

SHERBORNE

PILGRIMS

2009

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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

Sometimes we don't always pay due acknowledgement to those good things we have. I was reminded of this old nostrum last month when presented with a copy of W B Wildman's *A Short History of Sherborne*. While Wildman's prose style has not always weathered well in the intervening century or so since it was first published, his judgments and his analysis remain sound. Here is an extract headed "Playing Fields":

"Apart from this slight disadvantage of being five minutes and more from some boarding houses they challenge comparison alike in spaciousness and in beauty with those of any school in the country. The older field [the Upper] has been used since the early years of Dr Harper's Headmastership [1850 to 1877]. It was first only rented by the Governors, but in 1900 the Rev E M Young, formerly Headmaster, bequeathed to the School a portion which belonged to him, with the wise condition that the Governors should purchase the remainder. Money was raised by subscription for this purpose, and the field [originally called Young's, and now the all-weather area] became the property of the School in 1902.

"The newer and larger field was bought by the Governors in 1913, and succeeding generations of boys have assisted the ground staff in the work of levelling. This work was completed in 1928, when its immediate attractiveness was increased and its future beauty ensured by the planting of many trees and flowering shrubs. It was then officially named 'Carey's' in memory of the master who had done so much for the games of the School."

The vast expanse of green fields that have greeted generations of Shirburnians since has been much used and much enjoyed, even if there are those that still shudder slightly at the memory of the coldest of winter winds in the farthest reaches of Carey's, unprotected as they largely are from raw elements. The generosity of one former headmaster – and it should be recalled that Young left the job in unhappy circumstances only eight years earlier, arguably rendering that generosity all the more beneficent – and the wisdom of the Governors in procuring land when it was available and unsullied by grasping developers has been amply rewarded down the years.

All of us Pilgrims should be thankful for that. Whether, like me, your games at Sherborne were more often on Carey's than on the Upper or Lower, or whether your presence was rarely to be found away from the Upper, those fields towards the southwest of the town are much prized and much cherished. They have provided a platform for games players from the middle of the 19th century to the present day – and will continue to do so as the 21st century matures.

This brings me neatly to an article that follows these notes. The name Paul Miles may not be recognisable to many Pilgrims yet. If his ambition and his track record are anything to go by, that will change – and change soon. Having met him in London last year, I could sense the enthusiasm of an excitable puppy but also the steel of a man who wants to leave his mark. This combination should be to the lasting benefit of Sherborne sport, as Paul's article indicates. It is an excellent appointment by Simon Eliot and I fully expect him to continue in the same vein of the sporting work that G M Carey and Micky Walford, in times long past, and that Mikes Davis and Nurton, among others, oversaw at the School.

It seems very much, then, that the health of sport at the School is rude, and getting ruder. The reports of the respective major-sport seasons starting on page 30 would bear that assessment out. So what then of the Pilgrims year?

Rude, too, I think. The Cricketer Cup side take the *victor ludorum*, with their splendid run to the semi-finals of the competition, equalling the Club's best performance. I commend to all Pilgrims, even those who are not keen cricketers, the reports of the four games played last summer, written by Mike Nurton. They are entertaining pieces in their own right, as one has come to expect of the MDN style. Andy Nurton and his team were, in the end, just lacking that extra edge of experience to get past the Old Malvernians (the eventual winners) in the semi-final. But the core of the successful XI of 2007 moved seamlessly into Pilgrims sweaters last summer and we hope for a repeat performance and better in 2009, starting against Oundle Rovers on June 14 on the Upper. Last year was a difficult summer for actually playing cricket, in terms of the amount of rain, but Pete Langly-Smith did an impressive organisational job for the Club – and scored runs, too.

Proxime accessit would have to be shared by the hockey and rugby players who, although they do not have the focal point of a competition such as the Cricketer Cup, none the less have been growing in number and fixtures. And the hockey players, with Jimmy McKillop's hard work bearing fruit, did carry off a trophy – the inaugural Haileybury Cup. Jimmy and Nick Cook, on the rugby side, have been hugely diligent in arranging matches and bringing Pilgrims and OS to the Club colours, and our thanks must go to these two young Pilgrims for their industry.

Farther down the batting order, mention should be made in dispatches of the good result on Wimbledon Common for the cross-country team in December. Surely the day cannot long be off when the Sherborne colours take the honours in southwest London? The Club's gratitude, as always, goes to any Pilgrim who organises sport – it only gets harder in a claustrophobic era.

The date of the Club's AGM is Saturday October 17, in the JCR in Sherborne at 12.15pm. Following the AGM there will be a buffet lunch in the JCR at 12.30. An application form is enclosed, and details will also be on the website. The XV will

be playing Cheltenham that day – please do come along if you can. My thanks as ever go to Charles Eglinton and Barbara Spencer for their work in helping me to produce this booklet.

I'll end on a philosophical note. The recession that has ravaged most economies around the world over recent times looks likely to have a sweeping and chilling effect on top-flight sport. Already sponsorship deals are in the balance or ended, punters are being more careful about buying tickets and smaller professional clubs are staring bankruptcy and closure in the face. Anyone who cares about sport will be concerned at how the landscape will look in, say, two years' time.

The ill wind of global financial trauma may produce a benign outcome for clubs such as the Pilgrims. Playing sport for the Club costs little, with the help of subsidies for the younger members, but generates plenty in terms of goodwill, friendship and social interaction. It has ever been thus, of course, and the elder statesmen of the Club will have seen recessions come and go. It is up to all of us to ensure that, while it may be difficult in the real world, playing for the Pilgrims retains the joy and laughter – and the relief from external tensions – that sometimes only sport can provide.

Robert Hands
April 2009

THE VISION OF SPORT AT SHERBORNE

There are many high spots that can be identified when one looks at the long and illustrious history of Sherborne sport. However, during the last 18 months, and for the next few years, plans are afoot to ensure that foundations are built to enable high spots to be so regular that they merge into what will be a sustainable golden era of sport.

