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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

A little under 19 years ago would have been the first time. All those steps! Classroom No 4, with its eyrie above the School gates, looking south directly at the Abbey Clock, and to the north into the topmost dormitory of Abbey House where, as it happened, I was spending my nights as a new boy at the School. Anyone who had regularly to go up and down to that classroom could be guaranteed to be reasonably fit if nothing else.

And, of course, the occupant was Andrew Yorke. Or “Andy”, as it seemed every boy called him. There was no amusing, perhaps faintly crude, nickname for him. Just Andy. As I was to discover, this summed the man up rather well. He was more of an Andy than an Andrew, approachable, generous and friendly. For my third form year, he had the misfortune to teach me maths, a subject that did not interest me hugely but at which, largely thanks to some rigorous prep-school teaching, I had previously done quite well, which in turn engendered a certain amount of expectation.

I did not know much about the man apart from his maths teaching to begin with, but it rapidly became clear that this was a schoolmaster who was devoted to his school, a type that has become much rarer these days as young teachers chase the possibility of housemasterships and then headmasterships rather than become part of the furniture, a reassuring presence and cornerstone of the institution. First there were the trips to Poole to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (which I enjoyed on a number of occasions), with Andrew piloting the minibus through Dorset and back again, with boys partaking of fish and chips on the return leg and, who knows, perhaps a crafty cigarette.

Then I became aware of the abiding passion in Andrew’s life: sailing. Although never a sailor myself, it became apparent that over innumerable weekends, Andrew was encouraging and inspiring new generations of Shirburnians on the water, taking care of their wellbeing inland and offshore. There can have been few more dedicated masters at Sherborne to their sport - and in his younger days Andrew took his turn elsewhere on Sherborne’s sporting fields - although to the man himself, it was indulging his favourite pastime and imparting that enthusiasm to others ... over 36 years as master at Sherborne and then still after his retirement in 1999.

Last year, the Shirburnian sailing community lost its biggest asset with the untimely and premature death of Andrew Yorke: 66 was far too young an age. Legions of OSSS members have paid tribute to Andrew and many of them attended his memorial service in November. I would like to pick out one, because it underlined for me the kind of man that I remembered, despite not ever being seen near a boat: “He was the most wonderful person to me ... a good friend, and he knew the

importance of the sailing weekends to the boys and especially myself - I used to get really fed up with school, and a weekend sailing down at Arne would put all my worries behind me. No one made it a more relaxing and enjoyable place to be than Andrew.”

The Club should mourn his passing, and salute his work for the School and for Shirburnians, young and old, past and present, over more than 40 years.

The two occasions on which I watched sport on the Upper last year happened both to be sun-filled days. Neither ended particularly happily for the Sherborne sides as the XV lost to Wellington and the Pilgrims lost their second-round Cricketer Cup match to Charterhouse Friars. Yet it was, as always, good to be back on familiar territory. I am heartened by the great success of the School’s cricketers last summer and by the prospect of the coming season’s XV, so many of whom played as Lower Sixth boys last year. It really does seem as though sporting achievement is coursing through Shirburnian veins much more strongly than five to ten years ago.

Pilgrim sides have, as so often, met with triumph and disaster in their year. I should single out the golfing fraternity, first, though, for their stellar achievement in reaching the final of the Halford Hewitt earlier this month, and coming a whisker (well, a hole) away from winning that distinguished competition for the first time. That one pair, Stuart Gillett and Nick Hyde, should go through the tournament unbeaten was exceptional. So close ... but Malvern were just that little bit stronger. The upsurge in the OSGS’s fortunes more recently has been notable and the Club’s congratulations goes to them for this latest feat.

The cricketers came through a tight Cricketer Cup match against Rugby only to come unstuck against a better unit in Charterhouse, who went on to reach the final. A good young group of players is coming to the fore for the Pilgrims here and intelligent selection and captaincy will be required to make the most out of this bunch and at least emulate the sides that made the semi-finals twice over the past decade. The rugby team is having troubles finding fixtures but for the right reasons - many Pilgrims are playing on Saturdays for their local clubs. And the hockey team clearly enjoys its work during the cold fastness of spring. Charlie Warren, Will Hargrove and Jimmy Cheung have all been manful in their efforts for those three major sports. And indeed the hard work of those for all sports on behalf of the Club in an ever more time-pressured world is much to be applauded.

I should like to thank those who have contributed to this year’s booklet. Sadly there is still no pictorial record of the Club’s activities over the past year, since despite some prompting, none that I can find have been offered for publication. Please, chaps, get those digital cameras working, so that we might have something more to offer for the 2007 booklet.

Ian Wilson became a Pilgrim in 1946 and joined the Committee in 1955. Last year was Ian's last on the Committee, comprising a round 50 years of service that underscores his devotion to Pilgrim matters. We thank Ian for his unstinting time and effort on behalf of the Club.

With a soccer World Cup about to claim the nation's sporting attention and the glorious prospect of an Ashes series in the winter, it will be an exciting few months ahead for an armchair fan. But for those who put many hours into playing and administering the Club's endeavours, may just as much excitement (if not global attention) attend your work - and, who knows, perhaps success into the bargain. Don't miss the Cricketer Cup first-round game - once more against our old friends the Rugby Meteors - on June 11, on the Upper. There is no excuse, as England play Paraguay the previous afternoon.

*Robert Hands*  
April 2006

### NEW MEMBERS

Applications were received from the following leavers in July 2005:

G W H Armstrong (f) R S H A	E R S Kelly (b) C H G
T J Ballingal (a) S R T C	D N Kirk (a) F R A Cc
J R G Barber (f) F G C Sq	B J A Leach (c) R H Sw G
J R Barnes (b) F S	D Lee (e) S
H J Butt (c) S C	J M Little (b) R S
C E S Clifton (g) C H R	G A Maber (m) R H C
P E H Collins (g) C S R	A A Mackay-James (d) R H C
S A Crawford (f) C R Sq	D M Park (b) F C
T E de Souza (e) S R	T E Pitt Ford (m) Cc A
K Doherty (g) R S A	M H Saunders (c) R H C G
M P Erskine (c) R H C	A T B Webb (m) H R Cc A
E R P Heath (a) R S	E J O Wicks (f) R H Sw
P W J Horsington (c) H C R	A M Willis (b) R H C
N J T Howe (d) R S	C J Wilyman (c) R H T S
G E J Jerram (c) C H R	

A - Athletics	G - Golf	Sq - Squash
C - Cricket	H - Hockey	Sw - Swimming
Cc - Cross Country	R - Rugby	T - Tennis
F - Fives	S - Soccer	

Other new members: P A J Cordingley (c 1958-63), R B Haycock (a 1993-98), J B M Peat (d 1965-70) and D A Watson (Honorary).

## OBITUARY

P G Allerton	(a 1942-46)	A E Rouse	(Honorary)
R A Kinnersly	(b 1921-26)	J F I Sanders	(b 1956-60)
A J Payne	(f 1955-59)	T B Wilkinson	(g 1931-34)
A W C Pearn	(c 1938-42)	A J Yorke	(Honorary)

## MANAGERS

Cricket: Charlie Warren: 01258 450649 (H) 07989 742908 (M)  
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## CRICKET 2005

Played 11: Won 4, Drawn 1, Lost 6, Abandoned 2.

### **Sunday May 8 v Radley Rangers, at Radley**

Radley Rangers 208-8 dec (J Eadie 81, J Johnson 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 136 (M A Shearer 58; J M A Martin-Jenkins 6-24). Lost by 72 runs.

As desperate as the scores may look, this was an evenly matched contest for all but five overs of the day and it is still a mystery to the writer that the margin of victory for Radley was so comprehensive.

Rob Goldsmith won the toss for Radley and elected to bat on a good-looking track, under clear blue skies. Henry Lamb opened the bowling with Bagnall and it was not long before the latter struck. Having had a short one smashed over midwicket from his fourth ball, a similarly attempted shot from his sixth lobbed up to Langly-Smith, who took a straightforward catch at mid-off. More good news followed as James Martin-Jenkins tried to deposit the first ball of Bagnall's next over into the College Chapel and was comprehensively bowled. Having avoided the hat-trick, Eadie and Johnson then set about rebuilding the innings and batted for the majority of the morning session. While Eadie looked a bit scratchy, Johnson played with great fluency and it was a relief to all when he got out just before lunch, leg-before to Fradgley, who bowled really well, despite threatening to snap at any minute after a lengthy spell the previous day.

With lunch taken at 137 for three, Radley looked well set for a healthy score, but the Pilgrims' fightback after lunch was excellent. By the time that the rain and hail came at 3.20pm, the Rangers had only lost another two wickets, but had also scored a miserly 68 runs. Tight bowling from Schmitt, our guest, and Ned Gammell, who bowled a particularly tight spell of left arm orthodox, had Eadie, in particular, struggling to cut loose and when he did eventually try a big shot, he was snapped up on the boundary by Shearer having accumulated 81.

Despite being off the ground for an hour after the deluge the Rangers, rather mysteriously, decided to bat on and in the three overs they received after the interval scored three leg byes at a cost of three more wickets, and wasted 25 minutes of the contest in the process. A long overdue declaration left the Pilgrims requiring 209 for victory in 40 overs, Radley having batted for 52.3.

Fegen and McKillop were out cheaply, the former being one of four batsmen getting leg-before decisions against them, all from the same end. If five for two was bad news this only got worse when Searson, who had opened the batting, stretched forward to defend, only to find the ligaments in his knee deciding not to follow suit.

He retired hurt and Langly-Smith came to the wicket to join Shearer in a vital partnership. While Shearer batted beautifully, it must be noted that Radley, aware of having batted too long, had asked Firebrace to throw up some fairly slow, tame “off breaks” and his figures of eight overs for 79 runs show that the invitation was gratefully accepted.

Langly-Smith was adjudged leg-before and Lamb joined Shearer with a close finish still likely; however, Martin-Jenkins had joined the attack with his more penetrating off spin and soon accounted for Shearer, who, having made an excellent 58, failed to lift a short ball over mid-off’s head and the game had swung again. Lamb’s innings was superb while it lasted and his timing was particularly sweet until, with the required run rate at just over seven from the last 12 overs, he danced up the wicket to the first ball of a Martin-Jenkins over, missed and was stumped for 28.

With the score on 131 for six, and with Searson effectively out of the game, it was probably time to shut up shop. Linley Lewis was given out leg-before first ball, Schmitt’s innings was brief and so Bagnall came to the crease having barely had enough time to get his pads on, still with eight overs remaining. Having seen off three balls from a West over and discussed the options with Fradgley, it was agreed that batting practice was the order of the day as the bowling was in no way threatening. Fradgley then proceeded to be bowled off his pads the very next ball. Martin-Jenkins ended up with six for 24 and Radley had won by 76 runs. From parity to heavy defeat in five overs, it was as quick as that.

**Sunday May 22 v Marlborough Blues.** Abandoned - rain.

**Sunday June 12 Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors, at Rugby**

Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (J H K Adams 67), Rugby Meteors 177-9 (M Ewer 60). Won by 1 run.

Cricketers can often be divided into two distinct types: those that just go out and play the game, living for the thrill of hitting boundaries or taking wickets, and those who spend much of the game thinking about what they might do if they were captain - how they might approach setting the field, the bowling changes they would make, or the tactics required when batting. Some commentators would describe it as having a “cricket brain”, which is not necessarily the same thing as innate academic intelligence. It was the lack of enough “cricket brains” that lost Rugby Meteors this game.

