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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

Eighty years ago, the guiding light of the Sherborne Pilgrims died. G M Carey, known to all his close friends as “John”, succumbed to the cancer that had ravaged his body over the preceding couple of years and brought to a close a remarkable tenure of Abbey House and of a schoolmaster’s post at the School.

Carey was a driven man; driven to achieve and, latterly, driven to strive for the best for Sherborne School, especially at sport. It was deeply ironic that I should be writing these notes in the week that England’s spineless, underachieving cricketers departed the bloated World Cup with a miserable defeat by South Africa. Carey would have deplored the attitude, the lack of gumption, the failure to fulfil potential. As, I think, did most of us watching back at home and in the Caribbean.

An England rugby international himself, and no mean cricketer, Carey gained literary immortality courtesy of Alec Waugh in his novel *The Loom of Youth*, published in 1917 while its author was still serving in the Army in the First World War trenches.

Through Waugh’s ingénue prose, “Buller” (as Carey was thinly disguised) is characterised as a man for whom the School, and trying one’s best, was everything. If anything, Buller emerges from the book as a blinkered man, unable to lift his gaze beyond the parochial confines of “Fernhurst”, as Sherborne is renamed by Waugh.

In the course of research some 17 years ago for my book on the history of rugby at the School, I spoke to Oliver Holt, who knew Carey before joining the School in the Twenties and was taught by him in the Lower Fourth, and who clearly idolised the great man, even at a remove of more than 60 years. Holt was no games player, although enthusiastic, but his belief in the power of good that Carey did remained strong, on the sports field, in the classroom and as housemaster. Indeed, there was a commemorative booklet produced after Carey’s death that had page after page of tribute from his old boys, more than one of whom described his loss as similar to their father’s demise.

The likes of Carey are rarer now, although Christopher Martin-Jenkins’s fond article in *The Times* in March about the nonagenarian Bert Robinson, still helping cricketers at Radley 60 years after first joining the school, underlined that they are not entirely extinct. Devotion to one school is admirable but increasingly unrealistic in today’s faster-paced, more ambitious world.

Yet Carey lives on at Sherborne, most obviously in the fields that bear his name to the west of the Upper. Twenty years ago when I began life as an Abbey House

inmate, my introduction to this stalwart of the School was to sleep in the dormitory bearing his name, on the top floor of the house. I recall still his picture in the house dining-room, pipe in mouth; it was, as I now know, a picture taken late in his life, where the lines of age and illness are stronger than they should have been at his age.

So what would John Carey have made of the Club that he helped to bring into being in 1923? He would be pleased, no doubt, that it continued to flourish, that many of the School's more talented games players - and several of the not-quite-so-talented, too; Carey admired wholehearted effort whatever the skill level - were representing the Pilgrims. He would approve of the retained links between School and Club, in the shape of the contests between the two over the course of the year (rugby being a sad, if now necessary, exception). He would also recognise the sterling work carried out on behalf of the Club by those who administer each sport - and perhaps wonder how sometimes it can be fitted in, in our pell-mell age.

Fundamentally, he would approve that those who work and play on behalf of the Pilgrims are carrying out the objectives of the Club that he was so keen on, as now summarised in the first sentence of Rule 4: "to promote and encourage all forms of OS sport, and to keep members in touch with one another and with the School". It remains true that this is a vital tenet of the Club, and should always be so.

The reports that follow in this booklet do, I think, underscore that tenet. There may not have been as much success on the field as in recent years, but there has been strong participation, and much social merriment. The Cricketer Cup side followed a tight first-round victory over Rugby with a clear defeat by Malvern, who went on to win the competition. This year's first-round match is again on the Upper, against Eton Ramblers, on Sunday June 10. The team would appreciate all supporters who can make it. This will be Charlie Warren's last season in charge of the cricket before he goes in search of better pitches Down Under and emigrates to Australia.

I would point, too, to the numbers who have played cricket, rugby and hockey for the Club over the past year. This remains one of the most encouraging features about the Pilgrims in the 21st century, that there is a wide net of willing participants. For that, Charlie, Rich Hattam and Jimmy Cheung are to be commended for cajoling and coaxing Pilgrims to play. This year, too, marked Jimmy's final stand in charge of the hockey and his quiet efficiency in getting Pilgrims together in March will be much missed after eight years in charge. Jimmy McKillop is taking over running the hockey from 2008.

The Committee's thanks as always are due to all those who administer every branch of Pilgrims sport - the time and effort expended in getting members (and prospective members, it should not be forgotten) to play is hugely appreciated.

At the 2006 AGM, Philip Lough took over from David Watney as President and we should record here the Club's gratitude to David for his sensible, considered leadership over the past three years. David Leakey becomes a Vice-President as Philip steps up.

This year's AGM will be in the JCR at Sherborne on Saturday October 13 at 12.30 pm, the day of the School's home rugby fixture against Marlborough. Do try to make it to Sherborne if you can - and then wander down to the Upper.

I should like to thank all those who have contributed to this booklet, in any shape or form: it would not be possible without so many people's input. And to all Pilgrims I offer the best of luck for their endeavours over the course of this year. John Carey may no longer patrol the Upper, but his Pilgrim legacy is as strong as ever.

Robert Hands
April 2007

NEW MEMBERS

Applications were received from the following leavers in July 2006:

J D Adams (d) R H	D E S Mahony (b) H C T G
N O H Bartram (b) G C S	H T B Marks (c) C H R S
J O Bendall (b) H G C	J A J Moubray (d) R S
B J M Bishop (c) H R	G W C Murray (c) S T G
T P Bowker (m) H Sa R	P E J Newbald (b) R S C
J M A Crombie (d) R Cc	O R W Oxenbridge (a) H T S Sq
G O Curtis (f) G C Sq R	E C W Patterson (b) C T
J R L Davies (m) R C	N E C Pope (m) S
J R N Gillman-Wells (f) R F	W T M Pope (a) S T G S
A C F Hammick (g) H R A Cc	A J Radford (b) R C
R P M Hawksley (f) H R	J J Regan (c) S R C
A F A Isles (g) C S	T A T Russell (d) H C R
E P Knudsen (g) Cc A	G N Smibert (f) R S C H
G G MacClelland (e) R	E W L Sumption (b) S T
J A MacDonald Watson (m) R S	J R Sutcliffe (a) R S

A - Athletics

C - Cricket

Cc - Cross Country

F - Fives

G - Golf

H - Hockey

R - Rugby

Sa - Sailing

S - Soccer

Sq - Squash

T - Tennis

Other new members: N M Lamb (d 1989-94), R T B Price (a 1978-83)

OBITUARY

J D Craig (d 1957-62)
E B A Edwards (d 1939-44)
S S Elvery (a 1936-40)
R W Fawcett (a 1979-84)
J C Foot (g 1935-39)

H E H Newman (h 1938-42)
A E Rouse (Honorary)
N J Scotland (b 1958-63)
P L Warren (f 1924-29)
P T Warren (f 1957-62)

MANAGERS

Cricket: Charlie Warren: 07989 742908 (M)
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CRICKET 2006

Played 12: Won 6, Drawn 1, Lost 5, Cancelled 3.

Sunday May 7 v Radley Rangers, at Radley

Radley Rangers 164; Sherborne Pilgrims 165-5 (M M A Hope 69). Won by 5 wickets.

Six Pilgrims were already at the ground prodding the “auto route” of a wicket with their car keys before a single Ranger had even pulled into the College drive. This was a fairly telling preface and, in hindsight, was starkly representative of the day that would ensue: where we came first in almost every sphere of the match.

The Pilgrims were sent into the field and within four balls had stamped their authority on proceedings. Will Hayler unleashed a whirlwind opening spell and cleaned up one of their two key batsmen with the first ball he faced. With a probing and penetrating line he bowled with zest and, on occasion, made the new ball really spit at the batsmen from just short of a length. With the wind, Will Wingfield Digby bowled with genuine guile. He was to take the vital early wicket of their other “big-gun” left-hander. It was an incredibly disciplined effort from both bowlers.

Mike Cawdron bowled a lovely length and line and it was his devilishly disguised slower ball that did the trick at the perfect time... “Done all ends up”, this crucial removal of the opener for 56, meant that Henry Lamb could extend his spell for a while longer. He leapt at the chance and positively steamed in... a different man. Stumps were cart-wheeled all over Oxford by Lamb and slower balls looping out of nowhere from Cawdron... 90 for two with half an hour until lunch had become 110 for six. Some late lusty blows by the Radley captain put a gloss on the total.

