliot-Square (g 1991-94), J C Harden (g 1966-70), M J Hawkins (g 1993-98), R M R MacDonnell (a 1952-56), R M S Wormal (f 1965-70).

OBITUARY

J C Alan Smith (a 1949-53), R A Bethell (d 1936-41), J M G Harris (h 1925-29), J F N Hodgkinson (b 1932-37), G D James (g 1938-42), C F V Martin (a 1933-37), C J S Maxwell (g 1970-75), H W B Rowan (c 1960-64), H P Williams (b 1933-38).

MANAGERS

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CRICKET 2003

Played 13: Won 4, Lost 8, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Saturday May 17th, v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne School 160-7;

Sherborne Pilgrims 110 (M A Shearer 66; H P Lamb 6-15). Lost by 50 runs.

It was a minor miracle that this game took place at all; the weather forecast for the weekend was poor, to say the least, and it was with some pessimism that the Pilgrims gathered on the Upper for the first of the two matches against the School. Rupert Bagnall had managed to assemble five of the captains of the XI during Mike Nurton's time, including Tom Ashworth, his first back in 1988. Bagnall won the toss and opted to field, believing that setting a target through rain delays would be harder. As it turned out, the only rain delays occurred during the lunch and tea intervals, necessitating marginally later re-starts.

The School scored only at a pedestrian rate throughout, failing during the first session in particular to scamper the singles that were always going to be a more profitable means of collecting runs with a damp outfield. Credit, though, should be given to the good length maintained by the Pilgrims attack, for whom only Andy Nurton was wayward for more than the odd ball. Jerry Costeloe and Charlie Dupont were both rewarded with strong figures - although it should be noted that neither bowled at the death. Tom Cracknell, the XI captain, anchored the innings well as opener, scoring 39 and his mantle was taken up by Henry Goldschmidt, who was unbeaten on 45 when the 50 overs were up. Some indication of the difficulty of scoring can be seen by the paucity of boundaries - only five in the innings.

Yet a total of 160 was challenging enough in the circumstances, especially so given that the Pilgrims were somewhat short of recognised batsmen, and one of them, Ashworth, would need a few overs to get his eye in after so little cricket in recent years. Alas, Tom fell victim to a snorter first ball from Freddie Mead, who bowled him neck and crop, the first of four ducks on the Pilgrims card. Andy Searson, carefully, and Mark Shearer, more belligerently, made light of the early loss and cruised to 45 without any trouble in good time. Then, calamity: Shearer called Searson for a third run that was foolish at best and the opener was on his way. From then on, it became the Henry Lamb show. The loping right-arm bowler took control from the Pavilion End and demolished the Pilgrims line-up. After beginning with two double wicket maidens, he proved the age-old virtues of bowling a consistent line and length en route to deserved figures of six for 15. Poor shot selection helped his cause, but you can scarcely argue with wickets achieved bowled (four) and caught behind (two).

Shearer stood defiant as partners came and went, batting with power to reach 66 off 83 balls before it became too big a task even for him to keep the innings afloat and he succumbed aiming another big hit. It then became a question of whether the rain would deny the School and Dupont's wicket fell seconds before a serious downpour that might well have ended play for the day. The School well deserved their victory.

The bedraggled participants repaired to the Pavilion to hear Bagnall deliver a speech in praise of Mike Nurton, and to present him with a small token of gratitude on behalf of the Club for all the hours he has spent in the service of the School's cricket over 15 years. Mike has been responsible for so much that is good about Sherborne cricket in recent times that he leaves a wide hole, but he also leaves a rich legacy of talented, combative cricketers.

Sunday June 1st, v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough

Marlborough Blues 210-4 (R Caldwell 90);
Sherborne Pilgrims 154 (A Chadwick 72). Lost by 56 runs.

With a little help from the Blues and from a casual spectator, a complement of Pilgrims was assembled ready to start the game, but almost as soon as the captains had agreed on a 50-over contest and tossed up, the heavens opened and play could not begin. The downpour was hard enough, the horizon dark enough to put the game in some doubt but having taken lunch early, the weather relented, and play began at 1.20pm, now 35 overs a side.

The Pilgrims had won the toss and decided that chasing would be easier, since with too many batsmen in the side it was deemed unlikely that they would be able to bowl an opposition out. Andy Searson was called upon to open the bowling - not something that he was expecting since he would no doubt have preferred to purvey his leg spin later in the innings. Nick Pont, an Old Uppinghamian friend of Mark Shearer, opened at the other end at a brisk pace but both were unlucky with some streaky batting on a fast outfield. Bowling proved tricky with a short boundary on one side that a top edge could clear with comfort. Even Shearer himself bowled, despite starting the Blues innings behind the stumps - and became the leading wicket-taker with two for 37 from his six overs.

The Blues total was perhaps a little higher than ideal to chase, but with plenty of batting and runs available, it should not have been impossible. However, that old Pilgrims failing of losing one early wicket, and then allowing wickets to fall with regularity as batsmen got in and then out, was the undoing. Adam Chadwick - a ringer from Marlborough - showed just how to do it, batting aggressively and splitting the field impressively in his half-century. Shearer and Jimmy McKillop both made good starts and scored in the twenties, but the slight unevenness in the wicket did for both men. The final total was not nearly close enough with too many batsmen playing the ball too early or not moving their feet.

Sunday June 8th, v Radley Rangers, at Radley. Abandoned.

Sunday June 15th, Cricketer Cup first round, v Old Brightonians, at Brighton
Sherborne Pilgrims 237-9 (B D Atwell 102);
Old Brightonians 239-4 (R M Strong 59, R L Chettleburgh 55 not out, T Burton 52 not out). Lost by 6 wickets.

Experience in any sport is a usual pre-requisite for success. The recent good runs in the Cricketer Cup have been founded on a settled side, with the same captain and with a determination that sometimes overcame the odds. And winning, of course, breeds a confidence that keeps success going. Remove too many of those component parts and the engine begins to splutter.

So it was at Brighton on a perfect day for cricket. Ricketts, the long-time skipper, was in Australia. The list of unavailable players, regulars in recent years, was long, leaving the bowling department looking somewhat green, even though only two of the Pilgrims side were making their cup debuts. It would be hard on those who played to state that the match was won and lost on grounds of canny know-how and cricketing guile, but that represents a significant amount of the truth. Brighton made their home knowledge count - and took ruthless advantage of the inexperience of their opponents.

It could have been a different story, however. Charlie Warren won the toss and rightly elected to bat on a baking summer's day. Rightly not only because of the firmness of the pitch, but also because the Pilgrims XI was short of the full complement, a result of the sun-worshippers flocking to the beach and the charity London-Brighton cycle race. Warren and Atwell made a slow start, Warren struggling to cope with the swing of Strong, a former county cricketer who was influential with both bat and ball. It was no surprise to see the captain depart at Strong's hands in the seventh over. Gillett looked confident but was undone by a fine ball from Long that trapped him in front. At 36 for two, the innings needed reviving.

Andy Searson provided that impetus, not only scoring at a brisk rate himself, but also pushing Atwell along with him, so that the third-wicket pair kick-started the innings and raised hopes of a total that would be a serious challenge for the Old Brightonians. Pushing the singles and taking the boundaries on offer when appropriate, they put on 103 between them before lunch, Atwell moving past 50 with some ease. And at that first interval, the signs were good: 139 for two and 20 overs remaining. While 300 would have been an ambitious target, 275 was easily attainable, especially on a wicket that was true and made for batting - and against an attack that fell away after the opening pair.

The momentum never really returned, however. Searson was caught behind in the second over after the resumption, setting the stage for what should have been a classic James Tweedale innings. Sadly, Tweedale offered only a cameo - a couple of boundaries, looking well set and then skying one to midwicket for just 15. The brothers Dowdall came and went for one apiece and now the pressure was really on Atwell. Not only was he nearing the milestone of three figures, but also he was the established batsman trying to keep the innings going while ensuring he remained at the crease.

With Andy Nurton, the damage began to be repaired, although one critical statistic that was going against the Pilgrims was the lack of boundaries scored. Very few were achieved in the last ten overs, itself an indictment of the intelligent field placing of the home side and also of the faltering technique of the Pilgrims against only moderate bowling. Atwell was not to be denied his moment of glory, though, and with a boundary stroked through the off side became only the second Pilgrim to score a hundred in this competition. Appropriately enough, Bob Tozer, the first to do so, was watching approvingly from the sidelines.

Atwell had no chance to rest on his laurels, being given out leg-before to a questionable decision the very next ball. He had been the backbone of the innings and played the anchor role to perfection, taking 141 balls to score his century. If only some others had shown his application to stay with him. Nurton pushed and prodded with the remaining partners to bring the total up to a competitive, but not forbidding 237 for nine. An indication of relative progress by the Club in this tournament is that this was the seventh highest Pilgrims score in the Cricketer Cup.

Yet although it was certainly a decent score, it was not enough to be truly confident of victory. Those pessimistic thoughts were soon banished when James Pexton struck twice early in the Old Brightonians' reply to bring them to 19 for two, even if the second wicket was a poor umpiring leg-before decision. Not that Pilgrims were complaining. Woodbridge and Strong began to rescue the innings with some forthright hitting - and then came one crucial over. At 45 for two, it was still arguably just about advantage Pilgrims, even though the run rate was quickening; Andy Nurton then bowled Strong a ball that stopped fractionally on the batsman and he spooned it straight to Atwell at square leg. Down it went. Next ball, Strong plays it too high on the bat and the ball spirals upwards gently. Gillett, from behind the stumps, and Nurton converge on it, the bowler claiming it one-handed. But Gillett's trailing foot knocks the ball out of Nurton's hands and the chance goes down. Strong smacks the last ball of the over for four.

It would be wrong to say that this was the decisive moment of the match, but it was critical. Although there was batting to come, Strong scored even more fluently after these reprieves, and when dismissed had scored at exactly a run a ball. His earlier departure could have helped the Pilgrims to contain their opponents a bit more

comfortably and perhaps even have applied a little more pressure. As it was, the game began to ebb away at an ever more alarming rate from here on. Both Woodbridge and Strong were to be removed, but Chettleburgh and Burton took over where their team-mates had left off, hitting with power and finesse and both making fifties in the process. That they achieved the target with just under ten overs to spare tells its own story.