There is no question that Shirburnians are talented, and over the last 18 months, as a result of the positive atmosphere around sport and the motivation from coaches, they are beginning to realise their potential and be confident performers. The injection of enthusiasm comes with elements of change, whether it is of kit, to refresh the School's look on the pitch, a redeployment or appointment of staff. The last of these has been crucial: we have an assistant director of sport and mentor of elite sportsmen; a new director of rugby; masters in charge of association football, athletics, squash, swimming; all of which works towards delivering a vibrant and rigorous environment for boys to achieve their best.

There are sports new to Sherborne and sports that have been reintroduced, including fencing, judo, cycling and badminton; but all operate with the same status and backing that is so essential to create the right attitude among Shirburnians. There are many opportunities for a breadth of experience as well as for competition and excellence. The package is made complete with a strategy for touring. For example, the Under-16 cricketers have been in Kerala, India, and the 1st XI cricket squad are looking forward to going to Australia in December.

Participation levels are up, as is the level of coaching, and it is clear that performances are improving and excellence is already evident in many sports. The coaching still comes largely from the Senior Common Room and, with assistance from the Foundation, a coaching fund is being created so that we can respond to any need for help. This has already allowed for the employment of a conditioning coach who, along with the new training regime that begins in the third form, is contributing to changes in body shape and more boys being fitter and stronger. It is also worth noting that there were 30 per cent fewer injuries during the Michaelmas term compared to the previous year. The Foundation Sports Working Group, put together with the help of Adrian Ballard, has brought together an excellent and committed group of sporting Shirburnians. Their sporting prowess, as well as a vast amount of experience, will be a great support to our plans. Opportunities that have already come about from the group include a ski team, world-class coaching at London Wasps, access to Olympic athletes, conditioning training for staff from Margot Wells, with fundraising opportunities and functions at Twickenham and the School to raise the profile of sport.

Facilities are being upgraded and so far we have fourteen artificial cricket nets (and six bowling machines), a newly laid cricket square, a high jump fan, a javelin run-up, a second Astro turf pitch and a new weight training area to enable specific conditioning work.

Recruitment of Third Form boys has been a focus. Eleven talented boys, including several with regional or better experience, will be joining the School. Links are also being developed for those leaving the School, whether it is an opportunity in, say, South Africa during a gap year, when looking to play at university or for a new club.

The future is bright, but we must aim to identify weakness, or areas for improvement, and consolidate the changes. We must continue to ensure that each Shirburnian can realise his potential, and that Sherborne becomes the school associated with sporting excellence.

Paul Miles, Director of Sport

NEW MEMBERS

Applications were received from the following leavers in July 2008:

A T P Atkins (c) C S R	A W Koban (g) R T S
N C Batchelor (f) R S	W M Leith (b) R H
G H Berthon (a) R H C	J B MacIver (b) R H T
A B Bulman (a) T	C W C C Maclaren (c) C S
H B R Cullis (m) S R C	H L Madley (a) H C R
J D H Duncan (a) S T	F G Mills (m) R S C
J E Eddlestone (b) H	L F T Nunes da Costa (g) R S G
J W W Excell (e) R H C	W C D Odgers (e) C S R
T J Franks (f) S	T A W Oxenham (c) S R
J W J Hamlyn (a) R S	J E D Pearmund (m) C R
W G Hooper (e) S C H	J W Pringle (a) S R
D J Horwood (b) R	A M Rance (e) R C
J R E Irving (d) C G S	K M Regan (b) H R S
P E S Isles (g) R H C G S	J E M Renner (b) H C R
J F L Jacobsen (a) S	J P Titchin (e) C F S
S J C Jenks (c) R G C H	A W Titley (b) H C S
O W Kesley (a) G C R	J C Turner (a) C C A R
J E Kipling (a) H G C T R	C E Whitcombe (m) C C R A
H W Knudsen (g) C C R	H H M Williams (a) R A S

A – Athletics	F - Fives	R - Rugby
C - Cricket	G - Golf	S - Soccer
CC - Cross Country	H - Hockey	T - Tennis

Honorary members: Mrs Sheila Harding and R Hodder-Williams

OBITUARY

T L Brayne (a 40), A Curtis Evans (d 57), C R Dawnay (b 51), D I Gillespie (g 51), J A S Neave (d 37), R L G Peek (c 46), J R L Scammell (c 37), J R Tozer (a 47), J M Wingfield Digby (b 56)

MANAGERS

Cricket: Peter Langly-Smith: 07861 380431 (M)
peter.langly-smith@prupim.com

Cross Country: Ed Pitt Ford: 07769 773368 (M) tep05@ic.ac.uk

Fives: David Kirk: 07772 087817 (M) dnk@bham.ac.uk

Hockey: Jimmy McKillop: 07899 075338 (M) jmckillop@savills.com
Rugby: Nick Cook: 07739 147775 (M) nickcook8@yahoo.com
Soccer: Don Cameron: 01935 813678 (H) dcameron@sherborne.org
Squash: Nick Lamb: 07720 772138 (M) nickmlamb@yahoo.co.uk
Tennis

CRICKET 2008

Played 11; Won 5; Drawn 3; Lost 3; Abandoned 4; Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 4, v Radley Rangers, at Radley

Radley Rangers 168 (J N Dampney 5-59);
Sherborne Pilgrims 123-9 (C R Langton 5-18). Drawn

Radley won the toss and elected to bat. Dampney struck with the fourth ball, brilliantly deceiving the batsmen in his length and setting the tone for the Pilgrims. Tight bowling from Lamb and Dampney continued to frustrate the top order, who eventually got out playing big shots too early on. The danger man, Dalrymple, was a culprit of the building pressure and he eventually skied one off Dampney.

The morning swung towards the Pilgrims further as Nurton and Marks replaced the openers, and didn't let Radley settle. Nurton bowled seven overs, in which the batsmen only scored from four balls, taking two wickets in the process, proving that line and length cause more problems for batsmen than pace and bounce.