The orders were that we should be 60 for no wicket at tea and the openers carried out the demands of the team to absolute precision. 60 for no wicket at tea it was and the Rangers were reeling. Pete Langly-Smith was irresistible, off the back foot especially. He played several rasping back foot drives on the up, letting his hands snap through the line of the ball. George Bramble played his role to perfection as well, dropping anchor. This gave Langly-Smith and then Matt Hope the licence to free their arms.

The result was wrapped up before the umpires even had to mention “20 overs to go” and with oodles of quality batting that wasn’t even required to make the crease... One can only dream of what score might have been posted had we won the toss and

batted. This was a stunning all-round display so early in the season. Traditionally rusty in this fixture, the Pilgrims played as if it was midway through June.

Sunday May 21 v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough. Cancelled – rain.

Sunday June 11 Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 271-7 (C C M Warren 101, O J D Kelly 59); Rugby Meteors 252 (C J C Robards 58). Won by 19 runs.

Extraordinarily, the opponents in the first round of the 2006 Cricketer Cup were those of 2005. The odds on that in an open draw of 32 teams must be considerable, yet once more the amiable Meteors were the opposition, the fourth such meeting in this competition in eight years - and all in the first round. Happily, the Pilgrims continued the more recent trend of beating Rugby, this time by a modestly wider margin than the previous year.

It was, in truth, an enjoyable and oscillating game of cricket that always looked as if it should be within the home side's compass to grasp. Somehow, though, not least during a partnership of 98 for the fourth wicket by Charlie Robards and Mark Ewer for the Meteors, their grip never seemed entirely certain until the last five overs of the Rugby innings. Just as sport should be: that element of uncertainty is what keeps us all hooked.

The honours went primarily to Charlie Warren, who scored a fine, memorable hundred, took one sensational catch and another useful one, and did all he could to hunt down the breakthroughs that would hustle his team to victory, a tough task given the erratic bowling by most of his attack and the frankly woeful catching that saw some eight chances, scarcely any of them difficult, head turf-wards.

So it was that finally the Upper saw a Pilgrims centurion in the Cricketer Cup: both Bob Tozer and Ben Atwell, previous compilers of cup hundreds, had achieved the feat on foreign soil (Shrewsbury and Brighton respectively). Warren's innings was almost chanceless, it was well-judged and it was occasionally brutal. The statistics (for once) do tell the story well: it took 84 balls, of which the second fifty came in only 25. He reached it off the penultimate ball of the innings - and all that after coming in past the halfway mark (at which he was helping to serve the drinks).

If Warren had the laurel wreath, then *proxime accessit* should go also to Ollie Kelly and Rupert Haycock. Kelly dropped anchor for a patient 59, surviving a clear caught-behind that umpire Jewell unaccountably missed, a fine effort on his cup debut, while Haycock, although only scoring 28, was the foil to Warren's rapier.

There would have been no chance of Warren reaching even close to three figures had Haycock not held up his end with no little skill. His contribution was enormous to their sixth-wicket partnership of 103 that is now a Pilgrims record for the competition.

Tom Dowdall chipped in for a promising 33 but the other key player in the imposing total of 271 was that old favourite, extras. An astonishing 28 wides comprised the lion's share of 38 extras and meant that Rugby were almost bowling the number of overs in the old format of the cup. Indeed, aside from Ewer, who generally bowled a good line and accounted for Mark Shearer with a ball that left the batsman unsure whether to go forward or back, the Meteors bowling was ropey and their ground fielding was abysmal. With one notable exception: the pick-up-and-throw that ran out a struggling Seamus Crawford was terrific.

It should have been a total well out of reach, although the pitch did not deteriorate as much as this correspondent thought it might. Yet the Meteors cannot have bargained for the butterfingers in their opponents' ranks, or the generosity in serving up so many four-balls. Still, the runs have to be scored, and when the Noble brothers put on more than 50 for the first wicket, in even time, things looked ominous. The persevering Andy Nurton eventually won reward with Dowdall holding on to a chance and a very fortunate leg-before decision went Ned Gammell's way. When Nurton took the third wicket, it looked as though the momentum was turning to the home side.

Yet the long experience of Robards and Ewer should have told us otherwise. Ewer was the thorn in the Pilgrims side in 2005, and he set about his task with similar relish once more. They were the beneficiaries of some sloppy bowling, but they punished it with a passion. Always up with the required run rate, at 194 for three, the game was Rugby's to win.

Enter Ollie Kelly again. Using some variety and guile, he snared Ewer at the wicket and then weighed in with two more to derail the Rugby challenge. At the other end, Nurton then trapped Robards in front and the pendulum had swung decisively. There were a few lusty blows still to be struck, but the wickets were falling with regularity and there was never any serious chance that the Meteors would cross the finishing line in front. Their long tail had been exposed, although Warren's reflexes hastened victory and afforded the spectators no repeat of the nerve-jangling finish to the match of 12 months previously.

A good start, then, to the campaign but there was much awareness in the aftermath of victory - happily achieved by a young and eager side - that improvement would be essential in the second round against much stronger opposition in the Old

Malvernians. Yet like last year, experience of tough cricket and of winning cricket is always valuable.

Sunday June 25 Cricketer Cup second round v Old Malvernians, at Malvern

Sherborne Pilgrims 176 (M A Shearer 61); Old Malvernians 177-2. Lost by 8 wickets

Winning the toss and batting first on a hot day seemed the perfect start for the Pilgrims, through to the second round of the Cricketer Cup for the second year in a row after two years without a win. It was probably the right decision, even in retrospect, but some tight Malvernian bowling, coupled with a few injudicious strokes, effectively put the game beyond the reach of Sherborne halfway through the allotted 50 overs with the score 64 for five.

Several Pilgrims got in: there were gritty innings from Ollie Kelly and Rupert Haycock, who both perished on 27 before being able to impose themselves on the tight bowling. At 107 for seven with ten overs to go, things could have been embarrassing, but a flamboyant 61 from Mark Shearer added respectability. He was last man out with still two overs left.

The pitch was blameless, and so it would have taken something special for a Pilgrims victory. The weather appeared to be helping, as it became overcast just as the Old Malvernians were starting their innings. Runs came quickly to start with, some good shots coupled with some streaky ones. The breakthrough came from cup debutant Charlie Clifton, after which followed a period of pressure with only seven runs coming in five overs. This was down to continued good bowling from Clifton, but also from an inspired spell from Andy Nurton, which brought a second wicket at the other end. He bowled with such control that he had a 9-0 field at one point! Unfortunately the batsmen survived this period of pressure, and with precious few runs on the board it was only wickets that would change the game. These never came and the Old Malvernians won at a canter with nearly 20 overs in hand.

Saturday July 1 v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne School 286-6 (E R Atkins 79, C S G Cooke 60); Sherborne Pilgrims 171. Lost by 115 runs

The School have been producing a run of fine cricketers over the past few years, and as a result, games versus the Pilgrims have been rather one-sided. With this in mind, Will Wingfield Digby assembled a fine XI to face the School on a glorious

Commem day. Charlie Esson, who had scored heavily for the XI over the summer, opened the batting with Ed Atkins. The former perished nibbling Hayler behind after never settling, while at the other end Atkins was flying, his booming drives standing out in particular. It was a relief that Atkins fell for a well-deserved 79, as he looked to be set for a big innings. Without ever really cutting loose, the School managed to score at more than five an over, and with a healthy extras tally of 27, the target was 286. It was not excessive, especially given the lightning outfield and a flat pitch. It probably could have been more if not for nine tight overs at the end from Wingfield Digby.

Unfortunately the Pilgrims set about the target in a very pedestrian manner and to be honest, were never in the chase. At the halfway stage of the 50 overs the score was a measly 89 for three. Of course it was not just down to slow batting; Ben Lyons was hostile - the first genuinely quick bowler Sherborne has produced for some time - while the spinners were tight, and the fielding enthusiastic. It is with some trepidation that the School will be faced next season, and the Pilgrims must do better to make a game of it.

Sunday July 9 v Fantasian CC, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 207-4 dec (P F C Langly-Smith 101); Fantasian CC 114. Won by 93 runs

The Pilgrims won the toss and opted to bat on what was a glorious evening for Twenty20 cricket. Peter Langly-Smith started as he meant to go on: only the third ball of the day sailed over mid wicket's head to bounce once before hurtling over the boundary. In a quite fantastic display of batting, Langly-Smith raced to his maiden century, bludgeoning the Fantasians' tiring bowling attack all over the Upper. He was finally caught on the boundary for 101, leaving the Pilgrims in an excellent position with Will Fegen and Archie Mackay-James both contributing nicely to a daunting total of 207.

Fantasians faced a difficult task and accurate bowling from Crawford and Warren meant the run rate was kept to a minimum, forcing the batsmen to take risks, with the inevitable results.