Any match that is decided by a single run (although the closeness of the result is slightly misleading given that Rugby required five runs off the last ball for victory) is inevitably going to be swayed by the finest of margins. Many contributions to the contest could be cited as critical: Jimmy Adams’s effortless 67 scored at almost a

run a ball on a pitch that no one else truly mastered; Adams's soft dismissal, holing out to long leg off a long hop when a century that would have tied up the match beckoned; a Pilgrims mid-innings wobble replicated by losing the last four wickets for three runs; Will Fegen and Will Russell's careful rebuilding of the innings at a vital stage; the paucity of scoring only 35 off the last ten overs; the inability to punish Rugby's fifth bowler, who was obviously no great talent.

Then when the Meteors batted, there was the tight fielding; the fortunate leg-before decision awarded to Andy Nurton against David Noble, the Rugby opener who had grafted for 41; the selection by Rugby of several players who had scarcely played any cricket in recent years and scratched around using up valuable balls; throwing Freddie Mead, who acquitted himself admirably, into the bowling fray in the key mid-innings segment on his Cricketer Cup debut; a fine diving catch by John Fradgley being given out despite the ball from Adams being high enough to be called no-ball; the priceless maiden bowled by Fradgley in the 47th over; the lack of savvy on the part of Matthew Ewer, the Meteors No 5 who had scored 60 and taken his team to the brink of victory, trying to hit Fradgley out of the ground and being bowled with his head pointing skywards when he just needed to stay in; the failure of the Rugby team to push the singles; the composure of both Fradgley and Henry Lamb in bowling out the innings.

So no shortage of moments, then, but this was Rugby's match to win and they blew it. A total of 178 was below par even in spite of the poor pitch, given that it was slow-paced; there was near-universal agreement at lunch that 220-plus would be a winning score, 200 an even-money contest. When you lunch at 143 for five with ten overs to be bowled (Rugby having hustled through 40 of theirs before the interval), you can expect a score of 200 to be attained with a fair wind. The Meteors confessed afterwards that they thought they had gone some distance towards winning the match with their containment in those last ten overs - and they should have been right, although one interesting statistic from the match was that, apart from a handful of overs early on in the innings, the Pilgrims were ahead on run rate at almost every single stage of the game, if never by much.

Arguably the biggest fault on the part of the home side was the unwillingness to push the short singles. Any cricketer worth his salt knows that a policy of tip-and-run is almost impossible to stop if the batsmen are cute enough with the weight they put on the shot, and it remains a crucial method of keeping the scoreboard ticking over if the boundaries just aren't coming. Rugby seemed unable to digest this simple truth until the last-wicket pair came together, by when the fat lady was already clearing her throat. They will have been bitterly disappointed by this defeat.

By the same token, this was a genuine team triumph for the Pilgrims. While Adams was the clear class act on display, with bat, ball and in the field, it was no one-man show. With four players making their cup debuts - Fegen, Russell, Mead and

Fradgley - and it being a second outing in the competition for Lamb and Mark Shearer, this was a greenhorn Pilgrims team that also lacked the necessary variety of a spinner, well though Nurton in particular bowled in his ten overs. The tightness of the victory and the team spirit engendered during the game was an experience that these young Pilgrims can only have gained from, because any progress through a knockout competition will surely at some point involve close, tense finishes - which require cool heads and the knowledge born from previous experience. All 11 players, even those, like Adams, with first-class cricket under their belt, or like Ben Atwell, now only second to Rob Rydon in appearances in this tournament, will be the better for winning here.

### **Sunday June 26, Cricketer Cup second round v Charterhouse Friars, at Sherborne**

Charterhouse Friars 195-9, Sherborne Pilgrims 157 (J H K Adams 62). Lost by 38 runs.

Not only were Charterhouse Friars the better side on the day, they had the better side so this was a performance in which the Pilgrims can take confidence for the future. The Charterhouse team were certainly pushed harder in this game than any other on their way to the final of the Cricketer Cup and their captain, Jimmy Bovill, believed that they were fortunate to win this excellent second-round contest.

The withdrawal of Ben Atwell and the absence of a string of other batsmen left the side noticeably short of experience in the top order and this fact was brutally exposed later on in the day as Jimmy Adams' valiant attempt to win the game for the Pilgrims failed only because he could not find a partner who could stay at the crease with him for long enough.

Bagnall won the toss and asked the Friars to bat. The School had been bowled out for 35 the previous day and the morning session became a shootout between Adams and his former Hampshire colleague James Hamblin. After Lamb had dismissed Gordon-Martin in the fifth over, Hamblin started smashing the ball and it soon became obvious that a large score was going to be posted if he was not quickly removed. When Shearer dropped a straightforward chance at mid-off with Hamblin on 28, Pilgrims feared the worse, only to see a long hop being shoved down Dowdall's throat three runs later. A great catch resulted in huge celebrations for all and mighty relief for Shearer.

Will Fegen too was reprieved as Hollingsworth, who scored the only fifty of the game when the sides last met, was dropped on ten at gully, only to be snared by the same bowler, shot and fielder when he had not further added to his score. Savage then joined the wicketkeeper Wood and the two of them batted sensibly, while

never fully getting on top of some accurate bowling from Fradgley, Nurton and the superb Adams, until lunch was taken with the Friars on 119 for three from 30 overs.

Fully expecting the Friars to post a total of 250 runs from their position at lunch, what followed was a quite superb session of cricket by the Pilgrims and some catastrophic middle order batting from the visitors. Elliot-Square was fortunate to win a leg-before appeal against Wood, who top scored with 42 and then chaos ensued as the Friars, contributing to their own downfall with two run-outs, slid to 155 for eight in the 42nd over. Elliot-Square and Charlie Dowdall bowled particularly well and the ground fielding and overall team spirit was quite magnificent as the 2000 winners were clearly rattled.

Bovill then came to the crease and, quite simply, batted sensibly, first with Young and then with last man Smith, as the last two wickets added a crucial 40 runs in the last eight overs to leave the Friars on 195 for nine from their allocation of 50 overs; Bovill remained undefeated on 20 and this was to prove a match-winning contribution.

The gamble on Elliot-Square opening the Pilgrims innings with Adams did not pay off as the former chased a wide one in the fifth over and was caught behind for five. Will Russell batted with great style in putting on 32 for the second wicket with Adams before he too chased at a wide one. For Russell read Shearer as the exact same partnership formed and then was broken with a caught behind. (It is difficult to imagine Atwell having played at any of these three wicket-taking balls and, as the Friars had found out, a cavalier approach was not going to win the game on a slow and often tricky wicket.)

The middle order showed little resistance against some excellent bowling from Bovill, Hamblin and Hollingsworth. Sustained tight bowling would normally result in a big shot being attempted and it was only Adams who really grafted in acknowledgment of a very decent seam attack. The fact that his fifty, the only one in the match, came from 80 balls in a limited-overs game just showed the strength that we were up against. Having said that, the margin of the Pilgrims defeat, 38 runs, was a telling reminder of what could have been if only one other batsman had stuck around with Adams and had time at the crease.

Adams was eventually out for 62, in the 47th over, attempting his first big shot of the day. With no other batsman looking capable of taking the attack to the Friars he had to take a gamble and with his departure what slim chance the Pilgrims had evaporated. With five overs still remaining last man Bagnall was run out, without having faced a ball, after Fradgley was conned by Bowes at fly slip, pretending that the ball had gone past him when it was in his hands all the time.

So a great game of cricket in which the Pilgrims were competitive for 95 per cent of the day and favourites to win for a large part, came to a somewhat farcical conclusion and Charterhouse Friars marched onwards to the next round and beyond. For the Pilgrims it was a disappointing end to an excellent performance which, the writer hopes, will result in the formation of a highly competitive side in the coming two or three years. There is undoubtedly plenty of talent around and, if the recent leavers continue to play “proper” cricket having received such a fantastic head start at the School, there is no reason whatsoever why Sherborne Pilgrims should not win the Cricketer Cup in the foreseeable future; but only with a team of regular league cricketers, “jazz hatters” will surely be exposed.

### **Saturday July 2, v The School, at Sherborne**

Sherborne School 285-5 (S A Crawford 103, M H Saunders 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 255 (T P Cracknell 71, P F C Langly-Smith 66). Lost by 30 runs.

It is to be hoped that this match showed the Pilgrims one future Club member who ought to be a serious asset. In an outstanding season for him and his team, Seamus Crawford showed the Pilgrims in this match just what a fine batsman he is. A century (and not the only one of his season) to help the XI to a commanding total of close to 300 off their allotted 50 overs was ample reflection of his talents. Every effort should be made to ensure that he plays for the Club over the next decade and more, especially in the Cricketer Cup side.

Needless to say the Pilgrims were always going to struggle to overhaul that total, not that anything should be taken away from the School’s performance. All bar Crawford’s fellow opener Esson made some decent contribution to the innings and both Lamb and Mackay-James will have been looking ruefully at their bowling analyses as they left the field.

Yet the work of the top four in the order showed that victory could have been achieved: Saunders, leading the side, put in a stalwart 44, and his fellow opener Cracknell weighed in with 71. Add to that Russell’s 22 and Langly-Smith’s 66 at No 3 and 4 respectively and there was the basis for kicking on to the tape, not least because that comprised more than 200 runs. On a bad day to be a Lamb and a bowler, the younger version conceded 30 from three overs and was promptly withdrawn. Yet that old Pilgrim frailty resurfaced in the middle order and a collapse ensued that meant defeat (and not even batting out the overs). Only the veteran Slade, with 21, managed to get into double figures. Given the season the School had, defeat was no particular disgrace, however.

## **Monday July 11 v Old Blundellians, at Sherborne**

Old Blundellians 230-9 dec (R A Bagnall 6-96), Sherborne Pilgrims 200 (W J K Russell 66). Lost by 30 runs.

A long, hot day for the Pilgrims started in the worst possible way with Warren, fresh off the plane from Australia, losing the toss. Losing the toss and fielding is normally fine unless the opposition make you field for 59 overs in the heat of the day and then give you only a possible 46 in return to score a sizeable target.

Scrutiny of the scorecard, however, shows that this match should have been won. With the opposition reduced to 205 for nine at about the halfway point, a swift dismissal of the last man would have probably sewn up the game. As it was, the Pilgrims wilted and were kept out for an extra 45 minutes without ever really looking like finishing the opposition off. Warren by this stage was suffering from sleep deprivation and jet lag and was giving a convincing impression of a man asleep on his feet.

Bagnall, although not perhaps deserving six wickets with the quality of his bowling, did deserve it through sheer determination, bowling 20 overs of a mixture of left arm seamers and spinners. Andy Nurton also bowled well without much luck to finish with three for 39 at just over two runs an over.