Radley were not allowed to get hold of the bowlers after lunch, and Dampney and Lamb finished things off between a brief break for rain. Lamb picked up two wickets, just reward for his fruitless efforts with the new ball, and Dampney took another three, finishing with a tally of five. This was Dampney's debut for the Club but it was a mature display, although of little surprise given that he has been playing competitive club cricket since returning from his travels.

Radley niggled their way to 168, which considering the strong batting line-up presented the Pilgrims with a fantastic chance to chase the runs down. Langly-Smith and Esson were looking to provide a solid foundation. Powell did not make Langly-Smith look comfortable and it was no surprise when he nicked one to the keeper for 12. Charlie Gammell came to the crease to join Esson, who was beginning to find the gaps. The Pilgrims were 40 for one at tea and sitting

comfortably, however, they were unable to build on the strong start. Esson departed first ball after tea, trapped leg-before on his crease and McKillop joined Gammell. McKillop's first ball was followed by a loud appeal but the umpire must have been feeling kind, although his generosity was short-lived with McKillop adjudged leg-before the very next ball. The Rangers were gaining momentum and the game was well poised with the Pilgrims on 39 for three.

Ned Gammell was given the responsibility of steadying the ship and joined his brother in the middle. Both looked in good form, running well and playing some fine shots through the off side. Charlie Gammell was then brilliantly caught in the deep with the scoreboard on 64 and the game had swung back in Radley's favour. Hope was caught behind without troubling the scorers and Bramble was next up, coming in at seven but with the need for a runner.

Bramble and Marks brought up three figures and took the Pilgrims to 117 before the pressure mounted and with the confusion of the runner Marks was a few feet short on a second run, while Bramble was caught behind having played a colourful innings. The Pilgrims simply didn't have enough runs on the board and were never really looking like getting close to the Radley total. As wickets continued to fall, the priority became one of saving the game.

McKillop, from the pavilion, did his best to ensure the result went in Radley's favour when, with nine balls remaining, he announced that there "is no possible way we could lose". The bowler thought otherwise and bowled Lamb a slow lofty full toss which had the desired effect. Nurton took control and with Dampney joining him, survived the remaining eight balls.

Sunday June 1, v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough Abandoned - rain

Sunday June 15, v Bradfield Waifs, Cricketer Cup first round, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 223-9 (E R Atkins 59, S A Crawford 53);

Bradfield Waifs 105 (A D Nurton 6-13). Won by 118 runs

Bradfield Waifs elected to field as the sun shone on the Upper. Will Kendall must have been having second thoughts when the Pilgrims raced to 30 from four overs. Jimmy Adams had contributed four to the total of 36 after eight overs when he was bowled by Kendall – a situation he might have only experienced before when batting with the likes of Kevin Pietersen. Charlie Esson's timing was impressive as he reached the cover boundary on three occasions. He was then adjudged caught behind down the leg side after the umpire had considered his verdict for a surprisingly long time. Jack Jenkins quickly departed for one, caught at slip and Charlie Cooke followed soon, bowled hitting across a straight half-volley.

At 42 for four, Ed Atkins joined Seamus Crawford knowing that they faced the difficult situation of having to keep the score moving without losing another wicket. Crawford fortunately does not suffer from insomnia, even on the back seat of a car. He soon demonstrated his ability to play straight and hit the bad ball to the boundary. Atkins emphasised the need for a good cricket brain by controlling his natural instinct to hit boundaries, while still not allowing the bowlers to dominate. It was a particularly testing time against the bowling of the veteran Peter Came, whose flighted off spin threatened the reception from satellite TV. There is a lesson to be learnt here and that is never to treat bowling lightly, and, no matter how bad it may appear, always play the strict game, and play every ball in the same way as if it had been delivered by the best bowler of the day. The partnership between these two produced 97 extremely valuable runs in relatively quick time before Crawford hit a long-hop to extra cover having just passed fifty. His excellent innings contained six fours and a six.

Charlie Dowdall may have lost his ponytail but not his ability to manoeuvre the ball into gaps. He departed for nine, hitting the ball to the only fielder saving a run on the off side. Captain Andy Nurton joined Atkins when there were still 11 overs left, and it was crucial that the Pilgrims were not bowled out before their full allocation of 50. Atkins's important innings ended when he attempted a run that was probably not possible unless your name was Bolt. His performance certainly demonstrated how crucial it is to have genuine batsmen in the middle order who know how to bat in different ways depending on the circumstances.

Humphrey Gibbs also succumbed to being run out for nine, as he took a second run to a fielder on the boundary. Henry Lamb was yet another run-out casualty as he called for an ill-advised quick single and it was left to Nurton and Jonty Dampney to add 32 useful runs for the last wicket. The former ended on 23 not out and the latter 13 not out. The total of 223 was competitive and achieved by sensible batting, good running and, at times, some mediocre bowling.

Lamb opened the bowling from the Pavilion End after a break for rain and soon made the ball thud into the wicketkeeper's gloves from various angles. Lamb is involved in betting these days; I wonder what odds he would offer on himself on bowling six straight balls? Dampney bowled from the Westbury End and needed to adjust his radar before settling into a rhythm. When Adams replaced Lamb he represented a constant menace to the batsmen. Gibbs took over from the far end and completed a tidy spell of ten overs, taking one for 32.

Nurton employed himself from the Pavilion End and after a couple of looseners took complete control of proceedings. Kendall, the experienced ex-Hampshire player, was the main threat and after being comprehensively beaten past the

outside edge of the bat by Nurton on several occasions, he attempted to force the ball on the leg side only to get a leading edge and lob the ball to mid-on. All the remaining batsmen struggled to negotiate the accuracy and swing of Nurton, who finished with figures of six for 13 from ten overs (two wides and one no-ball included in the runs tally). After Dowdall picked up a wicket with his off spin, Adams mopped up the tail by taking the final wicket and finished proceedings with figures of two for nine from 6.3 overs.

This was an impressive performance by all members of the team. The fielding was outstanding with some excellent catches being taken and a sharp stumping by Cooke. What a pity we cannot publish fielding averages! The foundations for victory had been built with the bat and the job was completed professionally and ruthlessly in the field. Even Crawford managed to make a couple of tumbling saves at mid-off.