Monday July 10 v Old Blundellians. at Sherborne. Cancelled as the opposition could not raise a side.

Tuesday July 11 v Butterflies, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 247-9 dec (Langly-Smith 68); Butterflies 112. Won by 135 runs

It was with some relief that the Pilgrims won the toss and chose to bat on a promisingly warm and dry morning. Warren and Crawford were particularly severe on some early loose bowling but at 77 for five it looked as if a respectable score was going to be well out of reach. There followed an excellent stand between Langly-Smith (68) and Mackay-James (27), and some useful contributions at the end took the total to 247 for nine, which included 34 extras.

The Butterflies' reply got off to a slow start, down mainly to some very accurate bowling by Nurton and Crawford. Wickets fell at regular intervals with the two opening bowlers sharing five between them. At 43 for five the target was looking a long way off for the Butterflies. Haycock and Hayward, with two wickets apiece, ensured that they would not get close.

Wednesday July 12 v Bryanston Butterflies, at Sherborne

Bryanston Butterflies 257-7 dec (S A Crawford 4-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 195-9.
Drawn

The opposition arrived looking much fresher than the home team, who were now on day three of the tour, so bones and heads were starting to ache. Bryanston won the toss and sensibly opted to bat. The bowling options were limited; however, Nurton and Crawford took the new ball and bowled tightly for brief spells, claiming an early wicket each. Lamb and Brenchley batted sensibly for the Butterflies making 60 and 74 respectively but neither were able to build on solid starts. Warren, Fegen and Mead all supported the opening bowlers well and the Pilgrims were happy to restrict the opposition to 257 for seven from 57 overs.

After an extended period in the field the Pilgrims needed to concentrate chasing a large total, but as usual were soon on the back foot after losing three early wickets. Crawford did manage to register his highest score of the week with a well worked six. Bramble, who had opened, was joined by Haycock and together they started to put the Pilgrims innings back on track with some sensible running and sublime shots through the leg side, taking advantage of a shortened boundary. Bramble (46) and Haycock (45) were eventually out, and defeat looked likely until Nurton and Tom Mackay-James managed to play out time.

Thursday July 13 v Dorset Waifs, at Sherborne (40 overs)

Dorset Waifs 220-9 (Crawford 4-38); Sherborne Pilgrims 221-3 (E R S Kelly 121 not out). Won by 7 wickets

The Waifs won the toss and decided to bat first, sending in Esson and Atkins, two Pilgrims in the making. Atkins had scored heavily against the Pilgrims at Commem, and Esson had scored two centuries for the XI earlier in the season. Esson looked assured while Atkins tried to hit every ball for four and soon perished to the gentle swing of Ed Kelly. Seamus Crawford finally found his bowling boots and dealt with the middle order as Esson progressed at the other end to a well-compiled fifty before misjudging Nurton.

The Waifs did not appear to have much more batting and seemed lucky to make 220. In fact, it was a good all round display from the Pilgrims in the field, with some smart chances being held.

No one expected the Pilgrims to finish things off quite as easily as they did, and it was done in some style from Ed Kelly, who plundered an unbeaten 121 from the hapless Waifs. Several times the tennis courts were reached, each time slightly farther than before. Supporting roles were played by Bramble then Nurton, but Kelly really was brutal. It seemed that the Waifs were rather pleased to be put out of their misery after only 30 overs.

Friday July 14 8-a-side tournament v Sherborne CC and Marlborough CC, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 185-5 (C C M Warren 64); Sherborne CC 148-6 (A D Nurton 84 not out). Won by 37 runs

Marlborough CC 159-2; Sherborne Pilgrims 110-3 (E R S Kelly 50). Lost by 49 runs

The Pilgrims played two limited overs games against Sherborne Town and Marlborough Town. In the first of 15 overs, against Sherborne Town, we won the toss with Charlie Warren and Ed Kelly demonstrating some fine aggressive batting to propel the total to 185 for five. In reply, the Town were restricted to 148, with Archie Mackay-James and Seamus Crawford being the pick of the bowlers. As the temperatures continued to rise on a blisteringly hot day, a second game of 12 overs was played against Marlborough Town. Marlborough batted first and punished some poor bowling to end on 159. Despite the best efforts of Ed Kelly and George Bramble, we were 49 runs short.

Sunday July 16 v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge

Sherborne Pilgrims 149 (Warren 61); Old Tonbridgians 150-2. Lost by 8 wickets

The Pilgrims won the toss and batted first on a scorcher. A shaky start seemed to have been forgotten at a lunchtime score of 121 for three, with Warren and Gammell going well. Unfortunately both fell soon after, and the Pilgrims slumped to 149 all out. This was a dreadful capitulation, especially on such a great cricket wicket, with not much to write home about in the opposition bowling attack. The loopy off spin of Kemp snared five of the last six wickets.

As you would imagine, it was nowhere near enough to trouble the talented Tonbridge batting line-up. A tight first few overs built pressure which led to a wicket for Chris Hopkins in his first game for the Pilgrims. Unfortunately the next didn't fall until it was too late to make a difference.

Sunday August 6 v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford

Hampshire Hogs 301-1 dec (O J D Kelly 135, D M Del Mar 117 not out); Sherborne Pilgrims 238 (T G P Mackay-James 73, H T P Marks 63). Lost by 63 runs

For the third year in a row this was a hot Hampshire day and the Pilgrims felt the effect of the mugginess after being asked to field first.

Ed Kelly was given the new ball along with Tom Mackay-James and both bowled tight lines. However, once the first ten overs were up it was clear that the ball and the pitch were not going to offer much assistance to the bowlers. This may explain why some 58 overs later the Hogs had only lost one wicket and had amassed 301 runs between Pilgrim Ollie Kelly and Del Mar! The Pilgrims did not have the strongest bowling attack on show; however, Will Kipling and Henry Marks bowled very tidily without reward.

It certainly looks like the Pilgrims were given the run-around, yet it was a small ground and the pitch was a beauty. Thus the Pilgrims innings started with positive intent. Early wickets of Ed Kelly and Jimmy McKillop left the Pilgrims on 22 for two and in trouble. Archie Mackay-James and Olli Tilney performed an admirable rescue act but the introduction of the ageless Bazalgette proved decisive. Mackay-James was first to fall as he hit out on 73, and this saw the introduction of Kipling, who played sensibly before giving into temptation, Bazalgette's third having already snared Tilney caught and bowled. However, the Hogs did not have it all

their way as Marks hit three fours and six sixes on his way to a rapid and exhilarating 63. Once he was stumped the Pilgrims were struggling on 190 for five, and the tail could not cling on for the draw. Many thanks to Sheila Harding for scoring so colourfully and to the Hogs for their hospitality.

Sunday August 27 v NPL Lensbury, at Teddington. Cancelled as the opposition could not raise a side.

Reports by George Bramble, Robert Hands, Archie Mackay-James, Andy Nurton, Peter Langly-Smith, Andy Searson and Charlie Warren.

CRICKET FIXTURES 2007

Sun	May 6	Radley Rangers (a)	Wed	July 11	Bryanston Butterflies (a)
Sun	May 27	Marlborough Blues (a)	Thurs	July 12	Milton Abbey Hornets
Sun	June 10	Eton Ramblers *	Fri	July 13	Canford Cygnets (a)
Sat	June 30	The School	Sun	July 15	Old Tonbridgians (a)
Sun	July 8	Twenty20 tournament (a)	Sun	July 29	Fantasia CC (a)
Mon	July 9	Sherborne CC	Sun	Aug 5	Hampshire Hogs (a)
Tues	July 10	The Butterflies			

* First round Cricketer Cup at home: second round June 24 (a); quarter-finals July 8: semi-finals July 22; final August 12.

RUGBY 2006-07

Played 5: Won 1, Lost 4.

The Pilgrims suffered a setback at the end of last season with a 10-33 embarrassing loss to Downside. However, it was good to see some old faces from both sides in attendance and the après-rugby was enjoyed by all, especially the Chilean wine industry!

The first game this season was against King's Bruton at Bruton on October 1. The Pilgrims arrived with a full XV, including a front row (a bonus!). Inspired by a home fixture, a Bruton army turned up, but undaunted Sherborne opened their account with some nifty footwork from Bramble that resulted in a try converted by the team's surprise kicker, Welby-Everard. From here it was end-to-end stuff with try being answered by try. Special praise should be given for a strong performance

from Jason Hutt at scrum half and Henry Mitchell in the centre. Sadly, Bruton had fresh legs to use, and this paid off in the last ten minutes, with three weak tries leaving it at 47-35 in favour of Bruton.