The batting started with a four in the first over from Warren who soon fell asleep and was bowled. It got worse. None of the first five to get out made double figures. Indeed it was 45 for five with only 15 coming from the bat. Chris Hart put his head down, but never got going. It wasn't until the Pilgrims were 100 for seven did anyone bat with any sense. Some might say it had taken us this long to recover from the fielding. At any rate, Will Russell and Pete Crouch did well to provide some respectability to the result with a vigorous partnership of 67. Both of these men fell going for the win and so Bagnall bringing up the rear was intent not to let the Blundellians get away with their poor declaration and steal a victory. He resolutely blocked and did in fact smash a lusty boundary to show he could before falling with three balls remaining. It was a good reflection of the Pilgrims spirit that we still went for the improbable win and fell only 30 short.

## **Tuesday July 12 v Butterflies, at Sherborne**

Sherborne Pilgrims 206 (T R Ashworth 71), Butterflies 207-5. Lost by 5 wickets.

Will Wingfield Digby captained the side and won the toss. He was given a side, as so many captains before him have, containing 11 players who primarily would consider themselves batsmen. As is now to be expected when the Pilgrims field sides such as this, it was a rather abject batting display which followed. To be

bowled out in under 50 overs on a decent track by mediocre bowling on a very hot day is poor. It was only down to a sublime innings of 71 from Tom Ashworth that the Pilgrims managed more than about 100 (the next highest being 19 - not including 30 extras). Ashworth oozed class, especially after lunch when his timing came to the fore.

It was always going to be a difficult total to defend, but with some canny bowling changes and tight fielding, the opposition only made it off the penultimate ball. Some would say a well timed chase. In the end, too many good overs were spoiled by a single rank ball which would take all the pressure off. A particular highlight of our fielding display was a very sharp chance taken at slip by Matt Hope in the first over off Will Fegen. Certainly a better day than the previous one, but as always the week is much more fun if the Pilgrims play well. Luckily things improved.

### **Wednesday July 13 v Sherborne Town, at Sherborne**

Sherborne Pilgrims 167-9, Sherborne Town 157-8. Won by 10 runs.

The third day of the week, another scorcher, brought a Twenty20 meeting with the Town (skipped by the Pilgrim Andy Nurton) which was a thoroughly enjoyable affair. Having been inserted by Nurton, the Pilgrims side (led by the perennial tourist, Bagnall) started well. Warren and Russell hit the ball cleanly but also ran well between the wickets to put on a quick 50. Russell appeared to have run out of steam, and so, in kindness, was farcically run out by Warren. This tactic appeared to have been successful until he himself was out the next ball, leaving the score 67 for two in the ninth over.

The score ticked along well, and wickets came and went until it was 122 for four at the start of the second over of the “leg spinner” (Hancock). He had already bowled Fegen in his first as he attempted to smash him over the pavilion. Somehow (cynical onlookers would suggest his brother as the umpire contributed) he managed to complete his “five-for” with the first four balls of this over - three leg-befores... Anyway, this left the Pilgrims reeling at 122 for eight, which soon became 138 for nine with four overs left. McKillop played excellently to shepherd the team to the end of the 20 with a commanding score of 167.

The Town started circumspectly, but were keeping with the rate (49 for no wicket) after six overs. Simson struck with the first ball of his second over - a neat leg-side stumping by Russell. This brought Carter to the crease. He struck several fine blows, but rather than look to run the available runs, tried to do it all in boundaries, in the process turning down several runs which began to put the Town behind in the rate. As the pressure mounted, wickets started to fall: three taken by the predatory Crouch (who, incidentally was playing this year after major spinal surgery over New Year). Nurton batted well for the Town, but could perhaps have come in

earlier to give them a better chance of winning. They never really looked like doing it, even when Langly-Smith was given the ball with 19 needed off the last. The Pilgrims won in the end, but a great afternoon's cricket, and a fixture that will hopefully continue for a few years to come.

### **Thursday July 14 v Dorset Development XI, at Sherborne**

Sherborne Pilgrims 203 (C C M Warren 68), Dorset Development XI 133. Won by 70 runs.

The glorious weather continued for the week, and the Pilgrims continued to play good cricket. Ben Scott, captaining the Pilgrims for the day, won the toss and elected to bat. Thorne and Warren strode to the crease, the former hitting the ball crisply to the boundary in the first over only to fall soon after attempting a hit through leg that appeared to pop through the top. This brought the skipper to the crease who, together with Warren, looked comfortable against the openers. Soon the change bowlers came: amongst them, a leg spinner from Kenya, Collins Obuya, who represented his country at the last World Cup. He was tight from one end while a stropy fellow bowled from the other.

Warren made 50 before trying to late-cut a length ball. This started a lean spell of 12 overs for the Pilgrims in which 19 runs were scored, and four wickets lost. Both leg spinners bowled with great rhythm. Hart and Fegen then played sensibly, seeing the spinners off before playing a few shots. Andy Nurton played marvellously to be 20 not out, and making sure the Pilgrims nearly saw out the overs. Summerson finished with the impressive figures of 10-0-15-4.

It was certainly below par, especially with the score 109 for one after the first 20 overs, but the bowlers responded well: three of the first four overs from Nurton and Fegen were maidens. They each then took a wicket to leave the youngsters at 22 for two. Obuya batted well at No 3, hitting all (there were quite a few) bad balls for four with ease. It was a shock to everyone when he got out - a fantastic caught and bowled from Thorne: the ball was travelling very quickly towards his ample midriff whereupon he let out a startled howl and caught it before any damage could be done. After that, the opposition were never in it, Thorne taking two more wickets, and Warren convincing the umpires to give two leg-before decisions. In the end the game rather petered out, with the opposition only making 133. It was satisfying to win, however, as the Pilgrims had not won this fixture for several years.

### **Friday July 15 v Dorset Rangers, at Sherborne**

Dorset Rangers 113 (P F C Langly-Smith 4-19), Sherborne Pilgrims 114-3. Won by 7 wickets.

It was the last day of the cricket week, and it was a fairly tired Pilgrims XI that took to the field under the leadership of Dan Thorne. Luckily the Dorset Rangers were rather weak and allowed the Pilgrims to rattle through them soon after lunch for only 113. Special mention must go to Andy Nurton who bowled nearly 50 overs in the four games he played in during the week, often without luck. Indeed it was Langly-Smith and Warren who shared the majority of the spoils with four and three wickets respectively - neither bowling well. In fact Warren's filthy full toss to claim his first was particularly ugly.

A short, sharp finish was required by the batsmen and McKillop and Hart set about the task with relish. It would have been good if the Pilgrims could have won by ten wickets, but with less than ten runs needed, three wickets fell, including McKillop for a stylish 48. A victory by seven wickets wasn't as emphatic as it seemed. Let's hope the Rangers provide a sterner test next year.

### **Sunday July 17 v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge**

Sherborne Pilgrims 260 (T Caines 85), Old Tonbridgians 263-7. Lost by 3 wickets.

It is notoriously difficult to raise 11 Pilgrims for a match only two days after the end of the Week. It is made even more difficult when someone cries off at 10.45am on the day of a game! Despite only having ten men, a lovely day's cricket was had by all, on an absolute scorcher in the delightful setting of Tonbridge School. The toss was delayed a little because the two captains were sharing a car and were late, and so the toss was relayed via phone, Pete Crouch stepping into the breach and winning. The obvious decision was made to bat first and this was done rather well.

A solid start from Caines and Haycock, then some quick runs from Frattori and Jack Jenkins (the latter still at the School, but a genuine prospect), to leave the score 150 for two from 30 overs. Then followed a middle order wobble, but a fine partnership of 70 for the seventh wicket between Ed Benbow, straight from his chiropractor, and Will Dawson eased the nerves. Thoughts of declarations were soon dispelled by a swift loss of the last three wickets. 260 was perhaps 20 to 30 runs below par, but a fair score.

The Old Tonbridgians replied well, with Aylward, their wayward opening bowler, given a chance to redeem himself. This he did in fine form: nine of his first ten scoring shots were fours as he raced to 50 in the twelfth over. Luckily his partner was more sedate, and was out for seven with the score at 67! The bowlers did well; Tom Ellen in particular was reminiscent of Bruce Reid in extracting alarming bounce with his awkward left-arm seamers. Aylward kept smashing it everywhere, and had already made his century by the fall of the second wicket for 124. Will Dawson, bowling his chinamen, then removed the centurion who slapped a rank one to the safe hands of Jack Jenkins at forty-five degrees. The score of 145 for

three left 116 needed from the last 22 overs. Three quick wickets put the Pilgrims very much in the game, two of which were caught behind off Ellen, who finally got what he deserved.

This brought the opposition skipper to the crease with more than 70 required from 14 overs and the momentum definitely with the Pilgrims. Unfortunately he put his hockey Blue from Oxford to good effect by hacking a couple of sixes to the short boundary - he made a quick fire 34 before missing one slog too many. By now the OTs were virtually there and won with a couple of overs to spare and three wickets in hand. It was disappointing to lose with chances to win, made even more annoying by only having ten players.

### **Sunday August 7 v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford**

Hampshire Hogs 257-7 dec, Sherborne Pilgrims 236-8 (R B Haycock 66). Match drawn.

The Hogs won the toss and batted on a Warnford pitch that appeared to have more of a green tinge than usual. Fradgley and Edlmann opened the bowling with good pace, the latter eventually settling into a good rhythm. It was the introduction of Hope in the third over to swap the openers' ends that brought the first wicket - the prized one of Rupert Cox (ex-Hampshire) who was averaging over a hundred on the ground this season. Fradgley then dispensed with numbers 3 and 4 to put the Pilgrims in a commanding position with the hosts 26 for three.

Perhaps it was the relief of news drifting back from Edgbaston where Harmison had removed Kasproicz, but the Hogs then settled in with two good partnerships. Both involved Olly Kelly, the second with his brother, another Pilgrim just having left. Both made half-centuries, but in contrasting styles. Unfortunately the Pilgrims were never able to exert pressure from both ends to bowl out the opposition, but credit must go to Rich Edlmann for keeping running in and, despite several chances going down, he finished with a couple of wickets. The Hogs were able to declare on 257, a fair target at just over five an over on a pitch that was now perfect for batting.

The Pilgrims response was measured, and sensible. Despite losing McKillop early, a solid base was formed from Bramble and Haycock. After the loss of Bramble, Haycock and Dawson put on 63 at four an over, which in hindsight may have been a little slow. With this on his mind, Haycock turned on the gas and unfortunately having forced the unstoppable Bazalgette to take an early shower with three consecutive boundaries, got himself out for 66. Dawson at the other end was struggling to get bat to ball, and with the asking rate at around eight, seemed relieved to get out. Hope meanwhile crashed some fearsome boundaries to keep the total within reach, and while he was batting with Warren, 100 from the last 12 overs seemed possible. Unfortunately he holed out, and with Warren failing to command

enough strike, momentum was lost and the Pilgrims ended up 19 runs short. Special mention must go to Olly Kelly of the Hogs who finished with five for 85 to go with his earlier half-century, someone from whom the Pilgrims would certainly benefit if he ever wanted a game.

**Sunday August 28 v NPL Teddington.** Abandoned - rain.

*Reports by Rupert Bagnall, Robert Hands and Charlie Warren*

### CRICKET FIXTURES 2006

Sun	May 7	Radley Rangers (a)	Wed	July 12	Bryanston Butterflies
Sun	May 21	Marlborough Blues (a)	Thurs	July 13	Dorset Waifs
Sun	June 11	Rugby Meteors	Fri	July 14	Sherborne CC and Marlborough CC
		1st round Cricketer Cup			8-a-side tournament
Sun	June 25	2nd round Cricketer Cup (a)			
Sat	July 1	The School	Sun	July 16	Old Tonbridgians (a)
Sun	July 9	Fantasia CC	Sun	Aug 6	Hampshire Hogs (a)
Mon	July 10	Old Blundellians	Sun	Aug 27	NPL Teddington (a)
Tues	July 11	The Butterflies			

Cricketer Cup quarter-finals July 9; semi-finals July 23; final August 13.