Saturday June 28, v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne School 250-9 (H H O Cheal 79; H W F Gibbs 4-72);
Sherborne Pilgrims 182. Lost by 68 runs

The School won the toss and elected to bat, perhaps confident after a strong finish to what had been a challenging season. By lunch the decision looked questionable. The Pilgrims had dominated the first session, with the score 132 for five at lunch after 32 overs, so the sizeable total after 50 overs reassured the School camp that the correct call was made.

Rydon and Gibbs were given the new ball and exerted good pressure right from the start. The square had been re-laid over the winter and Rydon, steaming in down the hill, managed to get one or two to hit the keeper's gloves, while Gibbs remained disciplined with his lines. Gibbs was first to strike, twice in an over, removing Cooke and Smibert to leave the School on 35 for two. Tom Atkins continued to play sensibly but was soon clean bowled by a jaffa from Rydon to give him his first scalp of the day and whet his appetite for a few more. Haycock and Gammell bowled a few overs before lunch and the game was finely balanced, with the Pilgrims fully aware that a couple more wickets could trigger a minor collapse, but equally a good innings from any of the middle order could frustrate the Pilgrims.

Cheal decided that he was the one to frustrate the old boys, and formed the backbone of the School's innings. Despite the relatively slow scoring rate before lunch, in the five overs afterwards he hit a brisk 35 to get the scoreboard closer to the desired 200. Few of the School failed to record scores and there was a 54-run tenth-wicket partnership, which effectively took the game away from the Pilgrims. Achieving a total of 250 on such a large ground was commendable.

Both Ed Atkins and Langly-Smith can hit the ball well but the dream start never materialised. While both managed to survive the opening overs, some of which included fairly hostile bowling from Peatfield in particular, neither could keep the scorers busy. Both departed cheaply and without any firm foundations having been laid, the game was always being chased. Gammell, Lewis and Marks all got starts and chipped in with much-needed runs but no one was able to provide the spine of the innings. The School bowled well, held their catches and played aggressively, finally bowling the Pilgrims out for 182.

Sunday June 29, v Old Whitgiftians, Cricketer Cup second round, at Whitgift
Sherborne Pilgrims 339-6 (C A R Esson 151 not out, J H K Adams 60);
Old Whitgiftians 132. Won by 207 runs

If the result was not a foregone conclusion, the probable course of the game was evident before a ball was bowled. The Pilgrims all arrived in good time and conducted their preparations in a thoroughly professional manner. The Old Whitgiftians arrived minutes before the start, suggesting that buckets and spades might be more useful than bats and pads.

The Pilgrims elected to bat and immediately roles were reversed from the previous game. Jimmy Adams launched into some loose bowling and took full advantage of fielding that invariably used the second line of defence before the first. Boots were used for trapping, rather than running. Adams was stumped when his score was 60 from 38 balls and 48 minutes.

Esson awoke from an apparent coma to strike his first boundary in the fourth over. From then he went from strength to strength, scoring off both front and back foot on both sides of the wicket. He was undefeated for 151 at the end of 50 overs. This was the fourth century scored by a Pilgrim in the Cricketer Cup and by far the highest. Bob Tozer scored the first hundred by any player in the competition in 1967, and it was some years before Ben Atwell and, more recently, Charlie Warren achieved the feat. Esson has the class to score many more runs in and against better opposition. He enjoys batting as much as most Pilgrims enjoy a good beer.

Jack Jenkins fell to the same mode of dismissal, caught at slip, as he did against Bradfield. Charlie Cooke played to cover leaning back and was caught without troubling the scorers. Ed Atkins then played his natural attacking game before attempting to clear long-on and being caught for 23. Andy Searson, appearing in his second Cricketer Cup game, made an accomplished 31. Andy Nurton then scored 30 from 17 balls with some glorious cover drives. A total of 339 for six was, by some margin, the highest score by the Pilgrims in this competition, 287 for five being the previous highest total against Harrow in 2002.

Adams and Lamb shared the new ball at the start of the Old Whitgiftians' innings. Adams kept the ball well up to the bat and relied on movement in the air, whereas Lamb banged the ball in short, as if to demonstrate that the helmet was unlikely to go out of fashion. Lamb made life particularly uncomfortable for the early batsmen and was soon rewarded with the wicket of Cooper.

Dampney relieved Adams and struck twice, removing Smith and Pearce. Nurton bowled with uncharacteristic width early on before settling into a rhythm and beating the bat with monotonous regularity. He finished with three for 28. Adams polished off the tail with two for 28 and the opposition were bowled out for 132.

Sunday July 6, Twenty20 tournament, at Bryanston Abandoned - rain

Monday July 7, v Sherborne C C, at Sherborne Abandoned - rain

Tuesday July 8, v Butterflies, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 254-6 (P F C Langly-Smith 71, C S G Cooke 57);
Butterflies 179. Won by 75 runs

With huge puddles engulfing the wide expanse of the Upper, the postage stamp that is Pitch 1 was to be the venue for the first match of the Week. It proved far too small a playing area for the clean-striking Langly-Smith, who blasted his way to a 50-ball 71. Power married with such sublime timing is quite some combination. Pugh is a classical batsman with grace and panache. Many batsmen can claim to have the cover drive in their armoury, but there are few who play it with the deft nonchalance of this tailor-made No 3 batsman. In partnership with Langly-Smith, the wet wicket was tamed and life was made to look frighteningly easy.

The captain had requested 130 for one at lunch. 130 was achieved. Job done (one might have thought). The perfect foundation had been established, on top of which the middle order would be able not so much to explode from but to disintegrate from... not many other teams have mastered the art of the batting collapse quite as well as the Pilgrims and this occasion saw it demonstrated in all its glory. Perhaps it was the incongruous diamond ear-ring worn by the Butterflies change bowler that distracted the batsmen; in any case 110 for one became 118 for five. Enter Nurton and Cooke, who gripped the situation. Blending strokeplay with cunning nurdles, more than 100 was put on post-lunch for the sixth wicket and the crowd was treated to a barrage of delightful drives and pulls in the closing overs. 254 had been posted in just 40 overs.