The Pilgrims bowling must take its share of culpability: like the home side, there were too many wides (15 bowled by Brighton, 19 by Sherborne). But the number of “four balls” served up by the visiting team was just too great, and on an easy-paced pitch, this was meat and drink to any batsman. Pexton and Edlmann both bowled with heart and direction but the remainder of the attack cannot remember their efforts with a great deal of fondness. And this is where the need for experience comes in: several times when an Old Brightonian batsman had taken a risk and clouted the bowler for four (or six), the younger bowler looked a little crestfallen rather than seeing the opportunity for taking a wicket. All six of the Brightonian batsmen took chances, believing that the trueness of the surface would probably help them adjust to get out of trouble - but they were lucky at times to get away with it. Yet instead of attacking the batsman and making him think, the support bowlers slipped too easily into attempts at containment that were more likely to fail on this sort of pitch in this format of cricket. They should learn from the experience, though, and will be better bowlers for it.

Another campaign ends prematurely, although without so many of the usual suspects, it was going to be tough. Yet there is something bitterly ironic about finally seeing a Cricketer Cup Pilgrim century in the scorebook alongside a defeat. But for all Ben Atwell’s fine batting, there were too many tricks missed, by batsmen, bowlers and captain, for this to be seen as an injustice.

Saturday July 5th, v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 188;

Sherborne School 189-8 (S A Crawford 65; R A Rydon 5-31). Lost by 2 wickets.

The Pilgrims batted first having won the toss and opened with Pete Langly-Smith and George Bramble (some might say an opening partnership that contained everything but a brain cell). Langly-Smith looked to dominate and was soon in his stride, whilst Bramble never got going and was first out for seven. Ben Scott joined Langly-Smith and hit well through midwicket until he missed a straight one and was leg-before. Langly Smith was next to follow, swiftly followed by the middle order to leave the Pilgrims 102 for six. Rob Rydon and Andy Searson looked secure until the latter was run out with the score not yet past 150. Somehow the Pilgrims scraped to 188 off 49.5 overs. A score well below par on a perfectly decent track.

For some reason, Crouch opened the bowling and was dreadful, and with Chris Filbey not much better at the other end it looked as if the School would walk this game as the two openers, Cracknell and Crawford, sailed past the century mark. Bring on Rydon - the hero of so many previous Pilgrims games - and things began to turn. The old campaigner took five for 31 but unfortunately his ten overs ran out too fast; he was well supported by Searson, who took three wickets of his own. Unfortunately, the comeback was too late and the School crept home with two wickets to spare.

Monday July 7th, v Old Blundellians, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 258-9 dec (C C M Warren 101 not out);

Old Blundellians 231 (D W Thorne 4-70). Won by 27 runs.

The first day of the week started with the Pilgrims, as usual, requesting to bat after winning the toss. Langly-Smith and Scott started brightly but the partnership was broken on 31 when Scott was done by a typical Upper ball that stayed low and skidded under his bat. Warren was next to the crease and executed a memorable century, creating the backbone of the Pilgrims innings, playing a number of stunning strokes. He was supported briefly by Langly-Smith and Gillett, who scored 34 and 31 respectively. Others tried to stay with Warren at the crease but for many it was a short stay, Bramble managed to dolly his first ball up to mid-off giving Murrin his fourth wicket, much to others' amusement. Warren finished unbeaten on 101, and after a solid display of hitting out from Crouch and Bagnall the Pilgrims finished on 258.

The Pilgrims first wicket came after just two overs when Bagnall got one to cut back at Hunt and trapped him leg-before. From here on in the Old Blundellians were always on the chase. Giles and Weekes did build an encouraging partnership but were broken on 85 by Thorne, whose bowling was crucial in securing the ultimate victory. Placing men back on the boundary, Thorne tempted the opposition to have a go at his bowling, something they were keen to do as they looked for runs to chase the large Sherborne total. This trap worked well and when Edlmann arrived at the crease, Thorne had the pleasure of chucking his first one down at him, and all Edlmann needed to do was what we all expected. Gillett, deep on the square leg boundary, sadly lost sight of the ball in the trees and it flew from his hands for a six.

The fairytale wicket was so near yet so far. The Blundellians continued to battle hard, and with some generous bowling from Langly-Smith (whose first over went for 20) they were able to get within a sniff of victory, Akesman and Murrin scoring 45 and 55 respectively, putting the Pilgrims through an anxious few overs. But Bagnall and Crouch swept up the tail eventually. Bagnall finished with figures of 12-3-24-3 and Thorne 12-0-70-4, and were the pick of the Sherborne bowlers. This was a high scoring game from both sides, providing solid entertainment for all involved, but ultimately one which the Pilgrims deserved to win.

Tuesday July 8th, v Butterflies, at Sherborne

Butterflies 150 (A D Nurton 4-15);

Sherborne Pilgrims 152-4. Won by 6 wickets.

It was only the second day, but several Pilgrims took to the field as if it was the end of a long week, after losing the toss and being asked to field. Edlmann, however, charged down the hill and removed the prolific Williams for a duck before complaining of sore shins and wandering off. Bagnall, meanwhile, toiled fruitlessly up the hill. Andy Nurton came on first change and bowled a very tight line and length, swinging the ball everywhere, which was just too much for the bewildered Butterflies. He more than deserved his handsome figures of four for 15. The opposition were never going to make a huge score, but things were made less embarrassing for them with a lusty 47 not out from Tremlett, their No 9. Most of these were plundered from the bowling of Crouch which, if not accurate, was certainly successful, capturing two wickets for a generous 64. Hargrove chipped in with a wicket himself on his only appearance during the week and helped in the run out of their No 11 to leave the Butterflies cocooned on 150.

The Pilgrims started poorly, losing two wickets in the first over, and then Bramble soon after, leaving the score 21 for three. Matt Hope, firstly with Jimmy McKillop, and then with Pete Langly-Smith (all three experiencing their first tour), finished things off with the minimum of fuss. Two lusty maximums from the latter being the highlights. All in all a job well done against a rather weak Butterflies team.

Wednesday July 9th, v Dorset Development XI, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 187.

Dorset Development XI 188-4 (B Dawes 101 not out). Lost by 6 wickets.

The day started well for the Pilgrims, with Charlie Warren winning the toss and batting first on an absolute scorcher. Things then got even better when he hit the first ball of the day for a thumping four; he tried to repeat the shot later in the over and was out. After Langly-Smith had also gone cheaply, McKillop and Thorne did well to get the Pilgrims to 96 for two in the 21st over. Unfortunately, McKillop fell slugging and Thorne ran out of energy. Two wickets lost and no runs added. With the promising start wasted, wickets then fell regularly, and at 136 for eight, 150 seemed a long way away. It took a calm innings from Rich Edlmann supported first by Tim Margetson, and then by Rupert Bagnall to give the total any sense of respectability. It says a lot about the batting that extras top-scored with 39.

Bowling with great control, Bagnall and Edlmann put pressure on the opposition's openers: Bagnall in particular was very tight and fully deserved to bag both the openers leg-before. With Edlmann responding with a wicket of his own at the other end, the visiting team were reeling at 20 for three. At tea, it could have gone either way with Dorset still three down, needing four an over for victory. Things were

tipped the Pilgrims way soon after when Carter fell trying to force the pace. Unfortunately from here the game slipped away from the Pilgrims thanks both to a fine hundred from Ben Dawes, the opposing captain, who scored a hundred in the same fixture the previous year, but also down to some sloppy fielding giving the aforementioned batsman three reprieves. It was especially annoying as none of the rest of the opposition appeared to be capable of scoring the runs required.

Thursday July 10th, v Dorset Development XI, at Sherborne

Dorset Development XI 175 (A D Nurton 4-13);
Sherborne Pilgrims 162 (B J Scott 87). Lost by 13 runs.

For the first time this fixture would be a limited-overs match in the hope that this would produce a more exciting contest. The away side elected to bat and were tested early on especially by some superb bowling from Richard Edlmann who kept a tight line and length, making his first three overs all maidens. He bowled his six overs for seven runs and took one wicket. The Pilgrims had their opponents in trouble at 52 for five at the end of the eighteenth over, mainly because of a wonderful spell of bowling from Andy Nurton, moving the ball away from the bat. He bowled 11 overs for 13 runs and took four wickets.

Dorset Development then built a handy middle-order partnership, Foster batting particularly well for his 39, but eventually Charlie Warren, making his bowling debut for the Pilgrims, made the breakthrough picking up his first wicket on the Upper, trapping Booth in front of his stumps. The very next ball saw Savage caught behind; as a result, Warren was facing the prospect of a hat-trick. The fielders were called in to no avail, and Warren's seven overs ended at two for 35. At the end of their innings Dorset Development had scored 175 runs, of which 145 came off the bat, and 30 of which were extras. The score was certainly gettable in the fair conditions that prevailed, and the Pilgrims started their innings in high hopes.

The Pilgrims batted poorly to begin with and found themselves in the very weak position of 88 for eight at the end of the 30th over. Dorset Development had bowled well, notably Millard who picked up two wickets for 14 runs. However, the Pilgrims collapse was perhaps more down to poor strokeplay and running between the wickets. This was not true for everybody in the team and Ben Scott, who captained the team, led from the front with a great knock. He scored 87 and hit 11 fours - anything too straight or full of a length he timed through midwicket with increasing ease. The only real support he had was from Nurton, and together they built up a ninth-wicket partnership of 72, Nurton contributing 27. Through the valiant efforts of these two the match was set for an exciting finish with Peter Crouch and Nurton needing 13 runs off the last two overs with only one wicket in hand. Unfortunately, Nurton's wicket fell to Booth. The Pilgrims were disappointed with what they knew should have been a much better batting performance.

Friday July 11th, v Dorset Rangers, at Sherborne

Dorset Rangers 155 (R A Bagnall 5-31);

Sherborne Pilgrims 156-5 (S Gillett 74). Won by 5 wickets.