### RUGBY 2005-06

Last season was supposed to end with the Champagne 10s but sadly that was cancelled. This season it has been very hard to get games as many clubs either can't get sides or are not keen to play on Sundays, which we have to as so many Pilgrims players are playing on Saturdays.

The one fixture so far this season was a new one on March 19 away to Downside. The game was played on their first team pitch in front of a decent crowd on a windy but clear day. Downside fielded a pack that must have had a two stone per man advantage and as a result the game was always going to be hard for the Pilgrims. There was also a very strong wind which the Pilgrims, possibly wrongly, chose to play against in the first half. They defended very courageously but the weight was just too much on several occasions. Energy was also expended in trying to run the ball out of defence as the clearance kick was just not an option. After conceding five tries, the Club turned around 33-0 down. The clear aim at half-time was to "win" the second half. The Pilgrims scored four unconverted tries: George Bramble (two), Pedro van Dunem and Jason Hutt. The final score ended up as 45-20 to Downside. It is hoped that a return fixture at Sherborne next season will be possible.

*Will Hargrove*

## HOCKEY 2006

**Sunday January 8, v Haileybury 1st XI at Haileybury.** Won 4-1 and drawn 3-3.

Unfortunately, King's Canterbury could not raise a side so we played two matches against the College 1st XI. Both were played in good spirit and it was an enjoyable afternoon even though the weather was unkind.

**Sunday March 19, at Sherborne**

<b>Under-40s v School 1st XI</b>	Drawn	4-4
<b>Over-40s v Colts A XI</b>	Won	3-1
<b>Over-40s v Under-40s</b>	Lost	0-2
<b>Over-40s v School 1st XI</b>	Lost	2-4

After the cold weather this was a marvellous day's hockey. The sun shone and there was hardly a cloud in the sky. It was also helped by a large number of players travelling to Sherborne.

The match between the under-40s and the 1st XI started at a fast pace with both sides enjoying a fair share of possession. However, it was the School that seized the upper hand by scoring the opening goal. The Pilgrims looked slightly rusty and gave away a series of possessions which led to the School's second goal. Things did not look good for the Pilgrims as in previous years they would usually take an early lead, only to relinquish it in the latter part of the match. But they fought back and managed to pull a goal back, and then equalised just before half-time.

The School responded to the team talk from their coach by scoring two quick goals and the game looked dead and buried. However, the Pilgrims dug deep and pulled a goal back with ten minutes to go before equalising with a well-worked goal minutes from the final whistle. The Pilgrims even managed one final attack and created an opportunity to win the game but the final shot went wide of the goal.

The over-40s v under-40s match had a lot of hype surrounding it and it was evident over the lunch break that the over-40s were very much "up for it". It took a while for both sides to settle into a rhythm but it was the under-40s that started to string together a series of good possessions. They had a number of attacks but could not convert over the first quarter of the half. The over-40s frustrated the opposition with their defence and it took a well-worked move down the right to break the deadlock. The under-40s saw this as only a minor advantage. In the second half the fast pace continued with the over-40s executing a good strategy in using their rolling subs at key stages. However, it was the under-40s who scored what turned out to be the

final goal. In the last quarter the pace eased off due to fitness levels, but both sides still managed to pass the ball around trying to create chances.

This was a most enjoyable day, and our thanks go to Rob Hill for laying on a great lunch and organising the School sides, to the umpires for their key role and, in particular, to Stephen Rees Williams, who gathered together a considerable number of “senior” players with family and friends. Perhaps the spirit of the day is best summed up by Stephen’s short report:

“We had 18 players for the older guys that included farmers (with no idea how to play in any refined manner), we had entrepreneurs (that were all mouth and trousers), three doctors, including one surgeon who had no idea how he was going to survive a tricky three hour vascular operation the next day (no stamina these medical types), a couple of teachers and an IT guru, plus many more. We all had a fantastic day. Thank you.”

*Jimmy Cheung*

## **FIVES 2006**

As far as I know this was the largest number of Pilgrims ever to take to the Fives courts at one time. It had been rumoured that secret training camps had been set up at St Paul’s on Wednesday evenings by at least four of the eight players, while two had been regularly honing their skills on the Sherborne courts.

On Saturday March 11th the eight Pilgrims ventured on to the courts – on time, looking fit and eager for the contest. A line-up including an Oxford Blue, two past School champions and more than adequate enthusiasts took on a depleted School and ageing Staff side. The result was never in doubt with Nick MacIver and Toby Dean leading from the front; Richard Green and James Rogers showing that, like a fine claret, they just get better with age; Dougal Stokes and Struan Coad taking up all the space on court; David Kirk and Nick Scorer proving that there is no answer to sheer pace.

At the end of the contest, 2¾ hours later, the Pilgrims won comfortably 321-177. It was a great day. Let’s have even more players next year!

*Mike Cleaver*

## **SQUASH 2005-06**

The Pilgrims Squash team is back competing in the Londonderry Cup this year, and at the time of writing we are still hanging on in the second round, if only by our fingertips. The team continues to get slightly younger and fitter, which is excellent news, although it is sad to say goodbye to David Leakey, whose knee has just about finished his squash playing days (he may have other ideas!). Jeremy Bishop has joined the squad and I am sure he will be a useful addition to the team.

We met Haileybury in the first round of the Londonderry Cup and managed a clean sweep: Nick Lamb, Al Robertson and Richard Bramble all won 3-1, while Patrick Macintosh won 3-0, and the final string was a walkover.

The next round was against Eton, who had beaten us two years ago without losing a string. We knew it would be a tough fixture but the team is certainly stronger than it was and having played four of the five rubbers so far, we sit at 2-2 with everything resting on Al Robertson's match. For the record so far: Nick Lamb and Tom Morgan both won 3-0, Patrick Macintosh lost 0-3 and Jeremy Bishop lost 1-3.

Finally, I repeat my call for new players – if you are out there and you fancy a game for the Pilgrims, do please contact me. Details are on page 5.

*Jonathan Powe*

## **TENNIS 2005**

Our team for the Commem match against the School was: Dave Thomas and Anthony Dowdeswell as first pair; Nick and Tim MacIver at second pair; with Tim Wynn-Jones and Olly Kay at the bottom.

It all started brightly enough with Jeremy Priddle, the new Sherborne tennis coach, announcing the names playing on each court – possibly unnecessarily as faces were well known in these parts; certainly the names of Thomas and Dowdeswell caused a few of the Sherborne girls to race to court one for a glimpse of the action. Three close sets, with the Pilgrims clinching two of them, saw the coach wince and reassess whether his team would have the mental strength to drag themselves back into the fight. The boys responded marvellously: their games were upped and the Pilgrims' serves became steadily more erratic, backhands seemed to find the adjacent courts with appalling accuracy and trademark lobs that destroyed the young-uns in the first set were more akin to weak drop shots. Somehow the Pilgrims managed to extend their lead but certainly the banter throughout all courts seemed to show how much all 12 were enjoying the afternoon.

It was at this point that Dowdeswell and Thomas decided to crank up the ground strokes, serve to the forehand and flirt with the net cord as percentage shots were forgotten and quality was offered to wrap up a clean sheet for the first pair. The MacIvers seemed to stumble through their set far less gracefully: haphazard swings, cringeworthy smashes and bungling fraternal communication seemed that they were resolute in gifting the points to the School but luck, more than anything, saw the pair through. Wynn-Jones and Kay were narrowly squeezed out of the final set as they battled with the court's tree-stump; the glimpses of tennis seen proved that power was their clear focus and once this is harnessed, promotion within the Pilgrims' rankings is certain.

All that was left was the annual traipse around the friendly, local taverns and another year's Pilgrims tennis was at a thoroughly enjoyable end. It was encouraging to see the courts being kept in good condition and rumour had it that the courts are to be flattened in preparation for the next season.

*Tim MacIver*

### **CROSS COUNTRY 2005-06**

Sherborne has some excellent runners, both amongst OS and in the School. Our challenge for some years has been to attract them to the 5 miles Old Boys match on Wimbledon Common in early December. We have had some outstanding individual performances from the likes of Rupert Waters, David Wrighton and Tom Robinson, but 2005 showed what we could do if a few more of our runners were to turn out.

December 10th was bright and cold and the going was as firm as ever. The result, with three in the top 30, including two Pitt-Fords, was our best ever – third behind Winchester and Sedbergh. Charlie Pitt-Ford finished 16th. He was followed by Ed Pitt-Ford (24th), David Kirk (28th), Tom Hubbard (59th), Anthony Brummitt (68th), Jonathan Love (81st), Chris Chataway (86th), Simon Leathes (93rd) and Tim Love (94th). The provisional date for 2006 is December 16th.

The match against the School on February 26th, won by 94-109 points, was incorporated into the Sherborne Trophy (a match against eight other schools) which Sherborne hosts each year. It was a glorious day as we gathered in the grounds of Sherborne Castle. Tom Robinson ran a blinder to finish second, to be followed by Ed Pitt-Ford (8th), Simon Dawson (12th), John Storey (20th), Piers Boshier (31st) and Tom Fletcher (45th). The positions of Anthony Brummitt, Merlin Lewis and Angus Cater were not recorded by our otherwise excellent scorer, Adrian Ballard. Thanks to the Club for sponsoring the travel of the younger OS, the OS Society for their organisational efforts and to Bernard Holliday and Mark O'Connor for incorporating the OS team into the proceedings.

*Angus Cater*

## OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2005-06

The winners at the three meetings were:

**Summer 2005:** Turner and Foot Putter (scratch) - Peter Martin; Page Cup (handicap) - Jonny Brock; Stableford competition - Harry Densham: Harry Croly Cup (under 27 stableford) - Tom C B Williams.

**Autumn 2005:** Captain's Prize - Ed Elliot-Square; Vice-Captain's Prize - David Watney; Greig Cup - Peter Martin; Autumn Cup - Ed Playfair; Manning Trophy - Gavin Webb-Wilson; Watney & Bishop Dish (veterans) - Robin Arbuthnot.

**Spring 2006:** Harris Vase (scratch) - Jonny Brock; Hempson Cup (handicap) - Jonathan Godfrey; Shaw 12 and over (scratch) - Howard Gill; Shaw 12 and over (handicap) - Terry Gordon; Storrs Salver (veterans) - Orme Webster-Smith; Parry Cup (inter-house) - Abbeylands; Shaw and Stables (foursomes) - Howard Gill and Orme Webster-Smith; Howell Williams Salver (combined rounds) - Orme Webster-Smith.

At the AGM, Bill Davis was elected Captain, with Hugo Ambrose and Alan Gale as Vice-Captains. Gavin Webb-Wilson was elected a Trustee.

Matches v clubs and other societies: Played 30.