Clifton and Willis opened the bowling and threatened with almost every ball. Making use of the green-top, they revelled in the attacking fields and the sniff of victory was in the air from the early moments. Gibbs, having mimicked a lame

giraffe when fielding for the opposition for 10 overs, sprang to life and pulled off a wonderful run out (the perfect hustle) which sent back their opener for nought.

Clifton went on to blow away the top order with his outswing - just doing enough off the pitch and in the air to catch the edge. Many others contributed with the ball - Pugh showed lovely shape and Gibbs was miserly with his off-spin darts fired in from a height. Thorne proved a key weapon and just as he had predicted, his performance did resemble Botham in the early Eighties. Victory was ours and the unbeaten run in the Week was intact.

Wednesday July 9, v Bryanston Butterflies, at Sherborne Abandoned - rain

Thursday July 10, v Milton Abbey Hornets, at Milton Abbey

Sherborne Pilgrims 106;

Milton Abbey Hornets 108-8 (J E Kipling 4-17). Lost by 2 wickets

This was always likely to be a low-scoring match, but having seen the pitch while batting, the Pilgrims believed that the total of 106 was defendable and certainly not as weak as the statistics show. This was illustrated by the close finish, with the winning shot coming off the penultimate ball. The low scores proved what challenging conditions the game had been played under.

In Twenty20 the result can be decided in one over, one moment or one decision. Neither team bowled, batted or fielded better than the other, but the Pilgrims did not keep their strike bowlers back for the closing overs, choosing instead to bowl Irvine, who despite having bowled well in previous overs, was never going to be able to stop the Hornets getting four from the last over.

Friday July 11, v Canford Cygnets, at Sherborne

Canford Cygnets 57. Drawn – rain

Having suffered a rain-affected week, everyone was hopeful of completing a full day's play in order to finish the Week on a high. Canford won the toss and elected to bat. On a damp Upper they were soon regretting the decision as the bowlers set about causing problems for the visiting side. The Pilgrims produced a near faultless display; the only hiccup was an over from Nick Southwell which consisted of wides for four consecutive deliveries.

Canford were restricted to 57 after only 29 overs. Wickets were continuously falling at both ends as all five bowlers utilised the overcast conditions to the maximum. Canford could be blamed for reckless batting; however, more credit should be given to the Pilgrims attack. Sadly the rain came down over lunch, the Upper was saturated from the endless rain throughout the week, and we were

unable to resume. Cricket Week ended as it had started, with plenty of rain, but with spirits lifted by an impressive bowling display.

Sunday July 13, v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge Cancelled

Sunday July 13, Cricketer Cup third round, v Haileybury Hermits, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 260-8 (J H K Adams 108, C A R Esson 101;

N J C Gandon 5-50);

Haileybury Hermits 168 (N G E Walker 86). Won by 92 runs

Haileybury arrived with only ten men and a captain who had represented both Derbyshire and Leicestershire, primarily as a “pinch-hitter” in one-day cricket. The Hermits skipper also arrived with a reputation. He had scored a century from 36 balls in a previous round of the Cricketer Cup and a tendency to turn a cricket match into gang warfare.

His first success was to win the toss and invite the Pilgrims to take first use of what looked an easy-paced wicket. He took the new ball himself and presented immediate problems to Esson in particular, who struggled against the ball moving away from the bat. There is probably no greater premium on temperament for a batsman than for any player in any branch of sport. Esson appears unmoved by the histrionics of either bowlers or fielders and if nerves play as an important part in batsmanship as skill, his are constructed of the proverbial steel.

Having Adams as a partner is also a calming influence. You never intimidate a good player. When the effects of the new ball had worn off, runs began to flow freely and spectators were treated to an exhibition of strokeplay. The opening partnership had reached more than 200 before Adams was run out as a result of a total misunderstanding over a second run. His 108 was scored from 113 balls, took 145 minutes and included 9 fours. Adams’ idea of bliss might be to bat all night, having batted all day. His contribution to the success of the Pilgrims team this season both on and off the field cannot be overstated. The only surprise was that this century was his first on the Upper. Esson completed his century – his second in successive matches – from 136 balls in 180 minutes and it included 8 fours.

As in earlier games it was the middle order that failed to capitalise on such a good start. Gandon proceeded to take five wickets bowling a mixture of high full tosses, lobes and slow long hops. As so often when a spinner comes on, the batsman’s eyes go round like dollar signs on a fruit machine. It is imperative to watch the ball and hit straight rather than rush down the wicket and slog across the line with head in the air. At this stage of the game, six singles in an over without the loss of a wicket

is preferable to one boundary and the loss of two wickets. The Pilgrims total of 260 could and should have been at least 20 or 30 more. It was, however, a total they would have settled for at the start.

You could see by Nick Walker's walk to the wicket, like a terrier out for a stroll in a neighbourhood bristling with bigger dogs that he was ready for a fight and not afraid of his ability to look after himself. He proceeded to dispatch the ball to all parts of the Upper. It was an example of the theory that you don't need footwork in batting, just hands and eye. It is difficult to bowl to a player who hits the ball so hard and with such certainty, especially with fielding restrictions in for the first 15 overs. He gave one easy caught-and-bowled chance to Gibbs, who had replaced Adams after his first two overs, which was not taken and it appeared that Walker might win the game almost single-handedly. Eventually he did play one shot too many and dragged a ball from Gibbs onto his stumps. His 50 came from 27 balls and in only 33 minutes, and he was eventually dismissed for 86. It was a breathtaking demonstration of controlled, clean hitting and vividly demonstrated how such a performance can dramatically change the nature of a game – some might even suggest spoil a game!

But all credit to the Pilgrims who stuck to their task despite the onslaught. Stewart, who had witnessed the destruction wrought by Walker from the other end, survived two chances off Nurton before departing for 34. Thereafter it was somewhat of a procession. Haileybury were dismissed for 168. Clifton was the pick of the bowlers with three for 14 from 6.4 overs. Adams took three for 37 and Gibbs three for 47.