For his last appearance on the Upper while in charge of Pilgrims cricket, Rupert Bagnall put on a show. With the number of overs per bowler being limited to ten, Bagnall was - unusually - offered the chance to open the bowling and roar in down the hill. Seasoned observers suggested that this may have been the fastest that Bagnall has ever bowled, although it should be borne in mind that this was the end of the Week and brains could have been just a mite addled - not to mention perspective skewed.

None the less, the scorebook will show for posterity that Bagnall's ten was, while not perfect, pretty inspired. Five wickets for 31 tells its own story in any cricket lexicon, with most of them down to his accuracy and pace (bowled or leg-before) rather than cavalier shot-making by his victims. Needless to say, though, he had to be bowled straight through before the ageing muscles seized up from their unaccustomed frantic activity. The Rangers, who were in desperate trouble at lunch, were certainly glad to see the back of him and although no batsman could convert a tidy start into a big score, the tail eked out enough runs to create a competitive target of just over 150.

Faced with an attainable score, the Pilgrims indulged themselves in the manner that only they know how and lost wickets quickly. Enter Stuart Gillett at No 4 and suddenly the game looked very easy. Basic mathematics teaches that a score of 74 out of 156 is close on half the runs, and it was entirely down to Gillett's glorious stroke-making that the Pilgrims won this match with something to spare. Although he was not able to score what would have been the deserved winning runs, when he was dismissed the game was already won. A good end to a good week.

Sunday July 13th, v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge

Sherborne Pilgrims 202 (C P W Gammell 56);

Old Tonbridgians 203-6. Lost by 4 wickets.

It is always difficult for the Pilgrims to raise a side for this game as most stalwarts are "cricketed out" after the exertions of the week at the School. It is even more difficult if the manager is let down by two players at the last moment. As a result, this game provided debuts for several Pilgrims: Roy Haycock, Jerry Hill and Josh Potts, and the guest appearance of Colonel Warren (father of John and Charlie).

It was a beautiful day and the team was glad when the toss was won and the Pilgrims batted. Charlie and Ned Gammell opened and did well, the latter driving particularly well. He fell first, trying to force the pace against the tight off-spin of Kemp, the first of five victims for this young spinner who was not afraid to give the

ball generous flight. Andy Searson was next in, and with the younger Gammell put the Pilgrims into the commanding position of 128 for one at lunch. Regrettably, both batsmen fell soon after, and no one else was able to stick around for any length of time and so it was a disappointingly low total of 202 that was eventually reached. Without any frontline bowlers, Haycock and Searson opened up and bowled tightly, each removing one of the opening batsmen. Runs flowed freely, however, and our opponents were never going to struggle for time. Searson's persistence, however, paid off as he snared their No 3, caught on the short legside boundary for 42 to leave the opposition 87 for three. Crouch was then introduced into the attack and duly struck despite the fearful injuries he was carrying. This left the opposition four down with still 100 runs required. Too many bad balls and not enough luck gave the batsmen the opportunities required and this partnership was not broken until the score was 197, when Haycock made the score look a little more respectable with two wickets in consecutive balls. Overall, it was a wonderful day where the Pilgrims scored 50 or 60 runs too few to make a better game. Thanks must also go out to the Gammell brothers who stepped in at the last moment.

Sunday August 10th, v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford

Hampshire Hogs 209 (J L L Simson 4-22);

Sherborne Pilgrims 129 (C D E Bazalgette 4-23). Lost by 80 runs.

The Pilgrims fielded another very young side with Charlie Warren (24) finding himself the oldest on the field - at least until Dom Stober decided to arrive at lunchtime. The morning session started with Warren losing the toss and the Pilgrims fielding (with nine men only to start with) on the hottest day recorded in Britain. Things weren't helped by the Pilgrims only having one frontline bowling option - the off spin of Charlie Dowdall. As could have been expected the Hogs dealt with the "opening" bowlers, Haycock and Langly-Smith, and quickly raced to 35 before a wide half-volley was crashed just behind square where Dowdall took a breathtaking catch diving one-handed to his right.

Without the bowling options, and the Hogs looking far too comfortable, it was decided to set a defensive field and bowl a tight line outside off stump. The second hour of play got the Pilgrims right back into the game with some more fabulous fielding and tight bowling - the Hogs went into lunch frustrated at 120 for three. Things were further swayed the Pilgrims way after lunch with Dowdall frustrating at one end (he bowled 22 consecutive overs either side of lunch), and Joss Simson on his Pilgrims debut proved to be a golden arm at the other with three quick wickets. This left the Hogs 160 for eight. Unfortunately the heat must have got to the Pilgrims as things went ragged (including a spectacular collision between Matt Hope and Warren under a high ball) and the Hogs got to 209 before Simson finished things off with his fourth wicket. Special mention must also go to Will Russell who took three catches and kept very tidily the day after returning from South Africa in the middle of the rugby season.

In the end, it was a very good performance on such a hot day with limited bowling, and the Pilgrims were confident of being able to chase the Hogs score on a decent pitch - especially as all 11 of the players considered themselves batsmen. As is so often the case when a team has a lot of batting, however, things fell apart: four of the top five managed only single figures; 36 for four. Spirits were briefly raised when Langly-Smith hit some lusty blows before holing out. It was left to Hope and Russell who fought to take the score over 100 before both got out to the donkey-drops of Bazalgette within an over. A dreadful batting performance - although some excuse could be made having fielded for four hours in such heat.

Sunday August 17th, v Bluemantle's, at Tunbridge Wells

Cancelled because of groundsman's absence.

Sunday August 24th, v NPL Teddington, at Teddington

Sherborne Pilgrims 268 (B D Atwell 84, C C M Warren 54);
NPL Teddington 245. Won by 23 runs.

On a thirsty outfield, Bagnall won the toss and duly elected to bat, sending out Atwell and Warren. Warren tried to hook the first ball of the day and was surprised by the bounce and was extremely lucky to get away with it (too much time on the Upper as a youngster?). Both openers then made use of the fast outfield to scorch past 50 in the seventh over of the day. Warren reached his 50 first in better than even time with a well-timed push through midwicket off Bowles but fell two balls later, missing an ugly slog. Atwell passed 50 soon after and coasted effortlessly on until he too was bowled by Bowles. Scott came and went for a trademark twenty-odd and was the first Pilgrim out caught at long off to the off spin of McCormick. After a lunch that had hastily been bought in Tesco (the bright spark at NPL had not gathered that you had lunch at all-day games), Pugh (35) and Thorne (18) batted well. Both perished trying to clear the man at long off either side of Charlie Dowdall making a characteristically elegant nought. The orders were now to push for the declaration and the lower order duly obliged with Goodeve Docker, Bagnall and Crouch clearing the ropes for a maximum - the last named's effort was particularly huge. 268 was a par score on a pitch that had the potential for many more.

Goodeve Docker and Bagnall opened the bowling and bowled well but without luck - both saw many fly off both edges but none went to hand. Things weren't happening for the Pilgrims, despite the introduction of spin at both ends, and NPL went into tea at 68 for no wicket. The spinners continued after the break and as the opposition looked to force the pace, five wickets fell in consecutive overs - the first two to Dowdall (both batsmen playing for non-existent spin). Stober then proved the effectiveness of bowling a few tight ones followed by rank bad balls as first a long hop was sent to cow corner, then in his next over a huge full bungler was missed, and finally another full toss was sliced to mid-off. The Pilgrims leaked a

few runs until Goodeve Docker came on for a three-over spurt just after the last 20 had started, with NPL needing just under 100 with four wickets in hand. He took one in each of his first two overs before he had to leave for work. Runs flowed again to leave NPL needing 58 from the last 11 with two wickets left. Thorne duly struck, leaving the Pilgrims almost home and dry. A gutsy last-wicket partnership nearly embarrassed everyone with run outs being missed and catches going down. It was fitting, however that it was Bagnall who claimed the last wicket with a lovely yorker in his last game in charge. Much is owed to Rupert who has put his all into Pilgrims cricket over nearly a decade. It is up to the next generation of Pilgrims to try to build on what he has done to keep the Club successful and enjoyable.

Reports by George Bramble, Charlie Dowdall, Robert Hands, Peter Langly-Smith, Charlie Warren.

CRICKET FIXTURES 2004

Sun	May 9th	Radley Rangers (a)	Wed	July 7th	Sunday Barbarians
Sat	May 22nd	The School	Thurs	July 8th	Dorset Development XI
Sun	May 23rd	Marlborough Blues (a)	Fri	July 9th	Dorset Rangers
Sun	June 13th	Lancing Rovers (a)	Sun	July 18th	Old Tonbridgians (a)
		1st round Cricketer Cup	Sun	Aug 8th	Hampshire Hogs (a)
Sun	June 27th	2nd round	Sun	Aug 15th	Bluemantle's (a)
Sat	July 3rd	The School	Sun	Aug 22nd	NPL Teddington (a)
Mon	July 5th	Old Blundellians	Sun	Aug 29th	Ithacans (a)
Tues	July 6th	Butterflies			

Cricketer Cup quarter-finals July 11th; semi-finals July 25th; final August 15th.

RUGBY 2003-04

Saturday April 26th 2003, v Old Oundelians

Sherborne Pilgrims 33 Old Oundelians 65

Given that the half-time score was 44-11 in favour of Oundle, this represented a reasonable final result. Almost everything that could go wrong did go wrong in the lead-up to the game - Pilgrims falling downstairs, getting stuck at work, becoming fathers sooner than expected - and the net result was a Pilgrims XII rather than XV.

Sunday May 18th, Champagne Tens

Sherborne Pilgrims 5 Freshfields 27; Sherborne Pilgrims 19 Old Oundelians 12; Sherborne Pilgrims 5 Old Cliftonians 12

A simple format: two pools of four teams and the first-placed team in each were the finalists. The Pilgrims' pool was by far the stronger and the team acquitted itself

well, with the exception of the Freshfields match, where it became apparent quickly that the lawyers were the best side in the competition (unsurprisingly as they featured a Pilgrim - and ringer - in Jerry Costeloe).