Won: 16 v Lancing, Sherborne, School and Staff, Rye, Aldeburgh, Loretto, Woking, Cheltenham, West Sussex, Mill Hill, Repton, Radley, Epsom, Marlborough, Lancing, Tonbridge

Halved: 7 v Saunton, Aldenham, Charterhouse, Winchester, School, Blundell's, Wrotham Heath

Lost: 7 v Littlehampton, Woodbridge, Thorpeness, Malvern, Downside, Cambridge University Stymies, Royal Cinque Ports

### **Grafton Morrish 2005**

After the excellent performance the previous year, as well as reaching the semi-finals of the Halford Hewitt five weeks before, it is disappointing to report that we failed to qualify at Royal Ashdown in May.

## **Mellin Salver 2005**

Thursday July 7th was qualifying day for the seniors and we were represented in the Burtles Salver (over-65s) by Richard Hughes and Simon Shirley (playing for the first time), and Peter Southcombe with Dick Draper. Hughes and Shirley played steadily and their 28 points were sufficient to qualify for the matchplay stage. As only one pair per school can qualify, Southcombe and Draper needed more than 28 points, which they did not quite achieve. Rab McEwan and Colin Sharman played in the Millard Salver (over-75s) but were four points short of qualifying.

Friday 10am was the appointed time for us to play Shrewsbury, last year's winners, in the Mellin Salver. Our team had a familiar ring – Mike Falconer and Gavin Webb-Wilson playing top this time, John Youngman and Mark Cannon Brookes in the middle, with Simon Brown and Martin Ireland as third pair.

At 9.40 a telephone call to Cannon Brookes' office brought forth the cheerful response that his secretary had "blanked out the whole day next Friday". Your correspondent's hair became slightly greyer, and even more so when it transpired that Mike Jerrom, our reserve, had injured his leg and could hardly walk. Luckily for us Peter Southcombe dropped in on his way home to wish us well, and promptly joined Youngman in the middle pair.

The top pair won the first two holes, were level after four, and thereafter lost the odd hole to go down by 4 and 3. The second pair fared much the same, being three down at the Hut (12th) and losing by the same margin. The third pair were two down after 14 and settled for a half.

After lunch, as Shrewsbury continued on their way to winning the Salver, we had a really splendid contest with our old adversaries, Loretto, in the Plate. After ten holes Falconer and Webb-Wilson were five down, Youngman and Southcombe one down, with Brown and Ireland three down. No one was very happy, but drinks at the Hut saw us three down, all square and four down. The bottom pair soon lost 5 and 4, but Youngman and Southcombe improved to win 2 and 1.

Meanwhile the top pair continued their recovery, although missing a short putt on the 16th to square. We were on the 17th green in three a long way from the pin, with Loretto a fraction nearer on the fringe. To his enormous credit Falconer holed his huge putt, but elation was short-lived as Loretto did the same. So on to the 18th, still one down. We played two solid shots to the green which were good enough to win the hole and square the match. Both sides were on the 19th green in two. We putted first and almost stone dead whereas Loretto were short. They missed leaving us a tiddler for the match, and in it went. To add to the jubilation, Hughes and Shirley had played well in the semi-final of the Burtles to beat Cranleigh 3 and 2.

Cannon Brookes was set to join the team on Saturday, but now Ireland had a bruised foot. Another telephone call and Southcombe was able to stay for the Saturday. The top two pairs were unchanged, with Cannon Brookes replacing Ireland in the bottom pair for the semi-final against Oundle. All three pairs lost the first hole but things steadied, and at the Hut we were three up, one down and five up. We were starting to feel optimistic and Brown and Cannon Brookes duly won 6 and 5. Falconer and Webb-Wilson began leaking holes and were back to square on the 18th tee. Youngman and Southcombe, with some good golf, erased their deficit of one hole and won by 2 and 1, so pressure was off the top pair, who could settle for a half.

A good win and we were in the final for the second year running. Before that started, Hughes and Shirley teed off against Cheltenham in the Burles final. Cheltenham had won this Salver several times recently and their pair proved too consistent for us on the day. Although we lost 5 and 4, it was a great effort to reach the Burles final for the first time since 1990.

We had a great match against a friendly Mill Hill side in the Plate final. Brown and Cannon Brookes went mad and did not drop a shot in winning out in the country. At the Hut the top pair were all square, with Youngman and Southcombe four up. Three solid halves saw the latter home by 4 and 3, leaving Falconer and Webb-Wilson to settle for another half. This was a nice win for the team after losing last year's final.

As always, Charles Eglington was a great supporter. John Beer, now 94, was phoned with the result and sent his best wishes, and thanks must go to Mike Jerrom, Dick Draper, Jim Coppen and John Hargrove for coming to help us on. It was a good team effort.

Finally, congratulations to Shrewsbury who, in beating Downside in the final, won the Mellin Salver for the third time in the last four years.

### **Family Day 2005**

Gavin and Iain Webb-Wilson won the Peter Currie Cup at Woking on October 24th, with Marcus and Justin Chantrey the runners-up.

### **Brent Knoll Bowl 2006**

A strong team was assembled for the Brent Knoll on March 25th and 26th, with high expectations following on from successes in recent years, if not last year. Our team veteran, Rhys Francis, made way for two younger players, Stuart Gillett and Nick Hyde, to take over as the top pair for the weekend.

The first day we were pleasantly surprised to find some of the weakest opposition we have encountered in the competition. Marlborough in the morning were unable to produce any of their Hewitt team. Their rather senior team was unable to keep up with Sherborne and we had a comfortable 3-0 win and a reasonably early lunch. We expected more opposition from Clifton in the afternoon, but they were also missing a few players, and the 3-0 win against them was even quicker and all the matches were finished by the 14th green.

Sunday morning, however, was going to be rather different against the well-known and formidable Epsom team. An early tee-off time, and loss of an hour with the clocks going forward, meant a reasonably sensible night was had by all. Epsom had played a rather strange order on Saturday with their third pair playing top. We decided to keep our order straight. The top match went according to plan with Hyde and Gillett playing sub-par golf yet again, though this time they only won by 2 and 1. Francis and Martin played well but the Epsom pair, with a plus four handicapper, were just too good and we lost by 2 and 1.

As usual it was down to the last pair and things were not looking good. Whalley and Aubin had lost their good form from the previous day and were three down after 11 holes against some fairly unspectacular golf from Epsom. Suddenly, however, Epsom made a series of mistakes and produced three successive double bogeys to leave us all square. Sherborne finally managed to produce some par golf. All square on the 18th tee Epsom had a quick hook but recovered to make five, but a chip and a fine ten foot putt from Aubin secured a four and the match.

The final was against the Army, who seemed confident with a strong team. Hyde and Gillett again played well and maintained their unbeaten record with a half in the top match. Unfortunately the Army were very strong throughout, clearly pretty fit and we lost both the other games without putting up too much resistance. Still it was a good weekend and provided great confidence for the Hewitt.

The results v Marlborough, Clifton, Epsom and the Army were:

Nick Hyde and Stuart Gillett: won 4&3, won 5&4, won 2&1, half;

Rhys Francis and Clive Martin: won 3&2, won 5&4, lost 2&1, lost 6&5;

Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin: won 6&5, won 8&7, won 1 up, lost 4&3.

## **Halford Hewitt 2006**

76 years after their first attempt Sherborne have their name on the Halford Hewitt Cup board at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club. The bad news is that it's on the wrong side of the board as Sherborne lost the 2006 final against Malvern, and in doing so Malvern became the 22nd school to win the coveted trophy, having lost all their previous seven finals.

The story of the six matches, recording our journey from first round to final, would probably take many more pages than usual, such was the drama, intensity and frequent hilarity. The full account of what really goes on when 12 OSGS golfers and some faithful supporters take over a hotel in Sandwich for the best part of a week could be the theme for a bestseller or worthy of reality TV. The OSGS is blessed with some very talented golfers who are also very talented at enjoying themselves and each other's company.

Despite the good times, the results sheet which follows this report reflects that we never lost sight of what we were trying to achieve. Semi-finalists in 2005 and Brent Knoll Bowl runners-up in March, a ten year Anderson Scale ranking going exponentially upwards and Stuart Gillett back in the squad after a two-year absence, we arrived in Sandwich primed. It was also great news that John Youngman was on hand as a reserve in case of mishaps and, although not called on, he gave wonderful support over the four days.

Two practice rounds produced some good golf and reason to be quietly confident. Wednesday night saw Nick Hyde sporting a bra which could have doubled up as a hammock. It was awarded to him after he failed in a long-driving contest with Rhys Francis, a man 20 years his senior.

Lancing, recent winners of the Grafton Morrish and so clearly a competent team, were our first opposition. An antisocial tee time of 8.00 am meant we were the first match off in the tournament. Word was that they rather fancied their chances as the Lancing captain had declared his second pair "unbeatable". The match resulted in our top three pairs winning at a canter, giving Lancing the dubious honour of being out of the Hewitt by 11.30am on Thursday.

During the post-match celebrations Peter Currie, gravel-voiced doyen of OS golf, announced: "Did you know that five years ago the winner of the first match off went the whole way to the final but lost?" Spooky stuff.

Friday morning saw us pitted against Ampleforth. Most of us thought Marlborough were more likely to be our opposition, but the rumour mill informed us that Ampleforth had "five pairs who could win". They did but they didn't. All the matches were tighter with Francis and Clive Martin going to the 19th. Their match was settled by a stunning 3 iron from Francis to ten feet.

The "sartorial surprises" Gillett and Hyde (wearing some dreadful tat consisting of salmon pink trousers and diamond pattern sweaters) closed out their match on the 18th. Ambrose and Playfair lost their match on the 18th after Ambrose hoicked his drive left. It was an anticlimax to a tight match that saw very good short game play

from both sides, but having gone two up with four to play we could not shut the door on stubborn opposition.

In retrospect Ambrose put it down to losing his concentration when approaching the hut by the 9th green: PTC was valiantly trying to light his pipe in the breeze! Obviously with his mind on nothing else, he decided to bend over to shelter in the lee of Neville's (the hut steward) car but failed to notice he was stoking the ensuing furnace only inches from the petrol tank!

Thankfully PTC survived, and the Ambrose/Playfair match did not matter as the fourth pair of Peter Martin and Ashley Sumner-Pike were beginning a rich vein of form that was to provide invaluable support to the team. With the three points and the match secured it remained only for the battery-powered final pair of Nick Aubin and Nigel Whalley to call for a half and put their Powacaddies into overdrive towards the clubhouse.

The advantage of an early start on Thursday at Deal is that you do not play two rounds on successive days during the tournament. So, after a brief lunch stop, it was out again to do battle with Cheltenham. A routine and drama-free victory followed with the top two pairs and the fourth pair winning easily.

Industrial quantities of smoked salmon, fillet steak, fine wine (generously provided by Peter Martin) and Kummel were dispatched in some style that evening as we awaited the following afternoon's match against Liverpool. Ambrose and Playfair, the only losers of the afternoon, were each awarded the bra for a stint so they could be pilloried at will.

By 12.30 the next day, cobwebs blown out and ritual quarter-final photographs completed, we were ready once again. Duck egg blue was the chosen colour of the "sartorial surprises", again playing second pair, confirming to Liverpool that the North/South divide applies to fashion. It also applied to golf.