Sunday July 20 v Haileybury Hermits, at Haileybury

Sherborne Pilgrims 297-5 (P F C Langly-Smith 102, D Payne-Cook 59, M M A Hope 54 not out); Haileybury Hermits 233. Won by 64 runs

The proximity of the ground to London makes it ideal for many Pilgrims and the level of cricket and spirit in which it was played makes it a fabulous day out. Extra spice was added given that the sides had met the previous week in the Cricketer Cup quarter-final. The Hermits were out for revenge.

Batting first in a 50-over match, Langly-Smith and Richard Dowdall gave the team the perfect start, putting 50 on the board for the first wicket. Dowdall's shot to get off the mark was out of the very top drawer as the ball was caressed through the off side to the foot of the pavilion. The Hermits' flag was finally raised after 45 minutes and the very next ball saw two wickets fall in quick succession. Enter Payne-Cook (a guest) and a wondrous stand of 125 was put on. Powerful blows either side of the wicket and especially severe on anything with width, Payne-Cook flowed to 59, only to be castled shortly after lunch.

Langly-Smith was in the form of his life. His second hundred of the summer was made inside 35 overs and his wagon wheel illustrated shots all round the wicket. He batted with sense and appropriate flair whenever the delivery allowed. The Hermits bowlers did not learn quickly enough that bowling short at Langly-Smith will not bear fruit - he roared to his century at more than a run a ball.

Hope entered the fray with 15 overs to go. With 200 already on the board for the loss of four wickets, one might think it was an easy time to bat, but anyone who understands the game properly will appreciate that it is in fact a very tricky time to enter proceedings. Pilgrims of experience have seen numerous collapses from positions of such apparent strength. Hope batted with impressive nous and brutal efficiency for an excellent, unbeaten half-century. Along with Dowdall senior, 95 runs were added in the final ten overs.

It was mentioned that Edlmann does nothing without 100 per cent effort and asking for a fourth slip might be described as overly eager, bearing in mind only two balls in the opening over actually pitched on the wicket! However, his run-up for his second spell was off twice the length and he produced a raw and threatening thrust. In short bursts he can be a truly potent weapon. Payne-Cook bowled a good line and his partnership with Kipling exerted pressure from both ends. Both bowled with discipline and no little skill, wobbling it in the air and nipping it both in and away off the seam. Three wickets were snaffled before tea, Kipling removing two real danger men. 105 for three after 20 overs was just the job.

Enter the spin twins - the key period of the game: Haileybury's form batsmen at the crease and Sherborne's magicians with ball in hand. Charlie Dowdall and Ed Benbow had not bowled in tandem since the glorious summer of 1996 and it was a treat to see the guile and know-how of these two experienced campaigners weaving their magic. Dowdall span the ball sharply into the right hander and Benbow found in-drift and sharp away-turn from the bat. A "Benbow beauty" snaffled their key player - luring him down the wicket only to be stumped by the sharp work of Tom Dowdall behind the stumps. The whole balance of power shifted the way of the Pilgrims. Haycock revved up his medium pace to mop up the tail and the game was up for the Hermits, losing their last wicket in the 46th over.

Sunday July 27, v Old Malvernians, Cricketer Cup semi-final, at Malvern
Old Malvernians 271-7 (W M Gifford 99);
Sherborne Pilgrims 171. Lost by 100 runs

"Greatness is finally revealed not so much in success as in the response to failure." The Cricketer Cup campaign viewed in its entirety was successful. Few people would have predicted the progress made with a young and inexperienced side. The importance of the above quote is the obvious potential for this squad of players to

develop into a team capable of improving and challenging any side in the competition over the next few years. The response required is what was talked about after this game. Every individual must make the effort to continue to play regularly at the highest level possible. And it will require an effort for those moving away to university – there are many distractions, some of which might appear more attractive at the time. Practise as much as you can to improve areas of your game but don't get paranoid. Always keep in mind the immortal words of Gary Player; "The harder I practise, the luckier I become." Keep yourself fit. Don't regret anything – you're only young once and you can't buy youth.

Malvern College is a most attractive setting and the main cricket pitch is surrounded by magnificent views of the Malvern Hills. The pitch was in perfect condition. The sort of "track" that Fred Trueman would have suggested building a row of houses across to avoid his career ending within 12 months. Malvern elected to bat and the first ball of the innings was dispatched to the boundary for four. Immediately alarm bells sounded. Was this to be another Walker-like innings? However, Andy Nurton and Jimmy Adams soon settled into a rhythm and bowled with excellent control. Nurton beat the bat on numerous occasions and was desperately unlucky not to have claimed more than the one victim. He will bowl far worse on other occasions and have more to show for his efforts. Malvern were pegged back scoring at less than four an over until the final ten overs. Gifford, who has had opportunities at Worcestershire, cut loose with support from Griffiths and increased the rate for them to end on 271 for seven. All the Pilgrim bowlers stuck to their task in the heat of the day. There were very few loose balls and even fewer wides, if perhaps too many full tosses towards the end of the innings. The main lesson from this was the importance of the batting side having wickets intact going into the last ten overs.

This is so important and something emphasised throughout the season. In order to achieve this situation it is absolutely essential that someone at the top of the order plays a big innings. One of the top four must look to bat for at least 40 overs and even the full 50 overs. Gifford incidentally reached 99 before being bowled by Gibbs. Charlie Dowdall had the distinction of claiming his only first-class victim when he bowled Hardinges of Gloucestershire. In years to come it won't be a full toss but a vicious off-break!

Special mention must be made of the Pilgrims fielding – it was outstanding. Although every player cannot be an all-rounder in the fullest sense of the term, there is no reason at all why all cricketers should not be able to hold their own in the field. Two particular highlights in this game were the run-out by Jack Jenkins, who threw down the stumps from square leg with only one stump to aim at and the brilliant stumping by Charlie Cooke down the leg side from a wide ball. Cooke has been consistently outstanding and must surely come to the notice of those involved

in the higher levels of the game. It is impossible to estimate too highly the qualities that make up a good wicketkeeper. It demands the quickest of eye, the staunchest of nerve, the steadiest of purpose, the most unflinching of resolution.