Sunday August 31st, CLOB 15-a-side tournament

Sherborne Pilgrims 0 Eastbourne College Stags 27; Sherborne Pilgrims 36 Bealonians 7; Sherborne Pilgrims 10 Old Alleynians 0; Sherborne Pilgrims 38 Stoke Park 7.

After a sloppy, indisciplined start against Eastbourne, which involved far too much backchat for the referee's liking, this was a great success. Victory over Stoke Park gave the Pilgrims the Plate title, although the harder match was the semi-final against the Old Alleynians. Had the Club had 15 rather than 14 out in the first match and been more alert at 10.30 in the morning, it could have been a different story against the Stags; however, the 19-man squad combined well thereafter and it was hard to pick out a genuine "man of the tournament", so strong was the teamwork.

Saturday September 6th, v Old Canfordians

Sherborne Pilgrims 15 Old Canfordians 3

Tries by James Mieville (two) on the wing and Henry Mitchell in the centre ensured victory in a thoroughly impressive defensive performance. Typically, the Pilgrims were late for the warm-up and hungover, which ensured a slow start to the match, but control was soon obtained and although Canford tackled well for much of the match, this young Pilgrims XV was always the stronger.

Saturday October 18th, v Welsh National Deaf XV

Sherborne Pilgrims 19 Welsh National Deaf XV 33

This was a beautiful autumn day at Bath's Recreation Ground and a strong, eager Pilgrims side who even had a good warm-up session. However, it was marred by a poor display by a weak referee that saw Max Vere-Hodge sent to the sin-bin, and a terrible high tackle on Paddy Gidney that left him concussed but without any sanction against the Welsh tackler from the same referee. The Pilgrims took time to get into the match and were trailing only by a point when Vere-Hodge was shown the yellow card, and Will Hargrove, the captain, also lost too much focus, which had an impact on his team. Credit should be given to the Welsh, though, for despite benefiting from the patronising charity of the referee, they maintained discipline and kept their basic skills high and deserved victory.

Sunday December 7th, v Media Nomads

Sherborne Pilgrims 30 Media Nomads 30

The format for the match was 13-a-side (6 forwards, as rugby league), uncontested scrums and no place-kicking - all of which made for a wonderfully fluent contest, assisted by the extra space created on the pitch and by a sympathetic referee. The Nomads were at a slight disadvantage given that their bulkier pack was unable to take any toll at the scrum, and the Pilgrims lineout, led well by Richard Edlmann, was superior. The scores remained close throughout and there was never more than two tries separating the teams. Jason Hutt at scrum half, this season's real "find", was perhaps the pick of the side, working outstandingly well in attack and defence. The Nomads organised this fixture very well and it is an excellent addition.

Will Hargrove

HOCKEY 2004

Tournament on Sunday January 4th at Sherborne

v The School – won 5-2; v Wellington – drawn 1-1; Wellington beat the School 3-1. The Pilgrims won the tournament on goal difference.

Sunday March 21st at Sherborne

v School 1st XI – Drawn 4-4, but lost 8-7 on penalty flicks.

The game started at a fast pace with the Pilgrims scoring within the first five minutes. The School responded quickly from the restart and equalised after a series of promising attacks. Both sides got into their rhythm and created a handful of chances. The Pilgrims started to increase the pressure on the School's defence and this produced a well-worked goal to take the lead 2-1. The School came back strongly but could not convert their chances to level the score before half-time.

After the interval, the Pilgrims soon increased their lead with another well-worked goal. The pressure continued and they created numerous penalty corners but they could not convert the chances. The School's goalkeeper made a series of outstanding saves to deny the Pilgrims from closing out the game. This motivated the School and they upped the pace in the latter part of the game. The pressure soon told as they pulled a goal back to make the score 3-2. The School's confidence was high and they looked to level the game with yet another series of attacks. However, the Pilgrims managed a breakaway goal to make the score 4-2.

The Pilgrims then became complacent and the School seized on this and soon scored to make it 4-3. The Pilgrims were on the defensive and not even a series of

brilliant saves from the goalkeeper could prevent the School levelling the game minutes from time. The match went to penalty flicks and the School eventually won 8-7.

v School Colts A – Won 6-0

The second game also got off to a fast start and the Pilgrims were surprised at the commitment of the Colts. Right from the start, they harassed every player and neither side gained the upper hand in the first ten minutes. The Pilgrims then created the opening goal after a period of good possession and precise passing. The second goal came shortly afterwards and this gave the Pilgrims the confidence to start spreading the ball to all areas of the pitch. The Colts were still very committed and they made it very difficult for the Pilgrims to play. The Pilgrims managed to score a third goal before half-time.

The lessons of the previous game were learned and the Pilgrims remained focused at the start of the second half. They seemed to be passing a lot more rather than running with the ball, and this frustrated the Colts. The Pilgrims began to build up the pressure and this was rewarded by a fourth goal. Effectively this gave the Pilgrims the cushion they wanted and it allowed them to play more freely. The possession and territory was definitely in favour of the Pilgrims and soon the fifth goal went in. Both teams were getting really tired towards the end and the Pilgrims sealed the game with a sixth goal. The Colts team deserved a lot of credit as they battled for the whole game and certainly have a bright future.

The following played: Jimmy Cheung, Andrew Searson, Tom Wykes-Sneyd, Phil Cramp, Nick Cramp, Whiston Bristow, Peter Langly-Smith, Charlie Gammell, Gary Shaw, Will Fegen, Tom Fegen and Paddy Gidney.

Once again, the day was a success and thanks must go to Jeremy Wadham, Rob Hill and Ali Hatch for their organisation. I would also like to thank everyone who participated and, hopefully, we can replicate this support in the future.

Jimmy Cheung

FIVES 2004

As seems to be the case nowadays, although there are official Pilgrims matches against the School and Bow House, many Pilgrims also play in other matches organised at Sherborne. This year was no exception with five Pilgrims playing in the weekend of RFA matches against the boys and the staff. Both weekends were thoroughly enjoyable, as ever, and it is good to see the numbers of Pilgrims playing at the School rise for another year. The history books will record that the official Pilgrims team lost their match, but in truth the winner was the sport of Rugby Fives.

In addition to the incomparable sight of Messrs Green and Rogers playing for the Pilgrims for about the 40th consecutive year, the honest abilities of the following Old Boys have been evident on the School's courts this year; Cameron Waaler, Simon Stokes, Struan Coad, Toby Dean and Ben Wood. This blend created an undeniably fitful combination of vitality and experience, and it is a shame that owing to the exigencies of time and space it is not possible to go into all their various talents in this report. Finally, our thanks must go to Mike Cleaver, Paul Carling, Giles Reynolds and the boys for their enthusiasm and stiff opposition on court and their hospitality off court.'

Nick MacIver

TENNIS 2003

Midday, July 5th: a pack of lackadaisical travellers could be seen congregating in the Cross Keys trying to wheedle out valuable information on the 1st VI's current form from that wise tennis guru, David Ridgway. Our attempts proved fruitless. On yet another sunny Commemoration, a heavy lunch had been forced down by the merry-making Pilgrims; though pleasantries were soon put to one side as the rituals of mental preparation were carried out resulting in a focused flotilla of challengers ready for the School's tennis armada. Ex-tennis captains and crafty doubles experts meant that we were supremely confident that the run of victories against the School would be continued for at least another year, but we were ill prepared.

Priding themselves as the cream of the crop, Ben Maidment and David Thomas decided that 1st pair was the only position for such celebrated sportsmen, result: woeful tennis. A marked deterioration in standard was noted amid claims that they were simply softening the opposition up for our later pairs. The author probably had the easiest spot on the battlefield, as the raw talent of Anthony Dowdeswell was obvious to all, big backhands and firm serves were unleashed so that no matter how weak his partner's service became, the result never looked in doubt. So it was all really down to the final pair to salvage a victory from the jaws of defeat. Transferring their silky skills from the fives court meant that the sweet harmony between Toby Dean and Nick MacIver was thankfully forged early on so that we were in with a fighting chance. Frank team talks were held and, taken from the British Lions' stirring speeches, the team carried the motto of "bodies in the oven, brains in the fridge" through the final sets. Cool heads are needed in such testing times and this attribute was surely the difference between the young and old as the Pilgrims edged home 5-4 on the hallowed ground.

Tim MacIver

CROSS COUNTRY 2003-04

A typical dark and dank December day saw the annual gathering of the faithful on the A3 side of Wimbledon Common for the 50th Thames Hare and Hounds Old

Boys race. Our open team initially looked promising with two new faces (one of whom didn't appear) but the vets looked a little weak with only the evergreen Chris Chataway fully fit. The course was firm but wet.

The race had its usual fast start and the front runners, cracking out their five minute miles, soon disappeared, leaving the over 50 vets crew to take care of several very attractive young women from Bedales, entering for the first time. Those of us at Sherborne in the Sixties were brought up to believe that accompanying young women across the countryside was more important than winning a cross country race.

The first two runners in were from Sedbergh in 25.52 and 25.58 respectively. Rupert Waters had a good race, finishing eighth in a respectable 27.58, Next in was Nick Moseley who had his best race for a while to finish 38th in 32.39. Anthony Brummitt, running for the first time, finished 66th in 38.11 closely followed by Chataway, dreaming of Kuts whom he famously defeated 50 years ago, in 38.43. Angus Cater trailed in at 72nd, finishing in 40.08. 82 runners finished.

Sedbergh won the open team race with 22 points and Sherborne was sixth with 130. Westminster won the Vets 40 and Sherborne was 8th. Westminster also won the Vets 50 but Sherborne was second which was creditable if a little surprising. We can definitely win this category.

Angus Cater

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2003-04

Many congratulations to Hugo Ambrose and his Harrovian friend for completing their Atlantic row last year in aid of the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The winners at the three meetings were:

Summer 2003: Turner and Foot Putter (scratch) – Michael Farley; Page Cup (handicap) – Tom Williams; Harry Croly Cup (under 27 stableford) – Jimmy Cheung; Jeremy Summerscale Tankard (School stableford) – Charles Cooke.