Our top two pairs again dominated events and were again ably supported by the fourth pair. Ambrose and Playfair appeared in a rut and lost again, giving the Captain a selection headache. Their partnership was not working and it was obvious that surgery was required to resolve the problem. Aubin and Whalley again trundled in with another half to their name.

Saturday night saw the arrival of Philip Brown as replacement to one of the third pairing, and for the second year running Fergus and Liz Watson generously offered accommodation to six of the team no longer able to stay at the King's Arms.

Sunday morning for the second year running! Tonbridge had defeated Rossall in the fourth round and, despite some earlier round close shaves, were on paper the stronger team. They had won the previous two Hewitts and appeared to most, odds-on favourites for a hat-trick.

Tonbridge are lucky to have enormous strength in depth and the arrival of Ed Richardson, one of England's top ten amateur golfers, and Brian Ingleby bolstered an already strong team. Ambrose dropped himself for health and tactical reasons, providing the under-golfed Brown both a challenge and an opportunity in the third pair with Playfair. For any chance for us to win it was essential our talismanic top pair started well. They did – winning two of the first three holes and reaching the turn three up. Behind them things did not look so pretty. At the turn Gillett and Hyde were two down, with Brown and Playfair three down.

To compound the pressure the bottom two pairs were also three down at the turn. Gillett and Hyde seemed to be making a habit of playing excellent golf around the turn, and two approach shots on the 10th and 12th from Gillett saw two birdies in three holes to bring them back to level. Up ahead, and very importantly, Francis and Martin closed their match out by 3 and 2, producing the first seeds of doubt in Tonbridge minds.

The pressure was ramped up further by Playfair and Brown, who were also making progress. Solid play from them and some poor approach shots from Tonbridge suddenly saw them go level at the 13th. Gillett and Hyde were still powering on, producing another three on the 17th to go one up. A solid par at the 18th saw Sherborne go 2-0 up, but this was soon nullified when our bottom two pairs lost.

By now all eyes were on the Brown/Playfair match. Our putt on the 14th lipped out for a win, and on the 15th Tonbridge holed from a good 12 feet for a half. The Tonbridge nerves were the first to fail as at the 17th their drive was lost before getting to the men's medal tee, let alone the ladies'. A sensible bogey five was good enough for Sherborne to go one up.

In the circumstances both tee shots at the 18th were good in that they got airborne. Tonbridge were very short right and Sherborne longer but in deeper trouble. A really good three wood from Tonbridge found the back edge of the green – still not an easy two putt so Playfair sensibly hacked out and Brown hit an excellent approach to eight feet. Playfair's par putt slid agonisingly close and Tonbridge showed some style in getting down in two.

So off to the 19th tee where Tonbridge with the honour hit a long, straight drive. Playfair's drive commendably also found the fairway. Brown played first and hit the green, but left Playfair fully 50 feet from the hole. Tonbridge were closer in two

and had the easier putt. Sherborne would be doing well to get down in two across many humps and hollows. Definitely advantage Tonbridge.

What followed was an absolutely amazing putt. Philip Brown provided commentary to those who couldn't look as the ball travelled. "Nice roll, slow down, get in, get in, get in." Commentary was drowned out as the Sherborne team roared. Gamely, Tonbridge had a good go from 25 feet but it just wasn't good enough. Sherborne had beaten the favourites 3-2, thanks to great play from the top three pairs.

Our first ever final was to be against Malvern, who had beaten Watson's 3-2 in their semi-final. Charles Eglington, asked mischievously by the outgoing Society Captain about the AGM at Royal Ashdown that afternoon and whether he was going, snapped back, "b\*\*\*\*r the AGM!!" Proof, if any was needed, of the gravity of the situation.

Our pairings and order remained as they had for the morning. Clive Martin was attempting his 13th consecutive unbeaten Hewitt match, Francis his 11th, and as a pair attempting to stay unbeaten in all six matches in the tournament, as indeed were Gillett and Hyde - extraordinary statistics that have never before been associated with Sherborne golf.

The final was a classic in all senses. Good golf was played by both teams and a Sherborne victory looked hopeful when we claimed the first two points of the match. Nick Hyde and Stuart Gillett found their game again and dispatched the opposition, playing comfortably under par on the back nine to win 4 and 3.

Nick's caddie unintentionally defused some tension as a result of overhearing a conversation between Nick and Hugo Ambrose. Hugo to Nick: "Just tell Stu-pot to keep calm - keep it simple. He looks like he's trying too hard." Nick to Hugo: "OK." Caddie to both: "Stu-pot. Oh no! I've been calling him Stuart all week."

Peter Martin and Sumner-Pike also dominated the opposition by playing well to produce a 6 and 5 win. Francis and Clive Martin found the ditch at the 1st and seemed to struggle with their short game, but fought on before finally succumbing 3 and 2. Aubin and Whalley struggled gamely but in the end lost by 4 and 3.

While all this was going on it was clear that the match featuring Playfair and Brown was going to be the decider. A close match throughout, with never more than a hole in it, saw both pairs short of the 16th green in two with the match all square. Brown's chip ran past the pin by some 20 feet but was still the better of the two after Malvern's chip needed only a couple more rolls to disappear down the bank to a very awkward spot. Not surprisingly, tentative putts followed with Playfair's being the more tentative. Brown's putt slid by giving Malvern a routine putt for the hole. It missed comfortably, indicating the incredible stress of the situation.

To the 17th tee and both pairs hit excellent drives down the middle of the fairway. Brown, playing first, hit a great approach to ten feet but Malvern went one better with their shot spinning back down the slope to finish inside it. Both pairs missed their birdie putts so it was still all square.

After six rounds of golf over four days, the two finalists could not be separated; two matches each with the final pair on the 18th tee. Brown, with the honour, hit his drive into deepish rough on the right, while Malvern found the right edge of the fairway closer to the green. Playfair sensibly chopped out, keeping the ball in play and leaving Brown the same shot as the morning. When Malvern hit the green in two it was clear that we needed a four for a half and to send the match into extra holes. Another great approach from around 140 yards to twenty feet from Brown gave us a chance but Playfair's putt did everything right but go in. Malvern holed bravely and we had lost.

Emotional scenes followed. For Malvern the fairytale had finally come true. A Winners Medal after being seven times losing finalists. For Sherborne there was only disappointment - there is no consolation in knowing you have given everything but come second best. To their eternal credit the Sherborne team and supporters rebounded from the pits of despair and celebrated Malvern's win generously.

Jeremy Lowe, the outgoing Hon Sec. of the PSGS after 20 years' service, played in Malvern's first defeat in a final 40 years ago and in each of their subsequent defeats. If anyone deserved a Winners Medal it was him for pure perseverance.

The whole Sherborne team had fought with great spirit and tenacity throughout the tournament. Our name is on "that" board and will stay there for eternity. We should be proud; a decade ago we only had dreams of getting to a final and many outsiders considered our 1991 semi-final appearance as a one-off fluke. The standard of golf in the Hewitt has improved massively in the last ten years and for our team to have elevated itself during this period of improvement from "also-rans" to one of the respected teams is a fantastic achievement.

Thanks as ever go to our supporters for their unflagging efforts, and Charles Eglinton for his annual donation to the team's wine bill. Happily it will be returned as, due to the equal generosity of other team members, it was impossible to spend it.

At the end of our six-day stay in Sandwich it was hard to see whether it was the hotel staff or the golfers who were the more exhausted. That the hotel proprietor let us walk out without paying, and yet they cannot wait to have us back next year, is testament to a good time had by all. The fact that he had taken to wearing the team bra shows the effect this set of golfers have on normal law-abiding folk!

Some thoughts from John Youngman:

As a veteran of 42 Halford Hewitts, I feel qualified to testify to the severe mental pressure it places on members of a successful team, each one of whom is intensely aware of the weight of responsibility both to his partner and to the rest of the team. Our 2006 team responded bravely and positively to this pressure, but, having been on the touchline throughout, I think the tension is even worse for the supporters!

It would be invidious to pick out individual players - they all played their part - but I must pay tribute to the captain, Hugo Ambrose, whose modesty precludes any mention in his own report of his contribution. He has been an outstanding leader and has played the key part in forging a team with a great spirit of camaraderie and a collective self-belief which has underpinned our progress to the semi-final and final in successive years. Let us hope that they can go on to win the tournament in the next few years. They have the capability to do it.

The results were:

	Lancing	Ampleforth	Cheltenham	Liverpool	Tonbridge	Malvern
Francis & Martin C	Won 3&2	Won 19th	Won 4&3	Won 2&1	Won 3&2	Lost 3&2
Gillett & Hyde	Won 2&1	Won 1 up	Won 3&2	Won 1 up	Won 1 up	Won 4&3
Ambrose & Playfair	Won 4&3	Lost 1 down	Lost 5&4	Lost 4&3		
Brown & Playfair					Won 19th	Lost 1 down
Martin P & Sumner- Pike	Half	Won 3&2	Won 2&1	Won 2&1	Lost 5&4	Won 6&5
Aubin & Whalley	Lost 4&3	Half	Half	Half	Lost 5&4	Lost 4&3
Result	3½-1½	3½-1½	3½-1½	3½-1½	3-2	2-3

*Reports by Hugo Ambrose, Peter Flory and Nigel Whalley*

## **OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY 2005-06**

The Society's year was understandably significantly overshadowed by the death of one of its most important members, arguably the most important. Proper tribute to Andrew Yorke is paid elsewhere in this booklet, but it was a huge blow for the OSSS and the special issue of Broad Reach, replete with the memories from sailors young and old, underlined just how highly he was appreciated.

The major feather in the Society's cap this year was an invitation by the Royal Thames Yacht Club to three OSSS members to participate in the Cornwallis Cup, which sees the RTYC pitted against the Annapolis Yacht Club. The American club hosted the event and John Archer, Ed Whipp and Alec Russell were honoured to take part in September. The format was three-boat team racing in J22s and the other participants came from Radley, Uppingham and Winchester. It was a crushing triumph for the representatives of the RTYC, beating the Americans 15-3 to bring home the trophy.

Elsewhere, mixed fortunes for the Society on the water in serious competition over the past 12 months: the Belvedere Cup, a round-robin team racing affair, saw Sherborne finish an enjoyable competition in mid-table. This was organised by the Royal Thames Yacht Club, who presented the OSSS with a copy of their history, which has been passed on by the Society to the School Library. The Arrow Trophy later in the year saw a ninth-place finish.

Anyone wishing to discover more about the Society should look at the Broad Reach newsletters (go to [www.bonshaw.demon.co.uk/oss/index.htm](http://www.bonshaw.demon.co.uk/oss/index.htm) for the OSSS home page) or contact Nick Ware, who will be only too pleased to welcome new sailors to the firmament. All OS are more than welcome. Nick's contact details can be found on page 5.

## **SCHOOL CRICKET 2005**

Played 18: Won 13, Lost 4, Drawn 1.

The preparation for the 2005 season had started in the winter as a development squad prepared for the tour to Sri Lanka at Christmas 2004. The focus for the forthcoming season was to play a very aggressive, attacking game with the emphasis on attacking first and defending when necessary. The team was captained for the second year by Seamus Crawford, who was keen to improve on the previous successful season. The team set themselves the target of twelve wins to equal the School record of wins in a season.