We travelled to Wellington on December 2, but because of injury and the need for the game to be played on a Saturday, there was a distinct lack of players on both sides. It was decided that tens would be played for as long as everyone could stand, which was fun, but the Pilgrims suffered a 7-48 defeat.

March 11 saw a full complement of Pilgrims - including reserves and support - face up to a similar-strength Canford at Spencer Park in Wandsworth. The sun was shining, the birds singing and it turned out to be another cracking match. Sherborne opened with a sensational try, only to be met by Canford romping down to score at the other end. However, with the likes of Cook, Saunders, Luard, Dawson and Edlmann up front, Canford were on the back foot, allowing a nimble set of backs to dominate through some inspirational marshalling by Charlie Harris at fly half. Sherborne ran out winners 37-23.

We played Downside on March 25 with a rejuvenated team on what is becoming a familiar ground; Spencer Park, Wandsworth Common. As ever it was gritty, and Downside seemed to be able to field a heavier pack, denying the Pilgrims of possession. This led to a couple of early soft tries for the opposition. Sherborne dug in at this point and stalemate set in, until a tremendous run from Gibbs, at hooker, put Downside on the back foot and allowed Pushman, at fly half, to release the three-quarters to combine and run in a much-needed try. The Downside pack surged again and drove over the line. Again, with no reserves the Pilgrims ran out of steam. A less than dazzling try from Downside left them 17-12 winners.

There was a shortage of tens and sevens in 2006; however, we have a couple of tournaments lined up for 2007 and a very good roster of players. With a little bit of polishing, there is a good chance of adding some more silverware to the old cabinet. I would like to thank Guy Welby-Everard, George Bramble and Nick Cook for their help in organising players and fixtures, without whom none of the above would have been possible.

Rich Hattam

HOCKEY 2007

Sunday January 7, at Haileybury

v Haileybury 1st XI

Lost 2-4

v Old Haileyburians

Drawn 2-2

The season kicked off with a triangular tournament at Haileybury College involving their 1st XI, the Old Haileyburians and the Pilgrims. The day was a great success with all three sides enjoying the hockey. Although the Pilgrims lost their first game to a very fit Haileybury 1st XI, the standard of hockey was very good and they managed to carry this forward to their game against the Old Haileyburians with a hard-fought draw. Thanks are due to Andrew Searson for organising the day and inviting the Pilgrims to play in the tournament. We have been invited back for the 2008 tournament.

Sunday March 18, at Sherborne

Under-40s v School 1st XI

Lost 0-3

Over-40s v School 1st XI

Lost 2-6

Under-40s v School 2nd XI

Won 5-2

Over-40s v Under-40s

Lost 0-5

The annual fixtures against the School provided a full day's hockey with the inclusion of the Pilgrims over-40s side for the second year running. All the matches were played in good spirit and as always produced some excellent hockey from all the sides. The School 1st XI were impressive, and it was no surprise that they had a very successful season. Both Pilgrims teams had a good work-out from the School's 1st and 2nd XI and the day ended with the two Pilgrims' teams playing each other. I would like to thank Rob Hill for organising the day and providing lunch and tea for everyone; the umpires who kindly contributed to the day; and finally all the players for coming down to Sherborne and participating. We look forward to the fixture in 2008.

Jimmy Cheung

Cometh the hour, cometh the man - well 18 of us, to be precise. This loose-knit band of men were once again brought together to represent the "Old" Pilgrims for a game of hockey. We were hoodwinked - it was not one game but three!

Despite our cunning plan of bringing the largest team, and rolling substitutes on and off at great speed, we found being on the same field of play as chaps some thirty years younger than the majority of us, quite challenging but enormous fun.

As usual none of us can remember much about any of the games, breathing, heaving and wielding the stick was enough for us - plus of course a fantastic lunch. It is all about the participation, said our goalkeeper, "When I last put on pads they were made out of reeds and bamboo" - interesting but not reassuring.

A different thought was posed, when on the following day an e-mail was sent to 17 different desktops located in hospitals, schools, boardrooms, offices, mansions, boat yards and farms around the UK. It simply read "does anyone feel stiff?" What an understatement.

Great craic, we played pretty well - we look forward to next year.

Stephen Rees-Williams

FIVES 2007

The Pilgrims arrived for a late morning encounter with a blend of experience - Richard Green and James Rogers - and youth - Simon Stokes and Struan Coad. The School could also boast even more experience - Mike Cleaver and Paul Carling - and even younger opponents - Jamie Coreth (b) and Alec de Candole (b). It was decided by a quorum of both sides that no singles would be played, but it was difficult to say who had the casting vote.

After the first round of doubles there was nothing in it at all, with Green and Rogers seeing off the two boys and Stokes and Coad finding the guile of two old men too much for them. After the changeover the two boys beat Stokes and Coad, and Cleaver and Carling lost in a close match against Green and Rogers, where Rogers hit a purple patch in the second game. It was decided that the match was tied, but the Pilgrims probably sneaked it by a point or two.

A magnificent "brunch" was served in the Dining Hall with plenty of chat, laughter, wine and beer on offer.

It is worth noting that OS filled the RFA side for the match against the School earlier in the term, with Messrs MacIver, Stokes, Coad and Oates-Wormer taking to the courts.

Mike Cleaver

SQUASH 2006-07

The combination of the Pilgrims weekend in March, the Londonderry Cup and the success of Sherborne Squash Club has meant a pretty active year for Pilgrims on the squash court.

On the Saturday of the Pilgrims weekend we played the annual match against the School. The Pilgrims team of Al Robertson, Paddy Macintosh, Mike Elliot, Richard Openshaw and Hugh Archer kept their joints working just long enough to achieve a 4-1 victory. We followed this by having a meal at The Green Restaurant (which is highly recommended), watching a dismal England rugby performance in Cardiff, and then felt it was only right to drown our sorrows. Unfortunately, some of the competitors in Sunday's tournament had drowned their sorrows to such a degree that they were unable to play, and others put their mothers ahead of squash on Mothering Sunday (where's the commitment). This left the door open for a battle of new and old Pilgrims managers with Nick Lamb beating Jonathan Powe in the final, and all watched by Sheila Macintosh (former British Open champion).

In the Londonderry Cup we have progressed through two rounds to the semi-final without having to hit a ball. It appears the ever-prepared team of Nick Lamb, Al Robertson, Jeremy Bishop, Jonathan Powe and Tom Morgan have unnerved both Shrewsbury and then Lancing with a mere mention of our name. In reality it was the problem of finding suitable dates. We are playing Wellington in the semi-final, and I only hope we will be able to play squash this time.

Sherborne Squash Club has cranked up both the quantity and quality of squash being played by Pilgrims, staff, boys and locals. The big positive being our Dorset League team, who have just received promotion to the top division after winning Divisions 2 and 3 in the last two years. The team is made up of a large Sherborne School contingent, with many of the Pilgrims mentioned above playing, as well as Ed Elliot-Square, Richard Bramble, Justin Gulston, Will Pope, Toby Murray, and also the Leakey squash dynasty being continued by David's sons, James and Ed.

I am always looking for new players for all these competitions so please get in touch if you are interested.

Nick Lamb

TENNIS 2006

This year, the sun was taking no exeat and beat down upon us throughout a glorious afternoon, allowing the 12 tennis showmen to loosen the shoulders and pull out all the stops, with the “ooohs” and “aaahs” from the crowds ringing out across the Upper during the rallies.

Anthony Dowdeswell and Toby Dean finally managed to convince the captain that they were first pair material, as they had only consumed shandies at lunch; Nick and Tim MacIver stomped their feet and held their breath until second pair was theirs. This left Henry Densham and Ed Posnett staring into their Abbot’s Ales, sulking and contemplating the tree stump which greets those unwary of the third court’s tramlines.

An early lead of 2-1 to the Pilgrims was established, but our worries were exacerbated when one of the boys went off to perform in the jazz band, being replaced by the professional. But years of house matches played in driving rain have resulted in an iron will cemented into the Pilgrim psyche, and our heroes scrapped desperately and managed to keep defeat at bay for another year. The match ended, with players well-tanned and craving for an isotonic Foster’s. A deserved draw, so, in Ashes terms, the urn is kept safely in the Pilgrims’ cabinet until 2007. As ever, the boys were the stars of the afternoon with all sets played with huge enthusiasm.

Tim MacIver

CROSS COUNTRY 2006-07

After the gales and rain of the week, Saturday December 9 turned out bright for the Old Boys’ Match, but the mud index on Wimbledon Common was nine out of ten. We had a strong Open team with seven good, young runners but the Vets were depleted through injury and illness, with only Anthony Brummitt in the over-40’s and Angus Cater in the over-50’s.