Autumn 2003: Captain's Prize – Doug Lamont; Vice-Captain's Prize – Mike Falconer; Greig Cup – Justin Chantrey; Autumn Cup – Howard Gill; Manning Trophy – Nicholas Chamberlin; Watney & Bishop Dish (veterans) – Mike Falconer.

Spring 2004: Harris Vase (scratch) – Nick Hyde; Hempson Cup (handicap) – Ian Rosser; Shaw 12 and over (scratch) – Orme Webster-Smith; Shaw 12 and over (handicap) – David Watney; Storrs Salver (veterans) – Mike Falconer; Parry Cup (inter-house) – Abbey House; Shaw and Stables (foursomes) – Mike Falconer and Ed Playfair; Howell Williams Salver (combined rounds) – Mike Falconer.

At the AGM, Gavin Webb-Wilson was elected Captain, with Peter Martin and Bill Davis as Vice-Captains. Charles Eglinton retired as President and John Youngman was elected to succeed him; Simon Brown was elected as Vice-President.

Ian Rosser, the retiring Captain, said he had really enjoyed the last year and thanked members for their support. The Society had achieved a record number of wins in the matches in 2003, most of which were played in beautiful weather.

John Youngman proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Currie on his retiring from the Committee, and this was passed with acclamation. Peter had done so much for Sherborne golf. He had been a dedicated master in charge of golf at the School and encouraged a large number of boys to play; he had served on the Committee for over 25 years, the last 13 of which had been as a most efficient Archivist; and he had the distinction of being the only Honorary member to have been Captain of the Society. A truly remarkable record.

Matches v clubs and other societies: Played 27.

Won: 14 v Sherborne, School and Staff, Saunton, Woodbridge, Aldeburgh, Loretto, Woking, Aldenham, Malvern, Downside, West Sussex, Mill Hill, Cambridge University Stymies, Blundell's.

Halved: 2 v The School, Tonbridge.

Lost: 11 v Lancing, Littlehampton Seniors, Rye, Cheltenham, Charterhouse, Repton, Radley, Royal Cinque Ports, Wrotham Heath, Highgate, Marlborough.

Grafton Morrish 2003

In May, the Society qualified for the knockout stages of the Grafton Morrish, held at Hunstanton and Brancaster in October. The team (Philip Brown, Rhys Francis, Stuart Gillett, Nick Hyde, Clive Martin and Peter Martin) beat Aldenham at Hunstanton before losing to Dulwich. On entering the Plate, we scored a very creditable 84 stableford points round a cold and windy Brancaster to win the Solihull Salver. The top four teams qualified for matchplay knockout where we beat Chigwell and lost to Winchester in the final.

Mellin Salver 2003

After two good runs to the final in the last three years, our performance in the 2003 Mellin Salver on Friday July 11th can only be described as dismal. In the first round against Haileybury we lost 3-0, and then lost 3-0 to Oundle in the Plate.

In the morning, John Youngman and Mark Cannon Brookes were all square at the turn after some untidy golf on both sides, the quality of which improved considerably on the back nine, but the opposition, one up on the 18th tee, closed the match out with two fine shots to the heart of the green. Simon Brown and Martin Ireland slipped behind early on and, against some inspired putting by their distinguished opponent, Sir Michael Bonallack, and his partner, they were unable to recover the deficit and lost by 3 and 2. Mike Falconer and Mike Jerrom (the latter substituting for Gavin Webb-Wilson who was unavailable) were also unable to make headway. At dormie three down they were saved by Haileybury taking three putts on the 16th. The 17th was won but a half at the last was not good enough.

Oundle were formidable opponents to meet in the first round of the Plate and proved too good for us on the day, although all three matches were close. Youngman and Cannon Brookes once again succumbed to the last putt on the last green after gamely recovering from four down after ten holes. Brown and Ireland were three up after seven but promptly lost the next three holes. All square with two to play, they sadly lost the final two holes. Falconer and Jerrom fought a rearguard action before losing by 2 and 1.

The previous day, in very hot and humid conditions, Dick Draper and Colin Sharman failed to qualify for the matchplay stage of the over 65's. On Friday, Thomas Brayne and Rab McEwan were drawn against Oundle in the over 75's. An exemplary birdie three at the 2nd was promising, but this was their last telling blow before losing by 4 and 3.

It was a deep disappointment not to win a single match on a beautiful day with the course in fine condition. We can only hope for a return to better results next year.

Family Day 2003

Marcus and Justin Chantrey won the Peter Currie Cup at Woking on November 16th, with Ian and Nick Gavin-Brown the runners-up.

Brent Knoll Bowl 2004

This year the Brent Knoll was dominated by a pair of not that old cripples, injured with back trouble. The Captain was suffering from his ongoing back trouble and arranged for Ed Playfair to join the team from semi-retirement as a back-up. Then a week before, Peter Martin's back went and he had to pull out. Ed valiantly stepped in to replace Peter and the Captain hobbled round.

The first round was against Clifton. Rhys Francis and John Youngman had a solid 5 and 4 win at the top. Nick Hyde and Ed Playfair formed an excellent new partnership and won 3 and 2. Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin were not playing too

well and, by the time they lost 3 and 2, Nigel's back was causing considerable pain and probably not up to playing another match in the afternoon.

Much activity took place at lunchtime to try and find a reserve to play but to no avail. However, Rhys managed to negotiate with the Secretary the loan of the course ranger's buggy. Equipped with four wheels and two Kummels we were ready to play the Warwickshire Bears in the critical afternoon match.

Francis and Youngman could not reproduce the morning's form and went down by 5 and 4 against a very strong top pair. Hyde and Playfair again played well and won by 3 and 2. Whalley was much happier driving than walking, but after being 2 up at the turn the match was all square on the 17th. A brilliant chip from Aubin at the 17th saved a half and the 18th turned into a classic in the fast approaching dusk. With Sherborne still off the green for three, the opposition fluffed their pitch into the bunker. With both on the green in four, the Bears hit a downhill putt ten feet past and missed the return. Two putts for a solid six won the match and took us to Sunday morning.

After a good dinner at the Golf Club, watching the France v England rugby match, and a reasonably early night, we were bright and breezy for Epsom the next morning. Unfortunately, Epsom were even brighter and the strength of their team was too much. Their top pair playing off scratch and plus two and the rest of the team not much more. Congratulations to Hyde and Playfair, who were two up after 16 and therefore unbeaten, the other two pairs having already lost.

The results v Clifton, Warwickshire Bears and Epsom were:

Rhys Francis and John Youngman: won 5&4, lost 5&4, lost 5&4;

Nick Hyde and Ed Playfair: won 3&2, won 3&2, halved;

Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin: lost 3&2, won 1 up, lost 5&4.

Halford Hewitt 2004

Perhaps neither having won the Brent Knoll this year, nor having the luxury of choosing from all the regular players, meant that we arrived at Deal happy with the draw but not so happy with the list of absentees. Stuart Gillett had decided that a five-month sabbatical in the Alps was in order, his place being taken by Greg Tustain, who had played well in the trial in February. Both Nigel Whalley and Peter Martin had bad backs, meaning that Simon Buchanan and James Davis moved up from the reserves.

Aldenham were our first-round opponents and a close match was predicted. Rhys Francis and John Youngman had secured some good wins over the years playing top, but this time they were not feeling "top" and moved down to third pair. As it turned out the Aldenham top pair were too strong for Buchanan and Davis, but this

was matched by Clive Martin and Nick Hyde who had a sound 3 and 2 win. Francis and Youngman, in their new position, won 5 and 4. The bottom two pairs of Hugo Ambrose and Philip Brown, and Nick Aubin and Greg Tustain, both won by 3 and 2, with Tustain marking his return by holing a good putt to secure victory.

Berkhamsted in the next round on Friday were always going to be stiffer opposition. Peter Martin declared himself fit and was paired with Buchanan, the other pairs being unchanged. We made a promising start winning the 1st in all five games, but by the turn the picture was not so good being one down, one down, four down, two down and two down.

In these situations, the important thing is for each pair to make sure that they keep their own game going. Peter Martin and Buchanan had a fine birdie on the short 14th but eventually went down by 2 and 1, a good performance as on paper they should have been beaten quite easily. Clive Martin and Hyde played well for the second day running and closed out their game on the 17th, but the news from the last three games was not good. Francis and Youngman had lost by 5 and 4, so a heavy 4 points to 1 loss looked quite likely and the only way back into the match was for the bottom two pairs to win.

Both pairs came to the 17th tee two down, with the bottom pair having gone through the fourth pair a few holes earlier. Aubin and Tustain won the hole by way of the opposition losing their ball, but Ambrose and Brown had a more dramatic escape with their opponents missing from two feet for the match. Aubin and Tustain won the 18th with a five to send their game down the 19th. Meanwhile behind them, Brown had no option but to lay up short after Ambrose's drive found the left rough. Berkhamsted hit their second to the left fringe, about ten yards from the pin. However, Ambrose's chip to five feet seemed to distract them into leaving their first putt some 11 feet short. The next got to within 18 inches giving Brown the chance of sending the match down the 19th. He missed the five-footer by a whisker, leaving Berkhamsted a tiddler for the match. They missed by a long way, illustrating the extraordinary tension of the moment. So off to the 19th tee.

Ahead, Aubin and Tustain could be seen halving the hole in four. Brown put his drive in the perfect position, some 120 yards from the green. Berkhamsted were shorter off the tee, but safely on in two. Ambrose's approach only just got to the green, but any disadvantage was nullified as both first putts were about seven feet away. Ambrose holed first and, to their great credit, so did the opposition.

By this time, Aubin and Tustain were halving the 20th in five, both sides taking three from the edge of the green. Back on the tee, Ambrose hit a goodish drive down the right and a marvellous second from Brown to some 15 feet gave us a winning chance, but this was narrowly missed. To spice things up, Aubin and Tustain, with two solid putts from 25 feet, had won at the 21st.