The Pilgrims made a solid start with Adams looking in fine form and Esson playing with assurance. One hook shot by Adams off Hardinges had all the qualities of a bullet being fired from a gun. When the total reached 70, Adams reached for a wide ball and was well caught by the keeper. Esson soon followed pushing back to the bowler to be caught and bowled. Tom Dowdall joined Jenkins and started a rebuilding operation but, against some very tight bowling and athletic fielding, found progress difficult and gradually the required run rate increased. Jenkins was stumped for 19 and Dowdall departed for an elegant 24. Ed Atkins then made a brave attempt at restoring the side's fortunes before being run out for 33. By this time it was a lost cause and the last few wickets fell cheaply. 171 was disappointing but credit to Malvern for tight bowling and astute field placings.

Finally, a word of gratitude to Sheila Harding, who has been the scorer for every game this year, and keeps an immaculate book. Without her help it would be difficult to write these reports. We are all delighted that Sheila is now an Honorary member of the Club.

Sunday August 3, v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford

Sherborne Pilgrims 335-5 dec (P F C Langly-Smith 196, E R Atkins 84)

Hampshire Hogs 35-2. Drawn – rain

There were two major differences between this game and the same fixture over the last three seasons. First, it was not the hottest day of the British summer; instead it was overcast and damp. Second, the Hogs won the toss but elected to field. Would a change in tradition bring about a change in the run of results?

Atkins and Langly-Smith opened the batting and both were still going at lunch, much to the frustration of the Hogs, with the scoreboard showing 137 for no wicket. Atkins is a tough man to bowl to, he is a determined player that loves scoring runs and anything too full or short is likely to be punished and punished severely. Langly-Smith managed to stay put after being dropped in the second over and enjoyed taking advantage of some indifferent bowling.

Atkins was the first to fall after lunch, nicking one from the leg spin of Foyle, departing for a superb 84, in an opening partnership of 203. Hope, who had been waiting in the pavilion for some time, joined Langly-Smith, who brought up his three figures soon after. The scorers remained busy as Hope got settled and Langly-Smith enjoyed freeing his arms. Hope then departed, having been acrobatically caught and bowled by Low, Bramble never really got going and

Crouch came in to join Langly-Smith for a few overs of fun. Crouch, with a century earlier in the season, admitted that he was feeling in fine form and he didn't disappoint at the crease, hitting one glorious straight six off the bowling of Low. Langly-Smith was eventually caught on the boundary for 196, before the Pilgrims declared on 335 for five from 47 overs.

Before the rain came down we were reminded how much Clifton troubles batsmen with his tight lines and good pace, while Willis bought himself a couple of wickets having put his Milton Abbey overs behind him. The Hogs were struggling on 35 for two when the heavens opened and the game was abandoned. The Pilgrims could smell success at Warnford for the first time in a number of years, but like much of the 2008 season the weather prevented a probable victory. We will have to hope for brighter skies next year.

Reports by Pete Langly-Smith, Mike Nurton and Andy Searson

CRICKET FIXTURES 2009

Sun May 3	Radley Rangers (a)	Mon July 13	Sherborne CC
Sun May 31	Haileybury Hermits (a)	Tues July 14	The Butterflies
Sun June 7	Marlborough Blues (a)	Wed July 15	Bryanston Butterflies (a)
Sun June 14	Oundle Rovers *	Thur July 16	Flashmen CC
Sat July 4	The School	Fri July 17	Canford Cygnets (a)
Sun July 12	Twenty20 tournament (a)	Sun Aug 2	Hampshire Hogs (a)

* First round Cricketer Cup at home: second round June 28 (h); quarter-finals July 12: semi-finals July 26; final August 16.

RUGBY 2008-09

After a delayed start to the season, we managed to get four games in against our regular rivals – Canford, Bryanston, Cheltenham, and Downside. With two heavy victories and two close losses, it was a good season. Once again we had a varied turnout of leavers ranging from 1996 to 2005, all putting in strong performances and enjoying the streamlined Club colours. The games were played in the best spirit, come victory or defeat, at Spencer Park in Wandsworth, which has become our regular home ground.

Sunday December 14 v Canford

Lost 12-14

We met Canford Old Boys on a cold and dank day in December. The weather reflected the game and, although both sides tried to link phases together, the match

never really found any fluidity. A scrappy stop-start first half saw two breakaway tries apiece, the only difference being Canford converted both and Sherborne only one. In the second half both sides tightened their defence and, as the conditions underfoot got gradually worse, so too did the chances of any champagne rugby. Although the Pilgrims back line threatened late on, that vital last pass never went to hand. A disappointing result but down in large part to the boot of their kicker.

Sunday February 15 v Bryanston

Lost 7-19

The Valentine weekend proved difficult for getting the Shirburnian Casanovas on the pitch but after a few calls we managed to get a team together. The Mutz Nutz are a good team who play regularly together in sevens tournaments (they reached the final of the Old Boys Sevens Tournament), and unfortunately this proved too much for our team who hadn't quite had the time to catch each other's name! After a hard-fought game we did well to only succumb to a 19-7 defeat.

Sunday March 29 v Cheltenham

Won 31-7

After such a narrow loss last year against Cheltenham, we had a good-turn out of players eager to put the record straight! It took the first half of the game to settle in and some muddled defence threatened to allow a repeat of the previous year, but soon we managed to get some good ball to our backs and the tries started to flow. In the second half we played to our strengths and avoided getting caught up in energy-sapping mauling. Instead we kept the ball moving between the hands and exploited gaps out wide with a surprising turn of foot. Cheltenham's morale dropped against the continuous attack and it was just left to seal a good victory.