The standard in this five-mile race, which starts over the first mile up a very gentle hill, but gets progressively hillier, is very high. The winning time was just over 25 minutes, which for the mathematically disadvantaged is five-minute miling. Four runners from each team score and Sherborne had its best ever result with four runners in the first 21. Charles Pitt Ford came in 10th, Ed Knudsen 15th, Ed Pitt Ford 17th and Tom Robinson 21st.

James Crombie, running for the first time, was 34th, Simon Dawson 42nd, Piers Boshier 71st, Anthony Brummitt 79th and Angus Cater 94th of the 107 who finished.

Winchester won the Open race, Sedbergh were second and Sherborne third. If Sherborne want to move up a slot we need to put four runners in the top ten. We can do that – we have the talent. The next race is on Wimbledon Common on December 8.

Our turnout for the Sherborne Trophy, at Sherborne on March 17, was somewhat weakened by not having Piers Boshier (in Japan doing research with all expenses paid) and Charles Pitt Ford who was rowing for the Cambridge University Lightweight Blue Boat. Nonetheless we put out a strong team.

Ed Pitt Ford ran his characteristically fast start and somehow managed to hold first place round the whole course. James Dutton, in preparation for officer training with the Royal Marines at Lymptone, came in second for the OS in tenth place. Simon Dawson (18th) and James Crombie (23rd) were both fresh from a season of rugby. John Storey (25th), who teaches at the School and has recently joined the Royal Marines Reserves, pipped Ed Knudsen (27th) with his kneecaps taped in place as he recently managed to twist both of them. Angus Cater, the only senior member of the team, came in towards the end of the field of 70 runners.

The School won the Trophy, led in by Seb Ross who finished 5th overall. In the evening an excellent dinner was provided in the Upper Pavilion together with the hockey players and the Upper Sixth runners.

Angus Cater and Ed Pitt Ford

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2006-07

The winners at the three meetings were:

Summer 2006: Turner and Foot Putter (scratch) – Michael Farley; Page Cup (handicap) – Jonathan Godfrey; Stableford competition – Gavin Webb-Wilson; Harry Croly Cup (under 27 Stableford) – Jonathan Godfrey.

Autumn 2006: Captain's Prize - Ed Elliot-Square; Vice-Captain's Prize – Andrew Todd; Greig Cup – Roddy Lane; Autumn Cup – Gavin Webb-Wilson; Manning Trophy – Nick Chamberlin; Watney & Bishop Dish (veterans) – Nick Chamberlin.

Spring 2007: Harris Vase (scratch) – Gordon Curtis; Hempson Cup (handicap) – Howard Gill; Shaw 12 and over (scratch) – Alan Gale; Shaw 12 and over (handicap) – Jonathan Wheatley; Storrs Salver (veterans) - Gavin Webb-Wilson; Parry Cup (inter-house - Abbeylands; Shaw and Stables (foursomes) – Hugo Ambrose and Jonathan Wheatley; Howell Williams Salver (combined rounds) – Jonathan Wheatley.

At the AGM at Royal Ashdown on Sunday April 22, Hugo Ambrose was elected Captain, with Alan Gale and Robin Amooore as Vice-Captains.

Matches v clubs and other societies: Played 25.

Won: 9 v Saunton, Littlehampton, Woodbridge, Loretto, Rye GC, Woking GC, Wrotham Heath GC, Blundell's, Winchester

Halved: 1 v Cheltenham

Lost: 15 v Sherborne GC, Aldeburgh GC, Thorpeness GC, Aldenham, Malvern, Downside, West Sussex GC, School, Repton, Cambridge University Szymies, Radley, Royal Cinque Ports, Marlborough, Highgate, KCS Wimbledon

Grafton Morrish 2006

After what could only be described as a sublime display of Stableford scratch foursomes from Nick Hyde and Stuart Gillett (1 under gross) on May 7, Sherborne qualified for the finals, but only just on what was a very high-scoring day at Royal Ashdown. This regrettably was not mirrored by the other two pairs, but a team score of 88 points was sufficient to qualify.

The finals were much looked forward to following our near success in the Hewitt earlier in the year. The team felt good and had a very positive buzz. That was until the greens at Hunstanton were inspected and found to be not up to the usual high standard.

Our first round opponents were Bolton, who were seeded having come second in their qualifier. Not much pre-match information to learn from, but suspected stiff competition. Francis and Martin, top again after proving themselves in practice, got off to a flier and set a pretty serious marker by winning 8 and 7. This was also followed by a calm success from Gillett and Hyde who, after being in four bunkers

in the first two holes and making two pars, maturely closed their match by 6 and 5. Ambrose and Brown agreed a half to save time before the next round at Brancaster.

Berkhamsted were the next opponents, a team definitely in form and improving through youth. We kept the order the same and set off in search of another solid performance. Unfortunately this did not happen. Francis and Martin struggled to get going, whilst Ambrose and Brown were simply putted off the park on better greens. Hyde and Gillett were also out of sorts, and it was sadly game over.

The Stableford salver was still to come at Brancaster the next day, but the combined 88 points (including an impressive 33 from Hyde and Gillett) was not good enough to make the top four for the knockout stage.

Mellin Salver 2006

This year the 16 Mellin schools between them entered 27 teams for the over-65s Burles Salver on the Thursday, with eight teams to qualify for the matchplay stage. The lowest qualifying score was 24 points, but regrettably our pairs of Peter Southcombe and Simon Brown, and Richard Hughes with Dick Draper, could only manage 22 and 18 points respectively. Colin Sharman and Rab McEwan did better in the Millard Salver for the over-75s by qualifying, but were outplayed by Downside the next day in the semi-final of the matchplay. The Downside pair had played together for many years and did not appear to know about bogeys or worse. They were worthy winners of the competition.

On Friday the Mellin team was drawn against Lancing, whom we had also played in the first round of the Halford Hewitt in April. Unfortunately, Lancing were a man short through a last-minute injury, so our third pair was given a walkover and we were one point up before we started.

Mike Falconer and Gavin Webb-Wilson, playing top, struggled and arrived at the Hut (12th) one down, squared at the next, but thereafter things went downhill rapidly and they lost 3 and 2. Fortunately John Youngman and Mark Cannon Brookes played well and were never in danger of losing, winning by 4 and 3 to give us a 2-1 winning margin.

After lunch it was Bedford, with Dinkeldein replacing Jerrom in the third pair. Falconer and Webb-Wilson won the first, but after that were not at their best, being three down after 12 holes. Their revival came a bit too late, as having got back to only one down at the 16th, that was the score at the finish. Youngman and Cannon Brookes had a close match. They were all square at the 12th, but lost the next three

holes. With the top pair struggling, things were looking bleak, although Ireland and Dinkeldein at third pair were two up at the 13th.

In the event, Youngman and Cannon Brookes played really well to win the last three holes and square their match. They then had to wait by the 18th green in the hope that our third pair would win, so making extra holes necessary. Sadly, Ireland and Dinkeldein managed to lose four of the last five holes with, it has to be said, some rather inept golf. So we did not appear on the Saturday when Cranleigh won the Salver for the first time, beating Haileybury in the final. After such a wonderful Hewitt, it was sad we put up rather a poor performance, apart from Youngman and Cannon Brookes who were undefeated.

Family Day 2006

The Committee had agreed that only one person in each pair need be a member of the Society and the other could be a member of the immediate family. This new style day at Woking in late October proved to be very popular, and we were delighted to welcome seven non-members.

The winners of the Stableford foursomes for the Peter Currie Cup were Andrew and Richard Gray, with Andrew and George Todd the runners-up and John and Robin Irving third. Oliver and George Murray won the first nine; Pat and Jamie Farmer the second nine.

Brent Knoll Bowl 2007

The Brent Knoll was played this year in glorious weather and the course was in excellent condition, even if the greens were not quite up to their very best. The first round was against the Buckthorns, and we should have won comfortably. In the end it was 2-1 as Whalley and Aubin lost to a pair whom they really should have beaten.

The next round was against the Army, who had beaten us in the final last year. Discussions over lunch led to a reversal of the order, with a view to gaining an advantage. The top Army pair, although very strong on paper, were not playing that well but beat Whalley and Aubin. Francis and Martin, now playing third, won 3 and 2. Unfortunately, Hyde and Gillett, who were unbeaten in the four rounds last year, were up against strong opposition and lost by 3 and 2.

The results v Buckthorns and the Army were:

Rhys Francis and Clive Martin: won 4&3; won 3&2;

Stuart Gillett and Nick Hyde: won 6&5; lost 3&2;

Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin: lost 3&2; lost 5&4.