Ambrose had another chance of finishing the match at the 21st with a 12-foot putt stopping only inches short. The 22nd was halved in par, helped by a stunning putt from the front edge by Brown. The next hole was halved in six after Sherborne managed to take four shots to get down from 90 yards. (The nerves were jangling for players and spectators!)

The 24th was halved in five, this time Berkhamsted squandering a clear chance by three-putting from 30 feet. The 25th was halved in regulation fours, while the 26th was halved in three, after the opposition had a slice of luck by skirting two bunkers off the tee. Both sides were safely on the 27th green in two, but now the luck turned against Sherborne as Brown's 30-foot approach putt hit a pitch mark and ended seven feet short. This proved one too many for Ambrose and Berkhamsted holed from 18 inches for a par four and the match.

It would have been a magnificent comeback for both of the bottom pairs to have won, and well done to Aubin and Tustain for turning their game around. As it was, after the tension of all the extra holes, the feeling of defeat was crushing. Classic Halford Hewitt! On a lighter note, the match took 96 holes, which was one more than the Tonbridge encounter in 1976, and the deciding game going to the 27th was one hole short of the Halford Hewitt record, but no consolation for losing.

The results v Aldenham and Berkhamsted were:

Simon Buchanan and James Davis: lost 7&6, Buchanan and Peter Martin lost 2&1;

Clive Martin and Nick Hyde: won 2&1; won 2&1;

Rhys Francis and John Youngman: won 5&4, lost 5&4;

Hugo Ambrose and Philip Brown: won 3&2; lost at 27th;

Nick Aubin and Greg Tustain: won 3&2; won at 21st.

Reports by Hugo Ambrose, Philip Brown, Peter Flory and Nigel Whalley.

OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY 2003-04

Second place in the Arrow Trophy in October was one of the highlights of the sailing year, although it was disappointing not to win. As has become customary, social events were a cornerstone of the society's activities - with the St Vaast Rally in October (a "fleet" of one boat owing to withdrawals through weather warnings) a fine example of how enterprising the OSSS can be when things do not quite go to plan. Instead of the anticipated Channel crossing, only the shores of the Isle of Wight were reached - but it was a success none the less. For full details of how the society has been faring, visit www.oss.org.uk, where fixtures, match managers and back numbers of Broad Reach, the OSSS newsletter, can be found.

SCHOOL CRICKET 2003

There is an Irish verse, which says:

*When all the nations throng
The Judgement hill
Where Peter, with his great keys,
Guards the wicket,
England, in lazy flannels lounging, will
Question the Fisherman:
Did you play Cricket?*

This should not prove to be one of the most difficult questions I have had to answer. Playing the game, coaching the skills, and writing about the game have been a large part of my career. Much as I enjoy teaching (as opposed to coaching), pursuing a passion has relieved some of the inevitable drudgery of a routine occupation.

This season provided a rollercoaster journey to compare with any other. “Cricket is quite a gentle, harmless game, but he is a lucky man who has not sweated some blood before he’s done with it.” There was an emotional presentation to me from Rupert Bagnall and the Pilgrims and there was the hugely enjoyable tour to the West Indies organised by Alan Willows. But it was the boys in the team who regularly provided the entertainment, the disasters, the tense moments and the enormous satisfaction.

Tom Cracknell was an inspirational leader. No one tried harder or was more eager for success and yet he appreciated the bigger picture. Each game was to be enjoyed and any setbacks were for him a reason to perform better in the next game. A natural games player, he may never, I fear, realise his full potential on the cricket field. His contribution to the game at Sherborne School has been enormous.

Henry Lamb improved with every game. His average does not reflect his batting expertise. It was in the West Indies that his attention to technique and powers of concentration allowed him to score many more runs than others. I suspect he will want to continue his cricket career. If he isn’t encouraged to play for Wiltshire, the game’s failure to maintain the interest and participation of youngsters after their school career has ended will again be highlighted.

Henry Goldschmidt needs more self-confidence. He needs to adopt the approach of Ken Barrington: “He was a great fighter. No one fought harder than he did when he was batting.” Henry has the potential to become a good all-round cricketer. Seamus Crawford was one of the very few boys to score a century for the XI as a Colt. His 114 against Marlborough demonstrated his undoubted talent, which will be nurtured by Somerset CCC. I wish him well. Freddie Mead will also be a popular cricketer

and will be in great demand. He gives his all and when that is not enough he gives a bit more. He will be fun to play with, too.

Will Dawson will appear on cricket fields for many years to come and no doubt still provide me with entertainment from that cricket pavilion in the sky. He will take wickets and score runs aplenty and probably remember each and every one. Rich Dowdall will eventually learn the wisdom of playing straight and be an acquisition to any club side. You need team members like him who are always concerned with others' performance as much as their own.

Paddy Houghton will, I hope, score heavily next year. He is such a good timer of the ball and plays off both front and back foot. Guy Stebbings wants to do well. He listens and learns and is a quiet, calm, sensible individual, shrewd and undramatic. Nick Southwell will rarely play cricket after school, preferring a career on the ski slopes. His contribution, however, will be talked about for years to come, as a boy who worked hard to establish himself and his unlimited enthusiasm and vitality meant that whenever he was in the middle there always was a sparkle to the game.

Alec Russell is vaguely reminiscent of a shire horse. Strong, sturdy, reliable, unflappable. He will press hard for recognition again next year. Piers Foster and Archie Mackay-James could also play leading roles next year. Never will they be so young again - I hope they cherish every moment.

My sincere thanks to all those who have made such an enormous contribution to cricket during my years at Sherborne: for the support of parents, the enthusiasm of the boys, the dedication of groundsmen, the culinary delights of caterers, the faithful supporters. However, there are three people to thank especially this year:

Sheila Harding is the most accurate, reliable scorer I have ever had. Not only did she keep a neat book but also she was never flustered by the constant demands of the boys to "see their figures". Tom Singleton was an umpire, an adviser, an encourager and a mentor in a kind and thoughtful manner. Tom was Mr Reliability and did everything with efficiency and no fuss. Alan Willows did most of the grafting to prepare the team for their matches. He is a genuine enthusiast and constantly kept my spirits up on days when the adrenalin ran dry. Above all, he was my partner. We did things together. We shared the successes and took joint responsibility for failures. To coach is to inform, educate, and encourage, and Alan excelled in all these things.

And so the time came for me to leave. "I turned and walked through the gates, out of that home of joyous memories, out of our cricket field with all it held for me of life and laughter and rich recollections, out of the greatest game."

Mike Nurton

Results: Played 17, Won 9, Lost 5, Drawn 3.

April 26th	Sherborne 134-3 (35 overs) (S A Crawford 52); King's Bruton 47-3.	Drawn – rain
April 27th	Sherborne 203-8 (55 overs) (T P Cracknell 70, F J Mead 55 not out); Sherborne Cricket Club 190 (53 overs).	Won by 13 runs
May 3rd	Canford 120 (36 overs) (W R B Dawson 6-28); Sherborne 121-4 (35 overs).	Won by 6 wickets
May 4th	Free Foresters 63; Sherborne 64-2.	Won by 8 wickets
May 8th	Sherborne 190-5 (40 overs) (P J T Houghton 78 not out); Bryanston 127 (33 overs) (W R B Dawson 4-19).	Won by 63 runs
May 10th	King's Taunton 163-8 (50 overs); Sherborne 123 (41 overs).	Lost by 40 runs
May 17th	Sherborne 160-7 (50 overs); Pilgrims 110 (33 overs) (H P Lamb 6-15).	Won by 50 runs
June 7th	Sherborne 127 (47 overs); Millfield 128-1 (23 overs).	Lost by 9 wickets
June 14th	Sherborne 166 (51 overs); Taunton 164 (46 overs) (T P Cracknell 4-21).	Won by 2 runs
June 21st	Sherborne 211-4 (55 overs) (T P Cracknell 109 not out, S A Crawford 81); Blundell's 212-6 (52 overs).	Lost by 4 wickets
June 28th	Sherborne 177-7 (50 overs); Winchester 106 (44 overs).	Won by 71 runs
July 2nd	MCC 178-6 dec; Sherborne 163 (H P Lamb 66).	Lost by 15 runs
July 4th	Trinity GS Sydney 176-7 (50 overs) (H P Lamb 4-26); Sherborne 177-8 (48 overs).	Won by 2 wickets

July 5th	Pilgrims 188; Sherborne 189-8 (S A Crawford 65).	Won by 2 wickets
July 7th	Sherborne 238-8 dec. (S A Crawford 114 not out); Marlborough 174-7.	Drawn
July 8th	Sherborne 242-6 dec. (H M G Goldschmidt 74, H P Lamb 63 not out, T P Cracknell 61); Haileybury 161-8.	Drawn
July 9th	Cheltenham 206-2 dec; Sherborne 157 (H M G Goldschmidt 59 not out).	Lost by 49 runs

CRICKET TOUR TO GRENADA AND BARBADOS

When I was asked to go on the cricket tour I thought that it would be a wonderful experience, not only to play cricket but also to soak up some sun in the Caribbean, a place I had never visited. However, my face fell when I arrived to find that the idea of the perpetual sunshine of the Caribbean was a myth as it was raining. I thought if I wanted to have cricket matches rained off I would have just stayed in England. Our first destination, Grenada, was a quiet island that had avoided the westernisation of American influence. I believe that on the way from Barbados airport we saw more cars than we did in our entire time in Grenada. Our first day was spent in the capital of Grenada, St George's, which was possibly smaller than Sherborne! In the morning, while most of the boys slept, the real youngsters of the tour, Mr Nurton, Mr Willows and Mr Massey, were out training on the beach and swimming, despite the rain.

Our second day was spent on a tour of the island, the host being our bus driver, Chris, who was the driver for the West Indies team when they came to play Australia in Grenada's National Stadium. We also saw the Grenadian rain forest, a rum distillery where we tasted 80 per cent proof rum (it destroyed the back of your throat!), a cocoa farm, and the National Stadium where we were to play later in the week.