King's Bruton was a chance to restore Sherborne pride following the disappointing result last year. After a rain-delayed start and a reduction to 35 overs a side, Sherborne won the toss, and in attacking mindset decided to bat. Crawford and Charlie Esson put on 165 for the first wicket, batting for nearly 30 overs and scoring 89 and 66 respectively. King's Bruton never really got going against some excellent, tight bowling from Ben Lyons, Charlie Clifton and Crawford.

Sherborne Town felt the weight of the School bat, with Crawford and Jack Jenkins helping the School amass 252 for 6. Jenkins, Simon Lamb and Ed Kelly all picked up two wickets each as the Town were restricted to 181 for 9, with the last three overs being bowled in less than perfect conditions. Canford away on a damp wicket produced another excellent batting display with Esson and Crawford putting on 109 for the first wicket; Archie Mackay-James and Kelly played useful knocks. A disappointing bowling display and some dropped catches, combined with some excellent hitting from the Canford batsmen, allowed them eventually to coast home with three overs to spare.

Cheltenham was a new block fixture, and a good opportunity to put right what went wrong at Canford. Sherborne won the toss and batted. Esson, Crawford and Jenkins started slowly against some accurate bowling. Mackay-James played a magnificent innings, only falling short of his century due to the team's need to push for quick runs prior to declaration; he was well supported by Kelly and Michael Saunders. Cheltenham batted positively and the game ebbed and flowed, but eventually tight bowling from Clifton, Lamb and Lyons restricted them to 244 for 7.

The mid-week fixture at Bryanston saw Sherborne lose the toss for the first time, and having to attack with the ball. With Crawford injured, Lamb and Lyons restricted Bryanston to 115 for 9. Sherborne paced their attack on the Bryanston total with Jenkins and Kelly allowing us to cruise home with six overs to spare.

Losing the toss against King's Taunton, Sherborne again had to field. Crawford was back from injury but it was Lyons, his opening bowling apprentice, who destroyed the King's batting by taking 5 for 32 in 10 overs. Small totals can be notoriously difficult to get, so when Sherborne lost three wickets for 61 runs, there was a lot of work to be done. Jenkins batted maturely and he was supported by Kelly who turned the game with an excellent 50 from 40 balls.

Sherborne lost the toss against Marlborough and were put into bat. With three of the top four batsmen out with 31 on the board, it needed someone to knuckle down and play an innings if there was going to be a total to bowl at. Esson batted with great determination to see off the new ball. He and Kelly, who played a controlled innings after being dropped on 0, combined with some effective wagging of the Sherborne tail, from Clifton and Lyons, to push the total to 187 for 9.

Crawford, who had failed with the bat, picked up a wicket with the first ball of the innings, but Marlborough, on a good wicket with a fast outfield, then began to make considerable inroads. An excellent run out by James Davies, three good catches by Mackay-James and accurate bowling from Lamb, Crawford and Kelly left Clifton to bowl the last over with Marlborough needing 10 runs to win. They only made 5 and we had won by 5 runs.

The team went to Millfield with the honour of playing in the match that opened their new pavilion. It was rain-affected and was reduced to 35 overs a side. Millfield won the toss and scored 175 for 6. An excellent spell of bowling from Clifton in the middle of the innings and Archie Isles at the end, kept Millfield to a score we were happy to chase. Losing Esson and Jenkins early on brought Mackay-James and Crawford together for a good partnership of 65. Saunders maintained the run chase with his ability to be unconventional, which left Lyons and Davies to score the winning runs in a nail-biting final over.

Dorset Rangers struggled against some tight bowling from Clifton, Lamb and Kelly to 129 for 9. Esson, Crawford and Mackay-James made easy work of the Rangers bowling and Sherborne won comfortably.

The Taunton match was settled off the final ball of 100 overs of cricket. Sherborne batted first, Crawford dominating the opening bowlers and racing to 40 before being run out. This slowed the assault; although Jenkins and Mackay-James batted very well in the middle of the innings, unfortunately, didn't go on to make a big score and bat Taunton out of the game. Saunders chipped in with an excellent quick 38, and Sherborne finished on 267 for 7.

The Taunton opening batsmen kept up with the required run rate and more crucially, didn't lose wickets. Sherborne dropped a couple of chances which, at this level, will come back to haunt them. Taunton were 158 without loss and Sherborne looked out of the game; a brilliant caught-and-bowled by the captain, Crawford, gave Sherborne the impetus to fight and the game eventually came down to Taunton needing six from the final Clifton over. Needing two from the last ball, the Taunton batsmen scraped through in a remarkable game of cricket.

With help from Crawford and Kelly, Blundell's were set 267 to win. The fielding was dominated by Mackay-James, who took three catches and two stumpings; Sherborne won by 39 runs. Winchester, with the luck of the toss in very helpful bowling conditions, destroyed the Sherborne batting and proceeded to win by 10 wickets. Centurion, a talented team from South Africa, restricted a weakened side to 114 for 9 and then demonstrated their talent with the bat.

With three defeats in the last four games, some teams could have lost confidence. Crawford was backed to a man by all the players; they showed gritty determination

and belief in their own ability, coupled with the desire to achieve what they had set out to do at the beginning of the season. MCC set Sherborne 213 to win. Esson scored a chanceless 89, before being caught from the first ball after a drinks break, leaving Mackay-James and Kelly to secure an excellent win.

The Pilgrims struggled to restrict Crawford, who scored his second century of the season, and Saunders who ensured Sherborne set the highest total of the season. The bowlers kept the pressure on the Pilgrims, who were bowled out for 254.

The Hampshire Hogs match was continually interrupted by rain. Eventually they set a target of 121 runs from 20 overs. Crawford blasted 60 runs in 37 balls, with support from Esson and Jenkins to ensure a win in the 16th over.

To achieve the target set at the beginning of the season, Sherborne now had to beat either Cheltenham or Haileybury in the Festival. Cheltenham, much to the coaches' disgust, were put in to bat and, after losing an early wicket, scored 206 for 4. Sherborne started patiently, but lost the top three batsmen for 55 runs. This brought together Mackay-James and Kelly, who had been so reliable in the middle order all season. The former played the anchor role while Kelly blitzed the bowlers, scoring his 56 runs in 34 balls, including one memorable over with five fours from the leg-spinner; this impetus tipped the scales in Sherborne's favour.

But this game had more twists to come, with both Mackay-James and Kelly getting out together, and a small collapse of the late order. This left Lamb and Gibbs as the last wicket pair needing 25 to win from seven overs. They batted with courage and determination that belied their years and squeezed home in the penultimate over.

Sherborne won the toss and batted in the Haileybury match, with Mackay-James and Kelly again establishing a good stand in a total of 227. Clifton, who was the leading wicket-taker and a positive influence on the team throughout the season, took 5 for 31 and, helped by Lyons, dominated the Haileybury batsmen who were bowled out for 101.

Crawford scored 658 runs, opened the bowling and led his team both on the field of play and in the practice nets. From the Upper Sixth, Mackay-James, Saunders, Clifton and Kelly managed to combine their fierce commitment to cricket with the pressure of exams.

My thanks to John Old and his team for all their hard work in maintaining the grounds and wickets to such a high standard. Thanks also to Adrian Williams and Lucy Earls-Davis and all their staff for the magnificent catering throughout the season, and finally to Alan Willows for his infectious enthusiasm and continued desire to improve the standards of cricket at Sherborne.

*Rob Hill*

\* 50 overs match, + 35 overs match

Apr 23	* Sherborne 175-3 (SA Crawford 89, CAR Esson 66); King's Bruton 79-4	Won by 96 runs
Apr 24	* Sherborne 252-6 (Crawford 111, JHC Jenkins 106 not out); Sherborne C C 181-9	Won by 71 runs
Apr 28	+ Sherborne 219-4 (Esson 69, Crawford 59); Canford 223-6	Lost by 4 wickets
Apr 30	Sherborne 266-6 dec (AA Mackay-James 95); Cheltenham 244-6	Drawn
May 5	+ Bryanston 115-9; Sherborne 116-4	Won by 6 wickets
May 7	* King's Taunton 165-9 (BE Lyons 5-32); Sherborne 168-3 (Jenkins 67 not out, ERS Kelly 50 not out)	Won by 7 wickets
May 14	* Sherborne 187-9 (Kelly 67); Marlborough 182-9	Won by 5 runs
May 21	+ Millfield 175-9; Sherborne 176-7 (Mackay-James 55)	Won by 3 wickets
May 26	* Dorset Rangers 129-9; Sherborne 131-4	Won by 6 wickets
June 11	* Sherborne 267-7 (Jenkins 56, Mackay-James 55); Taunton 268-6	Lost by 4 wickets
June 18	* Sherborne 268-8 (Kelly 70, Crawford 55); Blundell's 229	Won by 39 runs
June 25	* Sherborne 35; Winchester 36-0	Lost by 10 wickets
June 27	* Sherborne 114-9; Centurion 115-5	Lost by 5 wickets
June 29	MCC 212-5 dec (DAW Heath 106 not out); Sherborne 213-4 (Esson 89, Kelly 46 not out)	Won by 6 wickets

July 2	* Sherborne 285-5 (Crawford 103, MH Saunders 51 not out); Pilgrims 255 (TP Cracknell 71, PFC Langley-Smith 66)	Won by 30 runs
July 5	+ Hampshire Hogs 120-6; Sherborne 122-2 (Crawford 60)	Won by 8 wickets
July 6	* Cheltenham 206-4; Sherborne 207-9 (Kelly 56)	Won by 1 wicket
July 7	* Sherborne 227 (Mackay-James 62, Kelly 55); Haileybury 101 (CES Clifton 5-31)	Won by 126 runs

### SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2006

Sat	April	22	King's Bruton (a)	Sat	May	27	Hampshire Hogs
Sun	April	23	Sherborne CC	Sat	June	10	Taunton
Sat	April	29	Cheltenham	Sat	June	17	Blundell's (a)
Thurs	May	4	Bryanston	Sat	June	24	Winchester (a)
Sat	May	6	King's Taunton	Sun	June	25	Maritzburg (SA)
Sat	May	13	Marlborough	Wed	June	28	MCC
Thurs	May	18	Canford	Sat	July	1	Pilgrims
Sat	May	20	Millfield	Mon-Wed July 10-12			
Thurs	May	25	Dorset Rangers	Festival at Cheltenham			

### SCHOOL RUGBY 2005

Results: Played 11, Won 6, Lost 5.

Truro	Won	22-7	Marlborough	Won	28-12
Bishop Wordsworth's	Lost	6-13	Bryanston	Lost	7-21
Radley	Lost	12-26	King's Bruton	Won	34-24
Canford	Won	22-5	Blundell's	Won	3-0
Wellington	Lost	6-36	Millfield	Lost	7-44
Clifton	Won	12-3			

The pre-season at Perranporth, Cornwall, saw brown bodies each topped with a thatch of wild hair suggesting a languid summer. Not so. General run ability was high, enthusiasm and commitment well up to standard. In fact we not only surprised Truro College (an England Academy), but ourselves, by winning 22-7

with some truly outstanding defence. Rory Cumming, in particular, stepped in from the left wing and clattered their outside centre to such effect that the latter became more concerned with Rory than the ball. Sadly, Rory was injured after three minutes of the next match against Bishop Wordsworth's and therefore not available until match nine against King's Bruton.