A note from the Archivist: although Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin lost both matches this year, their record of playing together 43 times since 1990, losing only 11 matches and halving two, needs to be mentioned; as does their run of 16 matches unbeaten from 1999 to 2003.

Halford Hewitt 2007

Having reached the final last year, the 2007 Halford Hewitt was always going to be a challenging tournament as the expectations of both the team and its supporters were understandably higher. Two trial matches were planned so the increasing number of competent golfers could be given a chance to play for a place in the team. The first against Epsom was unfortunately “snowed off” the day before, only for there to be an overnight thaw and playable conditions the next day. The second, a newly instigated match against KCS Wimbledon, resulted in a heavy defeat. This was of no major concern as we had picked makeshift pairs, who were always going to be up against it when confronted with experienced players on their home course.

The result was that two previous Hewitt players, Toby Couzens and James Chappell, won their places back, and we could also welcome Gordon Curtis as the first potential school leaver Hewitt debutant since Clive Martin in 1982. Further changes were then introduced as at the Brent Knoll Bowl, held the preceding weekend, one of the Society’s longest lasting partnerships was dissolved. Nick Aubin and Nigel Whalley decided that, after 34 appearances over 20 years, they had had enough of each other and both would like to inflict their legendary dress sense on younger players.

We were drawn at Deal to play Framlingham at 3 pm on the Thursday. Six pairs were chosen, with one pair to be omitted. These were: Rhys Francis and Clive Martin; Nick Hyde and Stuart Gillett; Ed Playfair and Toby Couzens; Peter Martin and Hugo Ambrose; Nigel Whalley and James Chappell; and Nick Aubin and Gordon Curtis. With balmy conditions prevailing on the official practice day, the arrival of the Sherborne team was announced in style by Gordon Curtis, who put the first drive of his Hewitt career straight through a car sunroof in the car park.

By Thursday morning the weather had turned more seasonal (cold and wet) and Gordon and Nick Aubin were the unfortunate pair who were chosen to stand down. Whilst some teams have historically been weaker, there are now very few easy matches in the Hewitt. Intelligence informed us that, despite their low ranking, Framlingham had two good pairs. Our top pair of Francis and Clive Martin appeared to have good luck in receiving a burnt offering. They duly reported a solid 7 and 6 win without undue mishap.

Our second and third pairs were pitted against Framlingham's strongest pairs, and both found the going tougher. Gillett and Hyde were all square at the turn, but kept their heads and eventually closed their match out on the final green, with Gillett holing a good putt for par. Couzens and Playfair were two down at the turn; they held on to reach the 18th one down, but a par from their opponents finished the match. After some steady play from their opponents, Peter Martin and Ambrose also reached the turn one down, but par golf for the next four holes saw them open up a lead which ended in a 3 and 2 win. Whalley and Chappell also won 3 and 2 to give us a convincing 4-1 result.

Our next opponents were Watson's; defeated in the semi-final by Malvern last year, they were clearly going to provide a tough challenge. Such was the draw that both teams were aware the winner of this match could easily progress through subsequent rounds. Watson's, however, proved to be too good on the day. Francis and Clive Martin started poorly and, against good opposition, could not get themselves back in to contention. Hyde and Gillett kept their unbeaten record alive – generously offering the opposition a half on the 19th green when clearly in the ascendancy.

Couzens and Playfair struggled with their opposition, who got up and down from everywhere. They also struggled with the course as well as what was left on the course – Couzens showing his solid constitution when playing a fine recovery chip at the 15th after Playfair's approach shot landed fair and square in some doggy do's! They eventually succumbed by 2 and 1. Peter Martin and Ambrose could only watch and get more frustrated, as their opposition rolled in putt after putt, also losing by 2 and 1.

Whalley and Chappell may have thought it would not be their day as the opposition's first tee-shot was diverted from its flight-path onto the practice ground by the Club's flagpole – the ball ending up in the middle of the fairway and allowing a regulation par! Further steady play by Watson's, with birdies at the third and eighth, saw their match slip away by a margin of 2 and 1.

The official 4½-½ result of our match flattered Watson's. They were clearly a strong team and, with an aggregate handicap of 15, we would have had to play very well to beat them. Hopefully, in our next meeting it will be our turn to have the rub of the green. Watson's went on to win the tournament without really being troubled, beating Epsom in the final by 4½-½.

Thanks as ever go to our supporters for their constant loyalty and enthusiasm in somewhat inclement weather.

The results v Framlingham and Watson's were:
Rhys Francis and Clive Martin: won 7&6, lost 5&4;
Stuart Gillett and Nick Hyde: won 1 up, halved;
Toby Couzens and Ed Playfair; lost 1 down, lost 2&1;
Hugo Ambrose and Peter Martin; won 3&2, lost 2&1;
James Chappell and Nigel Whalley; won 3&2, lost 2&1.

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

OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY 2006-07

It was another full calendar for the sailors, resulting in a fun and varied 2006 for all involved. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly success in winning the Charterhouse Bowl in the Arrow Trophy competition. The Trophy began 20 years ago as a private contest between the old boys of Harrow and Eton; Sherborne joined the party in 1989 and in October 2006 there were 18 teams participating.

The OSSS entered two teams last year, a "Yoof Team" of fit young hotshots led by John Archer, and a "Gentlemen's Team" assembled by Peter Innes-Ker, none of whom were fit, young or hotshots. The first day's racing saw the older generation out of serious contention - if pleased to have survived - while the younger team just failed to make the cut into the match racing, but were joint leaders with Charterhouse in the fleet remainder. The second day offered a great battle between us and Charterhouse that finished with the right result - a narrow Sherborne victory. And, it should be noted, an outstanding weekend both on and off the water.

The Stanger-Leathes Dinghy racing series between (usually fairly recent) OS and the School has continued, and these are always enjoyable occasions which are a great way of building links between current and future members of the OSSS.

Perhaps the social highlight was the Midsummer Rally. Some excellent and sun-kissed sailing in the Solent was followed by the rafting up of four rather different boats, and more than twenty OS and crew crammed onto *Chindit's* deck for drinks, which was followed by an excellent dinner at The George in Yarmouth. The 2007 rally will be June 30/July 1.

All OS, however experienced (or not!) are most warmly welcomed to the Society and there are very often opportunities for crewing throughout the season for those who are boat-less. Please contact Nick Ware at nick.ware@chindit.co.uk for more information.

Neil Duncan and Peter Innes-Ker

SCHOOL CRICKET 2006

Played 17: Won 11, Lost 4, Tied 2.

The expectation was for success. Having in 2005 recorded the best season for many years, the young team, which consisted of eight Lower Sixth boys, four of whom had already played at least one full season in the XI, set themselves goals to improve individual performances, and maintain the winning habit.

The first match against King's Bruton set the standard with the captain, Charlie Esson, scoring an unbeaten 102. Ben Lyons and Jonti Dampney proved too quick for the Bruton batsmen, and Humphrey Gibbs mopped up the middle order. A setback swiftly followed: Sherborne Town CC, who were preparing for a promotion-pushing season, proved too good on a helpful wicket. Andy Nurton, a Pilgrim, ensured a Town win in a game that finished in difficult conditions for both sides.

Fine bowling accounted for the challenges of Cheltenham, Bryanston and Marlborough but it was another outstanding piece of batting from Esson that put paid to King's Taunton. On winning the toss against King's, the captain scored an unbeaten 116, initially helped by Atkins, and then supported by Jack Jenkins's 81 from 58 balls - one of the best innings I have seen from a Shirburnian. He accelerated the scoring with shots all around the wicket, leading to a total of 304 off 50 overs.

Perhaps the match of the season took place against Millfield, a contest reduced by rain to 35 overs a side. A score of 127 for seven was feasible to defend, but it looked rather less so when the Millfield innings began in spectacular fashion with the opening batsmen, a West Indian under-19 international, smashing the first ball from Ben Lyons over midwicket for six. He was then dropped at mid on, which brought the non-striker, a South African under-19 international, to face his first ball. Lyons bowled a "jaffa" and Esson took a great slip catch to dismiss one of their best players. This wicket only brought another international batsman to the wicket who proceeded to hit our bowlers to all corners of the ground. After ten overs Millfield had scored 86. What happened next will never be forgotten by those watching. Sherborne kept nipping out the odd wicket as the Millfield batsmen got closer to their target; some excellent fielding supported the bowlers. Simon Lamb kept the pressure on and took a vital wicket, but the outstanding performance came from Lyons with figures of six for 42, bowling at both ends of the Millfield innings. At the end of his spell Millfield needed two to win with the last pair at the wicket. A brilliant run out from Esson at mid off ended the game in a tie.