The cricket in Grenada was not the greatest we had played all season, but the opposition were very good teams including the regional sides, St George's, St David's and St Andrew's. We managed to come away from the island with an even record of won two, lost two. There were some good performances in Grenada, especially from Ed Radcliffe who took three for 11 against St George's. He must also be congratulated on the fact that he was not out in every game. Against St David's, Tom Cracknell (46) and Henry Lamb (42) helped us to gain our first victory of the tour. Will Dawson should also be congratulated on his three for 14 at the National Stadium against St George's Academy. Our greatest moment was the

victory at the Grenadian National Stadium, which was a great experience. Earlier in the year Matthew Hayden, Darren Lehmann and Brian Lara all scored centuries on the same ground in a one-day international and the Australian ice bath was still in the visitors' changing room.

The team learnt a lot about playing cricket in the Caribbean, especially when the bowlers strayed only slightly on to the leg side. The West Indian players would send the ball sailing a very long way, as happened to a few of our bowlers. Grenada set us up for some tough matches in Barbados.

Barbados was a very different island. It was a lot more commercialised, with more bars, more people, and everything much more expensive. But it was still a beautiful island with every flavour of the Caribbean that we expected. After we arrived, it did not take the touring party long after we had eaten to find one of the most famous bars in Barbados, Harbour Lights, which made for a very entertaining evening.

Our first days in Barbados were spent on the beach in beautiful sunshine, which caused problems for some members of the party (well, just me) with sunburn. The name Bubble Boy soon became commonplace. However, some people did manage to meet Abdel Benazzi, the France lock forward, and they were even offered a game of touch rugby with him. Unfortunately, we had a match the next day.

The cricket in Barbados went well. It was amazing to see how seriously the youngsters in the Caribbean took their cricket. We played Inch Marlowe CC, who came out before the start of the game and cleared away all the stones from the pitch. There was even a ten-year old who was in tears because he was not able to play against us. This showed us, not only that cricket is everything to the youngsters out there, but also that they are ready to make sacrifices. This was a valuable lesson for the team for their future cricket careers. We defeated Inch Marlowe, but not without some great batting from Henry Lamb (60). Ben Massey must also be mentioned because in this game he bowled his first overs for the 1st XI, taking three for seven. In Barbados, we managed to win two and lose one. Our greatest victory in Barbados came on the last ball against a team that had not lost to an English touring team in a long time at Coleridge and Parry School, where great players like Sir Garfield Sobers, Sylvester Clarke and Collis King all learned to play their cricket. There were some outstanding performances in this game, most notably from Henry Lamb (60), Freddie Mead (4-31) and Ed Radcliffe (3-24). We were disappointed to lose Mr Nurton's last match in charge of the 1st XI, which was against MTW (Ministry of Transport and Works) CC, but we did manage to be ahead on the tour overall having won four and lost three. The player of the tour was Henry Lamb because of his performances with the bat and ball despite being injured in the first match of the tour, when Freddie Mead played a drive straight on to his elbow.

Overall, this was a very successful tour for all concerned. One object was to celebrate Mr Nurton's retirement and we hope that we gave him a good send-off. My thanks go to him, not only for his antics on the tour, including his dancing, but also throughout the season. Mr Nurton's post and pre-match talks will live long in my memory. In the words of Erskine: "Wooonderful". My thanks also go to Mr Willows for his organisation of the tour, and also for his boyish attitude: to all the support for the team in the Caribbean: the Dowdalls, the Lambs, Mr Massey and also to the Willows family, and finally to the captain, Tom Cracknell, who led the way both on and off the field throughout the whole season.

Alec Russell

SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2004

Sat	April	24th	King's Bruton	Sat	June	12th	Taunton
Sat	May	1st	Canford (a)	Sat	June	19th	Blundell's (a)
Sun	May	2nd	Free Foresters	Sun	June	20th	Millfield
Thurs	May	6th	Bryanston	Sat	June	26th	Winchester (a)
Sat	May	8th	King's Taunton	Wed	June	30th	MCC
Sat	May	15th	Marlborough	Sat	July	3rd	Pilgrims
Sat	May	22nd	Pilgrims				

July 5th-7th Festival with Cheltenham, Haileybury and Marlborough at Haileybury.

SCHOOL RUGBY 2003

Results: Played 12, Won 3, Lost 9.

Canford	Won	20-10	King Edward's Bath	Lost	13-22
Bishop Wordsworth's	Won	20-10	Bryanston	Lost	3-26
Downside	Cancelled		Cheltenham	Lost	11-29
King's Taunton	Won	10-3	King's Bruton	Lost	16-20
Wellington	Lost	0-34	Blundell's	Lost	3-12
Clifton	Lost	10-16	Millfield	Lost	9-17
Marlborough	Lost	6-17			

The season started in late August when the crowds were still on the beaches in Cornwall. The pre-season visit to Perranporth gave us both excellent weather and a valuable insight into the boys and into what we could expect over the course of the term. Although training was good, there was a realisation that a number of positions were not well covered: if injuries did occur, we would have big problems. A squad game was played against Truro followed by another squad game against Eton,

which was played on the Upper as Eton were on their way back from a similar visit to Cornwall.

With everyone fit and well, victory over a very experienced Canford side was indeed a pleasing result. However, this came at a cost with the loss through injury of Michael Saunders at fly half; with the majority of the side from the Lower Sixth, experience was very much at a premium and only Adam Reid, the captain, had played last year. A further victory came on the Upper against Bishop Wordsworth's when their power was overcome by our speed and skill: yet the writing was on the wall at this stage since if any side could hold on to the ball close to the setpiece, we would have the greatest difficulty in countering it. The lack of bulk in the pack was indeed an issue throughout the season - we could stay close to teams until late on when power told and scores were conceded in the closing minutes.

A good win over old rivals, King's Taunton, was very pleasing although further long-term injuries in the backs were starting to haunt us. Seamus Crawford lasted only 20 minutes and was not seen again; this was a big loss, not only for his skills at No 13 but also for his size. From then on, it became harder: the defeat to Wellington was, to put it mildly, a fantastic forward effort and the opposition were on the back foot for much of the match. However, our goalkicking was very poor, our finishing not at all clinical and they took three chances with aplomb. It was a salutary lesson that you must turn pressure into points. Credit to the front row on the day where Alex Simon and Jack Milln, the props, together with hooker Archie Mackay-James, gave as good a display as you will see.

Injuries were a problem at Clifton where we lost a hooker and full back; the former was extremely disruptive as the boys had to play more than a full half with a desperate fight to retain possession at the setpiece, especially the lineout. Without first-phase ball, field position was always a problem but despite it all, Clifton were behind until the last few minutes. But it was not just injuries that were troubling: the speed of transfer through the half-backs (or lack of it) was preventing any sort of attacking brio behind the scrum. If David Holborow on the right wing was given the ball in space, there was every chance of a score; his sidestep took opponents by surprise and tries appeared out of nothing through exceptional footwork.

The most disappointing fixture was probably that against King Edward's Bath. The game was there to be won but through lack of rugby nous, we handed the game to them on a plate. Cheltenham ran it close, though: three early tries almost before we had stepped off the bus were hard blows and it took until half-time to work out what was going on. During that first half there was a certain lack of commitment that I had never previously associated with Sherborne sides, although this was not true of the forwards, where Alec Willis was developing into a good open-side flanker. He has now come under the wing of the Bath academy, as has Archie Mackay-James; both will benefit from the experience and should be top players next season.

Millfield arrived with their usual rash of internationals and an unbeaten record to be given the biggest surprise of the season. In contrast to Cheltenham, the commitment was huge and could not be faulted; the skill level also went up and the Millfield coach said that “it was the most pressure we have been under all year”. The question should then be why this performance was not replicated earlier in the term. A number of boys had returned after injury which added stability, and experience may well have been starting to pay dividends. The character and psychology of this team was very difficult to interpret; with nine returning for 2004, it should give then confidence to step up a gear.

Adam Reid as captain certainly sold himself for the side and his commitment was impossible to doubt. If others follow his example next year should be promising; working hard at skills and fitness gets you halfway there and with commitment the picture is almost complete. It is possible to become a good player but too many of the XV expected success without the desire that is a given if success is to be achieved. Attitude is impossible to coach - maybe, like Team England, a psychologist would be valuable! In the end, it produced a season that, regardless of the effort that was put in, will not show up well in the record books.

David Scott

Daily Mail Under-15 Cup

The competitions at under-15 and under-18 level that have provided such a focus for schoolboy rugby for nearly 20 years have always been admired by Sherborne from afar ... until now. With the School devoting only one term to rugby for many years (although it was not always so!), and hockey taking precedence after Christmas, there was previously a reluctance to commit to a competition in which success would mean disrupting the sporting order of things during the Lent term.

Surely that reluctance must have been dispelled. In the School's first season in the Daily Mail Under-15 Cup, a talented team reached the final at Twickenham, only to be beaten in a tight match by a far bigger side from John Cleveland College in Leicestershire. Along the way, Colston's (almost a rugby academy rather than a school now), Wellington College and KCS, Wimbledon, were sent packing. Over the season as a whole, this team's only other defeat was a narrow one to Millfield at the end of the Michaelmas term.

Immense credit must go to this squad, their coaches Rob Hill and Danny Watson, and to David Scott as master in charge of the sport. With more than 550 points to their credit, a tight defensive unit and a commitment to expansive football, they have been good value for spectators of any persuasion. At Twickenham, they did not let themselves down in front of a crowd of thousands rather than hundreds, battling right to the final whistle in a 17-12 defeat.

The key moment of the final was arguably conceding a try at the start of the second half. After allowing the powerful John Cleveland No 8 to score a stirring solo try nearly 20 minutes into the match through some weak tackling, the School forced their way back into contention when centre Charlie Esson ghosted through a gap to score by the posts. He converted his own try and at 7-5 going into the break, the platform was set. It took only a minute of the second period for John Cleveland to regain the lead, again through some key missed tackles. The need to keep it tight and frustrate the bigger, but technically less proficient, opposition had been mislaid.