Truro showed that in George Mackintosh and Alex Bunnell we had two excellent forwards, and in Charlie Esson and Ben Lyons threequarters who gave the team shape.

We lost our first home game against Bishop Wordsworth's, the first defeat against them in many moons. What was immediately apparent was our lack of power. One wag suggested we were vegetarians playing a team of carnivores. This was to become a striking feature of other games where we had to defend for our lives and rely on our threequarters taking every opportunity. The combination of Esson, Lyons and Anscombe was crucially important and their four tries against Marlborough in game seven, just reward.

Radley was better than the scoreline suggests because we lost Alex Bunnell on the morning of the match. This allowed the recall of Jack Jenkins to scrum half and Ollie Cripps to the back row. They remained for the rest of the season. We scored two cracking tries in the first half against Radley, but eventually struggled against their heavier forwards.

The emerging Sherborne side was largely the Daily Mail finalists from two seasons ago: players who know each other, were committed but who found the extra physical maturity of Wellington and Bryanston too much at this stage. Happily, no less than thirteen of the team are available next season. This includes Jamie Smibert, very sound under the high ball and potentially an incisive attacking full back once he improves his timing into the threequarter line. Similarly, Tom Williams will better show his innate footballing skills as he gets stronger. Although we lost to Wellington and Bryanston, we had picked up victories against Canford, Marlborough and King's Bruton.

The Bruton match was quite extraordinary. It began with King's failing to kick the required ten metres. We won the resultant scrum and moved it right through Bunnell, Jenkins and Anscombe to lead 5-0. That became 10-0 minutes later but we then committed hari-kari, even conceding an intercepted try. Blundell's was equally fraught but we did hang on to win 3-0. Luckily the weather and ground conditions caused the match to be switched to Sherborne!

The final match of the season found Millfield at the very top of their game. There is one thing in rugby which is difficult to counteract and that is pace. They had this

in abundance, running in tries from deep positions; all this in spite of a wonderful performance by the pack.

By now it appeared that Tom Fleming, in the front row, was growing in confidence and ability. The thought of non-contested scrums (a real possibility in one game) was anathema to him and his front row colleague James Crombie. Humphrey Rose at hooker played manfully, promising to sort out his throwing-in for next season. Phil Newbald was typical of every member of the team, thoroughly committed and as safe as a house on receiving kick-offs.

This leaves only the captain, Jack Sutcliffe, last year's prop but this year's open-side flanker. Jack is super-fit and can run until the proverbial cows come home. Utterly fearless, he never hesitated when there was a ball on the ground.

The team practised well showing slick handling but were rarely able to transfer this skill to a match. As they mature and become stronger (many are now weight training), this latent talent will develop where it counts, in a match. With a bit of luck and effort more of the vegetarians will become carnivores in 2006.

*David Scott and Don Rutherford*

### SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2006

These had not been finalised at the time of printing. The fixtures will be on the School's website ([www.sherborne.org](http://www.sherborne.org)) in September.

### SCHOOL HOCKEY 2006

Results: Played 17, Won 8, Lost 6, Drawn 3.

Monkton Combe	Won	1-0	Bryanston	Lost	1-4
Dean Close	Lost	0-3	Millfield	Lost	3-7
Taunton	Lost	0-1	King Edward's Bath	Won	8-1
<u>County Cup</u>			Pilgrims "youth"	Drawn	4-4
Canford	Lost	1-1*	Pilgrims "age"	Won	4-2
Gillingham	Won	7-0	<u>Bath Festival</u>		
* penalty flicks			Victoria College	Won	6-2
Canford	Lost	1-3	King's Macclesfield	Drawn	0-0
Occidentals	Won	4-1	RGS High Wycombe	Won	3-2
King's Taunton	Won	2-1	Merchant Taylors'	Drawn	3-3

2006 started with a pre-season triangular tournament with Wellington and Magdalen College, Oxford. Both training matches were very closely contested, Sherborne losing out narrowly in an exciting game against Wellington, and then to Magdalen College, having dominated a large spell of the game without being able to score.

Monkton Combe has always been a difficult game early in the season, but this year Sherborne played some excellent attacking hockey, which resulted in a 1-0 win. Tom Bowker was outstanding in goal, with Jamie Smibert and Chris Holdoway creating countless chances that produced some magnificent saves from the Monkton goalkeeper. The Dean Close game was similar to last year; Sherborne dominated large spells of the game but couldn't quite capitalise on the possession to force a score. Dean Close had just enough class to break down some good defence but the 3-0 result flattered them a little.

Taunton School, with two England U18 internationals, was always going to be a tough fixture. We battled well, with the Captain, Rupert Hawksley, and Rory Cumming leading by example. Taunton ran out 1-0 winners, helped by two excellent saves by their keeper from Smibert and Olly Bendall which denied Sherborne the draw they deserved.

The County Cup saw Sherborne draw 1-1 in the semi-final with Canford, only to go out on flicks. In the third-place play-off, Sherborne demolished Gillingham 7-0 with Bendall scoring four goals. After such a close game in the County Cup with Canford, Sherborne were confident of a better result against them in the school fixture. Unfortunately a couple of defensive errors allowed Canford an easy two-goal start. Bendall reduced the lead with an excellent short corner strike, but Canford regained a two-goal lead late in the second half, without a Sherborne reply.

Occidentals brought down a competent team of good club players. Sherborne played some of their best hockey of the season to win 4-1. The scoreline does flatter Sherborne, as had it not been for some excellent saves from Bowker and good defending from George Berthon, the result would have been much closer. Smibert scored a hat-trick, and Hawksley added the fourth to complete a much needed win. Against King's Taunton Alfie Heath replaced Bowker, who had glandular fever, in goal. Sherborne dominated the game, with two Bendall goals, and some fine saves by Heath at crucial times to give us another victory.

Bryanston, who beat Canford in the County final, is always a tough fixture. Sherborne, buoyed by two wins prior to this game, played well and forced the Bryanston goalkeeper into a series of excellent saves in the first quarter of the game. It was Bryanston who scored first, with their German international drag-flicking in their only corner of the half. Freddy Pendarves scored from a short corner to level the scores and, with some excellent work in midfield by Tom Russell

and Hawksley, the game was turning in our favour. Unfortunately, two more converted corners left Sherborne feeling a little robbed, having played the better hockey.

Millfield are national champions at both indoor and outdoor hockey. The Sherborne attack of Smibert and Bendall caused their defence problems whenever they had the ball. Pendarves scored a short corner and at 2-3 Sherborne were pressing Millfield very hard. The final score of 3-7 did show the gulf in terms of ability between the sides, but not determination, something which this Sherborne team can't be faulted on. King Edward's Bath were weakened by a field trip, but Sherborne played some fast-flowing, attacking hockey to comfortably win 8-1, Hawksley, Bendall and Holdoway all scoring two goals each, with Smibert adding one. Russell scored one of the goals of the season, his reverse stick shot into the net completing a great result.

The Pilgrims matches were, as ever, entertaining for everybody concerned. A 4-4 draw against the "younger" Pilgrims was a traditional end-to-end affair with Bowker, who was back from illness, making a series of fine saves in the Sherborne goal. Smibert, who continues to poach goals, scored two, with Bendall and Hawksley adding the others in a thrilling draw which could have gone either way. The "older" Pilgrims match was won 4-2. Pendarves, Smibert and Chris Holdoway (2) were the scorers for the School.

Sherborne entered the Bath U19 Hockey Festival, which hosts more than forty schools from all over Britain and Ireland. The first match against Victoria College, Jersey, saw Sherborne play some of the finest attacking hockey they have played all season to win 6-2. Olly Bendall, showing why he was the top goalscorer for the side, scored four goals to finish the season with a personal tally of 15 goals. King's School Macclesfield were a well-organised side. The 0-0 result was very exciting and both sides had their goalkeepers to thank for earning them a draw.

The RGS High Wycombe game was played on the Sunday morning; it was a scrappy game, littered with mistakes, which Sherborne eventually won 3-2. The final game against Merchant Taylors' was a 3-3 draw, although we could have snatched a victory.

This School team has earned praise from every coach they have played against: they are all hardworking, committed and passionate about playing for Sherborne. It has been a pleasure to work with these boys and I hope that we can build on the success of this year for next season.

*Rob Hill*

**SHERBORNE PILGRIMS CLUB**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2006</b>		<b>2005</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income:</i>				
Subscriptions		1,895		1,836
Bank interest		1,063		920
		<u>2,958</u>		<u>2,756</u>
 <i>Expenditure:</i>				
Audit	100		100	
Postage and secretarial	900		1,286	
Cricket	744		646	
Cross Country	40		-	
Hockey	20		40	
Rugby	35		670	
Squash	50		-	
		<u>(1,889)</u>		<u>(2,742)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>1,069</u>		<u>14</u>
General Fund at 1 April		(18,327)		(18,341)
Surplus for year		<u>1,069</u>		<u>14</u>
General Fund at 31 March		<u>(17,258)</u>		<u>(18,327)</u>
 <b>President's Fund</b>				
		<b>Year to 31.3.06</b>		<b>Year to 31.3.05</b>
		£		£
President's Fund at 1 April		44,655		42,362
Donations for the year		2,386		2,293
President's Fund at 31 March		<u>47,041</u>		<u>44,655</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2006**

	<b>31 March 2006</b>	<b>31 March 2005</b>
	£	£
Cash at bank	<u>29,783</u>	<u>26,328</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund	(17,258)	(18,327)
President's Fund	47,041	44,655
	<u>29,783</u>	<u>26,328</u>

I have examined the books and papers of the Sherborne Pilgrims Club presented to me and report that the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2006 and Balance Sheet at that date are in accordance with this information.

J D V Wheatley, 29 Milson Road, London W14 0LJ

12 April 2006

**THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE  
2006**

**PRESIDENT**

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

**COMMITTEE**

*Retiring 2006*

M J Cleaver  
R Hands  
R E Hattam  
P F C Langly-Smith  
C C M Warren

*Retiring 2007*

R A Bagnall  
J L B Cheung  
J J Powe  
A I H Prentice  
A N P Searson  
N J Ware

*Retiring 2008*

P R D Gould  
J C Harden  
W P Hargrove  
A M Hatch  
E P J F Lyons  
G J E Welby-Everard

**PRESIDENT**

D C Watney  
Tel: 01372 450655 (O)  
Tel: 01306 889115 (H)  
davidwatney@btinternet.com

**HON TREASURER**

R H Green

**CLUB WEBSITE**

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**EDITOR**

R Hands  
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Club colours can be obtained from Alan Willows at: Sherborne School Trading Ltd., The School Shop, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AP. Tel. 01935 810506

## **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 18 ordinary members, and such others as may be co-opted. A co-opted member shall be subject to annual re-appointment.
7. Ordinary members of the Committee shall retire after three years’ service, but are eligible for re-election.
8. The Club bank shall be the Sherborne branch of the NatWest Bank.
9. All investments shall be held in the name of a regulated nominee company, or in the names of the Trustees.
10. The financial year-end shall be March 31st and an AGM must be held by the end of the calendar year. An income and expenditure account, together with a balance sheet, shall be produced for approval at the AGM.
11. A Committee meeting shall be properly convened on two weeks’ notice and be quorate with five or more members present.
12. In exceptional circumstances the Committee shall have the right to refuse an application for membership.