But there was further excitement to come, against Taunton. The match went to the last ball in 2005 and followed suit again in 2006. A fine innings of 84 by Esson, carrying his bat, gave the bowlers something to aim at, but the strong Taunton batting - despite losing wickets - kept up with the rate, leaving five required from the final over. Lyons took two wickets and conceded no runs from his first five balls, leaving a six to win or a four to tie off the last ball. The batsman played an excellent on drive for four and the match was tied.

Defeats by Winchester (tight) and Maritzburg (not tight) were counterbalanced by strong performances against the more mature opponents of MCC and the Pilgrims to round off the term. As is now sometimes the case, the Festival took place with Sherborne short of some regulars because of other commitments. This did allow, however, the opportunity to display the strength in depth at the School; even though Marlborough won narrowly, Haileybury were dispatched in style (with a six to win on the smaller Tucker pitch at Cheltenham) and Cheltenham's decent total of 240 was chased down brilliantly by Esson, who carried his bat for a fourth time in the season, and Jenkins, who compiled his first hundred of the year, in a partnership of 215. This meant that, despite defeat in the first game, Sherborne retained the Festival Trophy.

It was a perfect end to an excellent season. All the players set out to improve, which they did, supporting the captain and in the process becoming a very difficult team to beat. More importantly, they became a team that had a desire to succeed.

* 50 overs match, + 35 overs match

Apr 22	* Sherborne 221-3 (C A R Esson 102 not out); King's Bruton 118 (B E Lyons 4-13)	Won by 103 runs
Apr 23	* Sherborne 139 (A D Nurton 4-19); Sherborne C C 140-7 (Nurton 51)	Lost by 3 wickets
Apr 29	* Sherborne 155; Cheltenham 113	Won by 42 runs
May 4	+ Sherborne 149-9 (C S G Cooke 52); Bryanston 113	Won by 36 runs
May 6	* Sherborne 304-1 (Esson 116 not out, E R Atkins 84, J H C Jenkins 81 not out); King's Taunton 135	Won by 169 runs

May 12	* Sherborne 213-3 (Esson 88, Jenkins 61); Marlborough 128	Won by 85 runs
May 20	+ Sherborne 127-7; Millfield 127 (Lyons 6-42)	Tied
May 27	* Sherborne 275-8 (Lyons 100); Hampshire Hogs 132	Won by 143 runs
June 10	* Sherborne 197-5 (Esson 84 not out, Jenkins 56); Taunton 197-7	Tied
June 17	* Blundell's 164; Sherborne 167-4	Won by 6 wickets
June 24	* Sherborne 224-8 (Esson 75); Winchester 225-8	Lost by 2 wickets
June 25	* Sherborne 161 (Esson 78); Maritzburg 162-1	Lost by 9 wickets
June 28	MCC 148 (A F A Isles 4-15); Sherborne 151-5	Won by 5 wickets
July 1	* Sherborne 286-6 (Atkins 79, Cooke 60); Pilgrims 171	Won by 115 runs
July 10	* Sherborne 162-7 (Cooke 65 not out); Marlborough 163-8	Lost by 2 wickets
July 11	* Haileybury 195-6; Sherborne 198-2 (Atkins 100)	Won by 8 wickets
July 12	* Cheltenham 240-7 Sherborne 242-2 (Jenkins 116, Esson 95 not out)	Won by 8 wickets

Cricket tour to South Africa - December 2006

Played 9: Won 4, Lost 5.

The touring party of 15 players and two members of staff left a dull and cold Dorset in early December to play in an international under-19 festival based at Diocesan College (usually known as “Bishops”) in Rondebosch, on the outskirts of Cape Town. Bishops is situated in the shadow of Table Mountain and the views from the ground up to this breathtaking backdrop are phenomenal. The team had the support of parents and siblings, accompanying them throughout the trip, the majority of whom had situated themselves in a luxury house about 20 minutes from the College grounds and outnumbered all the opposition support, including those from the Cape Town schools as well.

Our 50-over practice match was against Bergvliet, with the agreement that all 15 players played but with only 11 to bat, something that favoured Ed Atkins, who had a shoulder injury from rugby and couldn't throw, so he batted and then did the scoring. The lack of “middle” practice showed, and nine batsmen were caught playing false shots in a total of 97 all out. Bergvliet were helped to a good start with some wayward bowling, and eventually reached the target for the loss of four wickets.

The first game of the Festival was against Pinelands, who had beaten Charterhouse in their warm-up match. They won the toss and batted in a declaration game. Pinelands made slow progress against some controlled opening bowling from Jonti Dampney and Ben Lyons, until Dampney eventually made the breakthrough in the fourteenth over. A spell of 17 overs each from Simon Lamb (4 for 21) and Humphrey Gibbs (3 for 47) kept the pressure on and regular wickets fell. Lyons cleaned up the tail and Pinelands were bowled out for 102 in 48 overs. Small targets are never easy, though. Atkins, riding his luck, put on 54 for the first wicket with Charlie Esson. Jack Jenkins looked in good nick until a false shot saw him depart with 20 needed to win. Charlie Cooke saw the team to victory by four wickets.

We next played a 50-over game on the main pitch at Bishops against the hosts. Bishops won the toss and batted, getting off to a flying start, 51 for no wicket from eight overs. Some excellent bowling in the second half of the innings saw Bishops bowled out for 189 in 48 overs. Esson and Atkins started well; Atkins was particularly dominating, scoring 51 from 60 balls. Jenkins (34) and Esson (60) both contributed, and we had scored 145 at the fall of the second wicket. Needing 44 from 12 overs with Esson still in, it looked like we were cruising to a memorable victory. Some excellent leg spin from Bishops, and some naive batting from the Sherborne middle order, saw defeat snatched from the jaws of victory as we fell 12 runs short.

Our next test was a Twenty20 tournament. The first game was against Bergvliet; we won the toss and batted; Esson (23 from 14 balls) and Atkins (58 from 27 balls) started with the intent to dominate, taking 17 runs from the first over. This set the tone with George Berthon and Gibbs maintaining the scoring rate. A memorable six from Dampney and an exquisite late cut from Harry Moores ended the innings on 176. Bergvliet started well, smashing Gibbs over the trees from his second ball, but couldn't maintain the run rate required. An excellent spell of spin bowling from Lamb (4 for 19), three catches from Humphrey Rose and an outstanding piece of fielding from Jamie Smibert restricted Bergvliet to 102.

The semi-final was against Bishops. Atkins, Gibbs and Lamb got to double figures as the Bishops leg spinners forced our batmen into mistakes, and 80 was not enough. Bishops paced their innings well and won the game in the nineteenth over. The final was won by Wynberg School from Cape Town.

Sherborne knew the festival match against Wynberg was never going to be easy, but buoyed by the arrival of the Headmaster and the Chaplain, won the toss and batted; Esson and Atkins put on 63 for the first wicket. Jenkins, Cooke and Rose all got in, but nobody went on to make a big score and we were bowled out for 163. Wynberg were 103 for six at one stage, thanks to some excellent bowling from Lamb and Gibbs, but the No 8 scored a quick 50 to end our chances, and Wynberg won by three wickets.

The final game of the festival was a 65-over declaration game against Falcon, a team from Zimbabwe. On winning the toss, both Jenkins and Atkins batted brilliantly. Jenkins stroked the ball all round the wicket for 73, and Atkins blazed a quick 44. Lyons kept the momentum going with an assured 87, steering the total to 258. Falcon, who had only lost one game in the Festival, were put under pressure from an excellent opening spell from Will Peatfield with two wickets. Gibbs and Lamb both bowled long accurate spells, Selfe chipped in with two wickets, including the danger batsman, and finally with ten men round the bat, Rose took a good catch at silly point to ensure victory.

The party moved to the Breakwater Lodge Hotel in Cape Town for the final three days. The next game was against Lunga, a township team. We had been taken on a tour of the township with two excellent guides who gave us an insight into the history of, and the day-to-day survival in, the township. We collected our opposition and drove to the Western Province Club for a 35-over game. After losing early wickets, Lyons and Smibert steadied the middle order, the tail wagging with Maclaren and Jenkins taking the total to 154. Maclaren, Gibbs and Selfe bowled Lunga out for 120. We were impressed by the Lunga boys; they all had an infectious smile and thoroughly enjoyed the day. The Sherborne parents and the

School donated kit and food to the Lunga team before driving them back to the township.