Yet at 10-7, the game was far from over. Perhaps if Esson had kicked a straightforward penalty goal with 13 minutes to go to tie the score, the momentum might have been with Sherborne. But with the try count at 2-1 in favour of John Cleveland, the School would have had to score again to win the match. In their eagerness to press, they lost some shape and the John Cleveland full back took advantage to score his second try from a speculative kick ahead. Henry Bond's stoppage-time try was well-worked but nothing more than a consolation.

Given how disparate in size the two teams looked before kick-off, this was a terrific effort by the School. Alex Bunnell was superb at No 8 and Bond always looked threatening on the left wing. In the end, size told just that bit too much but the margin of defeat was narrow and reflected the closeness of an excellent match. This young team should be a first-rate XV in a few years' time ... and let us hope that their achievements can be matched - and then surpassed - by subsequent Sherborne entries in this competition.

Results: v Wellington School Won 43-7; v Poole GS Won 55-0; v Colston's Collegiate Won 30-7; v West Buckland Won 22-0; v Wellington College Won 18-7; v KCS, Wimbledon (quarter-final) Won 7-0; v Northampton School for Boys (semi-final) Won 17-12; v John Cleveland College (final) Lost 12-17.

Robert Hands

SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2004

Sat	Sept 11th	Bishop Wordsworth's (a)	Sat	Nov 6th	Bryanston (a)
Sat	Sept 18th	Radley (tbc)	Sat	Nov 13th	Cheltenham
Thurs	Sept 23rd	Canford	Thurs	Nov 18th	King's Bruton
Sat	Oct 2nd	Wellington (a)	Sat	Nov 27th	Blundell's
Sat	Oct 9th	Clifton	Sat	Dec 4th	Millfield (a)
Sat	Oct 16th	Marlborough (a)	tba		King's Taunton
Thurs	Oct 21st	Downside (tbc)			

These had not all been finalised at the time of printing. The fixtures will be on the School's website (www.sherborne.org) later in the year.

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2004

Results: Played 17, Won 6, Lost 11.

Staff	Lost	1-2	Bryanston	Lost	0-1
Wellington	Lost	1-3	(County Cup)		
Pilgrims	Lost	2-5	King Edward's		
King's Bruton	Won	6-1	Southampton	Won	4-1
Monkton Combe	Lost	1-2	King's Taunton	Lost	1-3
Dean Close	Lost	1-9	Millfield	Lost	1-9
Taunton	Lost	1-4	Wells Cathedral	Won	8-1
Bryanston	Lost	1-2	King Edward's Bath	Lost	0-2
Milton Abbey	Won	1-0	Pilgrims	Won	4-4
(County Cup)				8-7 penalty flicks	
			Muir College (SA)	Won	2-1

Sherborne has traditionally played a premiership fixture list and with the new sand dressed Hughie Holmes Astro turf, so kindly donated by two members of the Club, we now have premiership facilities to match any school on our playing circuit (with the exception of Millfield and their three water-based pitches).

The season began at the end of the Michaelmas term with the traditional Staff match. This always gives me an idea of what talent we have got for the forthcoming Lent term, so I was not too concerned when the Staff managed a 2-1 victory, as their team was loaded with experience.

The pre-season tournament, which consisted of games against Wellington College and the Pilgrims, was disappointing in losing both games, but very important in getting match practice for the first School fixture on the next Saturday. King's Bruton was the first official school match on the Hughie Holmes pitch, and with it came an excellent crowd, good weather and a superb display of attacking hockey resulting in a 6-1 win.

Monkton Combe is a traditionally tough fixture that we have lost narrowly in recent years, and this year was no exception. To their credit the boys played some of the best hockey I have seen them play, dominating the game and creating chances on both sides of the pitch, yet we didn't convert the pressure and chances into goals which resulted in going down 1-2.

Dean Close, whom we play at a neutral pitch in Clevedon, are a very strong hockey school boasting a clutch of international players and are the current under-16 national champions. Although we started very well scoring in the fifth minute to take the lead, they completely outplayed us in all departments seemingly scoring at will, which resulted in a humiliating 1-9 defeat. The snow came and with it reduced

practice time before we played Taunton, whose aggressive and athletic style of play overran us. The 1-4 result flattered Taunton, but the players now realised the importance of taking the chances and not making mistakes as in this fixture list you will be punished. The Bryanston match again illustrated the importance of taking your chances. We overran them in midfield and set up lots of scoring chances that we didn't turn into goals, but credit to their goalkeeper who was outstanding. The 1-2 score was equally disappointing for the players as it was for the coach.

The County Cup competition gave us an easy victory over Milton Abbey, which brought us up against Bryanston in the semi-final. The game was played at a pace that the umpires could not live with, resulting in some ridiculous decisions against both sides. Reduced to ten men as a result of this indifferent umpiring, Bryanston scored in the dying seconds, putting us out of the competition. If we are continuing to improve the speed and skill of our players at school level, the umpires need to get up to speed too.

King Edward's Southampton was the last game before half-term and was a "win is all that matters game". The boys rose to the occasion, playing with passion, flair and professionalism, which resulted in a superb 4-1 victory. This result further illustrated the competitive nature of the fixture list as King Edward's had beaten Bryanston in their previous game. After half-term we travelled to King's Taunton, where a good quality and evenly contested match was won by the influence of one outstanding King's player who created the chances leading to the 1-3 result.

At Millfield, we played the worst hockey of our season against the strongest opponents for the first 20 minutes, which resulted in us being 0-6 down, the Millfield short corner specialist claiming five. After a half-time talk to sort the players out tactically as well as mentally, the boys came out and played some excellent hockey, never giving up and working hard at trying to implement the game plan. The final result was 1-9, which reflected the division between the teams. Two-term hockey schools like Millfield, who can get four to five hours' practice time on the Astroturf, will always attract specialist players and provide the benchmark for individual skills for us to aspire to.

Wells Cathedral claimed to be very weak this year and requested an A team fixture. This was filled with Upper Sixth players in the 1st and 2nd teams and we ran out comfortable winners 8-1. Because of a fixture problem, we had lost the Canford match as it clashed with the County Cup, but we managed to rearrange the game to midweek. Canford by tradition place more emphasis on hockey than rugby and as a result are usually strong. This game again highlighted the competitive nature of the team, creating chances and playing with passion in defence, yet lacking the real class to finish the chances they created, and at the other end Canford had relatively few chances yet seemed to put them away, resulting in a frustrating 3-6 defeat that another day could, with luck, have been 4-4.

King Edward's Bath was a mirror image of the Canford game. We played well and created chances at regular intervals throughout the game, yet didn't finish them off. We defended well, yet King Edward's scored two well-worked penalty corners in the first half. A better result was always there to be had as the chances were arriving on a regular basis, but we hit the bar, posts, most bits of the goalkeeper yet didn't get on the scoresheet, losing 0-2.

The Pilgrims brought down a talented team, who played some excellent attacking and some equally spectacular defensive hockey, which resulted in an excellent match that finished 4-4 on full time. The deciding penalty flick competition was won by the School 8-7.

The final match was against Muir College, a South African school on tour. We started the game well scoring early on and were leading 1-0 at half-time. We extended the lead shortly after, but under constant pressure from some extremely quick forwards Muir got a goal back, and had a goal disallowed in the dying seconds, which enabled us to sneak home 2-1 and finish the season with a win.

To summarise the season, I would point out that we do play in the premiership, where the margin between win and lose is very small, yet the gulf in ability between the top of the league and the bottom is huge. Sherborne are mid-table and we will always struggle against the "big boys", i.e. Millfield, but they are the scalp we have to set our sights on winning if we want to compete with the best. The rest are within our sights, we have the facilities and the ability as players and coaches throughout the School to compete and beat the teams in our league, and this has been evident this year. The boys have worked very hard, with excellent leadership from Edward Radcliffe, and have been a pleasure to coach. I wish them every success in their future and hope that they will continue to play the game that has given us all so much fun, and to see them back as Pilgrims in the not too distant future.

Rob Hill

SCHOOL FIVES 2004

For the fifth time in the last 12 years, and for the second year running, Sherborne reached a final in the National Schools Championships. Michael Oates-Wormer and Edward Leakey unexpectedly knocked out the top seeds from St Paul's in the quarter-finals, and won through to the final. Here they narrowly lost to the St Paul's second pair 3-11, 11-3, 9-11. This was a fantastic effort when one considers that Edward Leakey has another year as a colt. Fives is flourishing at the School and long may this continue.

Mike Cleaver

**THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE
2004**

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D C Watney

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

G P Gent

VICE-PRESIDENTS

P J Lough and H C K Archer

TRUSTEES

C R J Eglington, J A Watney
and J P Hargrove

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J J Powe	P R D Gould	J P Kershaw	E P J F Lyons
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HON TREASURER

R H Green

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School switchboard 01935 812249

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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 Eglington
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 Eglington
1991-94 J A Watney
1994-97 P R D Gould
1997-00 J P Hargrove
2000-03 G P Gent
2003- D C Watney

TRUSTEES

1923-27 Nowell C Smith
1923-27 G M Carey
1928-48 A H Trelawny-Ross
1928-42 P E H Parry-Jones
1946-58 Surg Rear Admiral
B Pickering-Pick, CBE
1948-58 Brig A H Moberly, DSO
1958-67 C R Hopwood
1958-99 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
1958-86 M S Glennie
1967- C R J Eglington
1986- J A Watney
1999- J P Hargrove

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1923-27 G M Carey
1927-48 L C Powys
1935-48 N 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, MBE, TD, FRCS
1958-61 M E K Westlake
1961-64 R Eglington
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 Eglington
1987-91 J A Watney
1988-94 P R D Gould
1991-97 J P Hargrove
1994-00 G P Gent
1997- P J Lough
2000-03 D C Watney
2003- H C K Archer

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

1923-35 N 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 Eglington
1988-00 G P Gent

HON TREASURERS

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

RULES

(as approved in December 1997 and subsequently amended)

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 24 ordinary members, and such others as may from time to time be co-opted.
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 Annual General Meeting 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 three weeks’ notice and be quorate with eight or more members present.
12. In exceptional circumstances the Committee shall have the right to refuse an application for membership.