The final game was at the Groot Drakenstein Club in Franschoek. This picturesque private club is steeped in tradition and history, with photos of famous Test players all around the clubhouse. Batting first on a good wicket, Esson and Jenkins gave us a solid start, the middle order all chipped in with double figure scores, but the highlight of the innings was the final over; Lamb scored 15 runs, including a six off the last ball, to take the total to 175 from 35 overs. Lyons took a wicket in the first over, and bowled with aggressive pace and control. Maclaren bowled well under pressure, as did Gibbs, who bowled the last over with Groot Drakenstein needing eight to win, which they eventually did with a huge six from the final ball of the over.

My thanks go to the sponsors for their financial support; and to Alan Willows, who I am sure knows everybody in Cape Town. I would also like to thank Adrian Ballard for his help with the sponsorship, and in his role as assistant manager.

Rob Hill

* 50 overs	≠ 65 overs	+ Twenty/20	≈ 35 overs
Dec 9	*Sherborne 97 Bergvliet 98-4		Lost by 6 wickets
Dec 10	Pinelands 102 (Lamb 4-21) Sherborne 103-6		Won by 4 wickets
Dec 12	*Bishops 189 Sherborne 177 (Esson 60, Atkins 51)		Lost by 12 runs
Dec 13	+Sherborne 176 (Atkins 58) Bergvliet 102 (Lamb 4-19)		Won by 74 runs
Dec 13	+Sherborne 80 Bishops 81-4		Lost by 6 wickets
Dec 15	*Sherborne 164 Wynberg 167-7		Lost by 3 wickets
Dec 16	≠Sherborne 258-7 (Lyons 87, Jenkins 73) Falcon 102 (Gibbs 4-54)		Won by 156 runs

The opening fixtures against Bishop Wordsworth's and Radley were lost mainly because of those low fitness levels. A good win at home to Canford was followed by a big defeat away to Wellington, where George Mackintosh injured his shoulder and did not play again. An excellent win over Clifton by 43 points proved to be the turning point, but yet another injury plagued the team: Ben Lyons, captain and outside centre, broke his ankle and he also missed the rest of the season. The loss of three major players was a huge blow, and this was demonstrated at Marlborough where we should have won, but did not have the experience to close the game out.

An excellent win at King Edward's Bath was of great credit to the side. The four well-worked tries showed the resilience of the squad; Bryanston, with all their imported strength, was a bridge too far, although we were still in the game until losing concentration in the last five minutes. The forward play, especially that of Tom Fleming and James Bowker, was out of the top drawer. Cheltenham was the game we should have won, but a number of wrong decisions on the pitch saw chance after chance disappear. In wet conditions the game against King's Bruton was thankfully relatively one-sided. Blundell's was played in similar vein; they never looked like scoring and we were able to maintain positional pressure, which eventually resulted in tries, mainly via forward drives. The final fixture at Millfield saw us short of six first-choice players, not an ideal game for boys making their debuts for the XV. To their credit we ran them close, one missed tackle in midfield proving to be the difference. Yet again the forwards, especially Will Clark, never took a backward step.

My thanks not only go to all the boys who represented the XV, but particularly to the captain Ben Lyons and his replacement, Tom Fleming. Both led by example and showed the commitment that is required on this tough circuit. They were a great credit to the School and the game of rugby. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to express my thanks to Don Rutherford not only for his tactical help, but also his wise counsel.

David Scott

The overall results for the 17 sides were: Played 175, Won 101, Drawn 5, Lost 69. The 2nd XV won 13 of its 14 matches.

SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2007

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

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2007

Played 16: Won 12, Lost 3, Drawn 1.

Monkton Combe	Won	2-1	Millfield	Lost	0-6
King's Bruton	Won	8-1	Cheltenham	Lost	2-6
Taunton	Won	3-2	King Edward's Bath	Won	7-2
Canford	Drawn	2-2	Sherborne Pilgrims 1st	Won	3-0
<u>County Cup</u>			Sherborne Pilgrims 2nd	Won	6-2
Canford (semi-finals)	Lost	2-2*	<u>Bath Festival</u>		
* 2-4 on penalty flicks			Dean Close	Won	5-4
Third-place play-off			Wells Cathedral	Won	5-2
Clayesmore	Won	7-0	Reigate G S	Won	2-1
King's Taunton	Won	5-3	Haberdashers' Aske's	Won	7-1

I had high hopes for the season, with six players coming back from last year's successful team. This was bolstered by the three pre-season "matches" – comprising three 20-minute halves – that saw wins against Magdalen College School and Blundell's, and a narrow defeat against Marlborough.

Jamie Smibert began the season in prolific style. A goal in victory over Monkton Combe preceded a hat-trick in an 8-1 defeat of King's Bruton, which was then followed by a brace against Taunton.

Canford away proved harder opponents. The match finished in a 2-2 draw, with Canford registering the equaliser with five minutes to go. Even then both sides had chances to win the contest. The same scoreline recurred in the County Cup semi-final (both goals once more by Smibert). Sadly the penalty flick competition did not go the School's way and Canford won through to the final 4-2. It was some consolation that Sherborne took Clayesmore apart 7-0 in the third-place play-off, Chris Holdoway scoring six goals.

The match against Millfield was always likely to prove a serious test of this side's credentials, but with only one defeat hitherto, and that on flicks, confidence was high. Three defensive errors towards the end of the first half scuppered Sherborne's chances, though, and a further three showed what clinical finishing can do. It was no reflection on how the match panned out territorially or in terms of possession, but Millfield took their opportunities and that was that. Following that defeat was a new fixture, against an old enemy in other sporting fields: Cheltenham. Missed early chances cost the team dear, with Cheltenham underscoring the lesson from Millfield and winning by a four-goal margin.

Goals returned to the agenda against King Edward's, Bath, with Holdoway scoring four and Smibert two in a 7-2 thrashing, putting the season back on track. The Pilgrims were beaten despite some Arctic conditions - with that man Smibert scoring hat-tricks against both of the Club's sides - and the season finished on a high with four victories out of four in the Bath festival.

This season has been the most successful for many years with 12 wins from 16 matches, only losing three games - one of which was on penalties. Smibert with 29 goals has been simply outstanding at centre forward, his pace, commitment and finishing earning him the accolade of player of the year from his team-mates. It is important to remember the service he has had from Holdoway and James Erskine, both of whom have been superb creative and attacking flair players, helping to lead the team to score 68 goals in 16 games.

William Selfe played with maturity and skill all season that belied his years (he is in the fourth form) and will be a real prospect for the years to come. Jack Renner and Beanie Isles have worked hard in midfield and they too come back next year. The defence was outstanding. Hugo Balfour at left defender was voted by his team-mates as their most improved player; Paddy Selfe proved a strong and reliable presence in the right back area and often supported the attack. George Berthon and Kit Regan at centre back were both reliable and creative and will play very important roles in next year's team. Ed Rogers in goal had a great season; he took his opportunity and made some fantastic match-winning saves.

It was a real pleasure to coach this group and I would like to thank them for all their hard work on and off the training pitch. They have been committed to being successful and we all had great fun.

Rob Hill

SHERBORNE PILGRIMS CLUB

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2007**

General Fund	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income:</i>				
Subscriptions	2,213		1,895	
Bank interest	1,179		1,063	
	<u> </u>	3,392	<u> </u>	2,958
 <i>Expenditure:</i>				
Audit	100		100	
Postage and secretarial	1,287		900	
Cricket	3,343		744	
Cross Country	40		40	
Hockey	20		20	
Rugby	100		35	
Squash	25		50	
	<u> </u>	(4,915)	<u> </u>	(1,889)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		(1,523)		1,069
General Fund at April 1		(17,258)		(18,327)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		(1,523)		1,069
General Fund at March 31		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		(18,781)		(17,258)
 President's Fund				
		2007		2006
		£		£
President's Fund at April 1		47,041		44,655
Donations for the year		2,075		2,386
President's Fund at March 31		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		49,116		47,041

BALANCE SHEET AT MARCH 31 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
Cash at bank	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	30,335	29,783
Represented by:		
General Fund	(18,781)	(17,258)
President's Fund	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	49,116	47,041
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	30,335	29,783

I have examined the books and papers of the Sherborne Pilgrims Club presented to me and report that the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31 2007 and Balance Sheet at that date are in accordance with this information.

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

April 12 2007

**THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE
2007**

PRESIDENT

P J Lough

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

D C Watney

VICE-PRESIDENTS

H C K Archer and A D Leakey

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE

Retiring 2007

R A Bagnall
J L B Cheung
N M Lamb
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

Retiring 2009

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

PRESIDENT

P J Lough
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EDITOR

R Hands
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HON TREASURER

R H Green

CLUB WEBSITE

www.sherbornepilgrims.co.uk

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School switchboard 01935 812249

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

FOUNDER G M Carey

PRESIDENTS

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

TRUSTEES

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

HON TREASURERS

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

VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

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

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.