Sunday April 5 v Downside

Won 55-19

The last game of the season and the sun brought along a good number of both players and spectators; as well as the desire to balance the scorecard! It is always a tough game, steeped in history, and Downside have been 2-1 up over the last three years – as they delighted in telling us! The first score took a little while to come, with it taking time for passes to link, but soon enough we settled into our preferred game plan with the ball moving quickly between hands, and a flurry of scores followed. A determined Downside continued to fight back to the end but we kept a strong defence until the final whistle. It was one of our largest victories and was gracefully rubbed into the opposition's wounds – a suitable ending to another successful season.

Reports by Nick Cook and George Bramble

HOCKEY 2008-09

With more fixtures and a growing pool of players to draw from, this has been one of the best seasons for the Club. There were a number of highlights on the pitch, but the most important aspect has been the growing number of players committing to playing for the Club.

For the past decade there have been a huge number of talented hockey players who on leaving slipped under the Pilgrims radar. As a result, the numbers available to play Pilgrims hockey have until recently been surprisingly low. We now have players across the age groups trying to play, with a core that regularly turns up to the majority of games. Stephen Rees-Williams (who manages the Senior Pilgrims for the annual matches against the School) and I are now in contact with a large group of OS, which puts us in a great position to take the Club forward over the next few years. The upshot is that our recent results have been hugely improved and thanks go to everyone for their commitment and support.

Sunday October 5 at Richmond

v Cheltenham	Lost 2-4
v Canford	Lost 4-6

Traditionally Cheltenham have been a strong hockey school. Unfortunately, whether it was due to the weather or fear of us, they did not reach full strength until the afternoon and the first game started against a combination of Cheltenham and Canford players. Both sides struggled to impose themselves but, on balance, Sherborne did more defending than attacking, with Tom Wykes-Sneyd in goal playing superbly, and Andy Searson putting in many tackles. However, Cheltenham managed to convert their opportunities, which ultimately made the difference. We were in the game right up until the last 15 minutes, when our inability to retain possession finally told and they scored late in the match. The lack of regular, good-quality hockey for most players was apparent and a combination of lack of fitness and rusty skills meant we were looking down the barrel in our next game against Canford.

Sherborne played some cracking hockey and were ahead of Canford for most of the game. They had some good players and many of them were fitter than us. Disappointingly, they scored a couple of well-worked penalty corners, and once again our inability to retain possession in midfield led to swift counterattacks, resulting in desperate defending and some sharp goals.

We were leading 4-2 with goals from Budge, Fegen and a brace for Macfarlane. Frustratingly, we gave away some weak goals resulting from poor decision-making and continually turning the ball over.

Sunday November 30 at Sherborne

v Sherborne 1st XI Won 9-1

This was the first time that we have played the School in a pre-season fixture. As it turned out, it was a superb game of hockey, although one which the Pilgrims ran out clear winners. We have never won by that margin before and it was the result of some great passing in attack and solid defence. The midfield showed good awareness in attack and there were lovely finishes up front.

The School were fit and had some skilled players. Will Selfe was playing in his third season and looks as though he will become a very useful player. He caused us a lot of problems at the back, and was unlucky not to score with some cracking reverse strikes in the 'D'. They had a lot of counterattacks through midfield, with space and options all round, forcing a number of penalty corners. Our midfield needed to cover a lot of the pitch and did some great work in both attack and defence. Bendall finished the game with four goals to his name. The game was played in a great spirit despite the uneven score, and we look forward to some of the School players coming through to join the Pilgrims.

Sunday January 4 at Haileybury

v Campbell College Won 4-0

v Haileybury College Won 6-0

v Haileybury Old Boys Won 3-1

What had promised to be a glorious day before Christmas with a full squad of Pilgrims (we had 16 players for the tournament) turned out to be a bitterly cold day and, for various reasons, with a somewhat smaller number than previously anticipated. However, with two guests and the generous loan of a schoolboy keeper from Haileybury, the Pilgrims took to the Astro with 11 players who played all day, finishing on top and in some style.

Our first game was against Campbell College, Belfast, who had beaten Haileybury 6-2 the day before. Campbell College were skilful and well coached, but ultimately lacked the experience and nous of the majority of the Pilgrims. Under strong pressure throughout, they gradually lost their cohesion and started gifting us more and more possession. With an abundance of attacking flair up front, the Pilgrims converted this possession and the game finished 4-0 in our favour with Holdoway, Fegen (2) and Renner all finding the back of the net.

The second match was against Haileybury College, who were much weakened from the previous year and the Pilgrims won comfortably 6-0. Once again Fegen (3) dominated the scoring and was assisted by Hutt, Renner and Budge.

At this stage the Pilgrims and Old Haileyburians had won both their games so the final game was effectively the Cup final. They had some good players, including an England A cap. It was going to be a tough game and when they scored first, it looked ominous. Step up Chris Baker, ringer extraordinaire. Dominant in defence and sharp in attacking the sideline, Baker produced two good goals, proving his class and helping us produce a very creditable all-round performance. The midfield was given plenty of possession provided by Lane, Cotton and Baker driving up from defence, and Holdoway scored his second goal of the tournament. The final scoreline was 3-1 to the Pilgrims. We had won the inaugural Haileybury Cup.

It was a superb all-round performance, considering every other team had plenty of substitutes. As always, the day was superbly organised by Andy Searson and our sincere thanks go to him and Haileybury for yet another wonderful day's hockey.

Sunday March 15 at Sherborne

v School 1st XI	Lost 1-3
v Upper Sixth XI	Won 3-2

Over 40s

v School 2nd/Colts XI	Lost 2-4
v School 'A' XI	Lost 5-6

The sun was shining, the wind was light, and the supporters were there. The first game was against the 1st XI. Having already beaten them 9-1 in November, our confidence might have been high, but pre-match Rob Hill managed to drop into the conversation that they had recently drawn 3-3 with Millfield. The game started at a good pace and the Pilgrims were caught unawares early on. However, some scrambled defence and wise heads ensured the scoreline stayed at 0-0 before the game settled down into one of the most keenly-fought contests for some time. The boys had marginally better stick skills, as you would expect from a team playing its fourth game in a week, but lacked the strength on the ball that will only come from playing hockey at university and club level after leaving.

We had genuine chances, but with Will Selfe scoring a short corner for the School, and Jamie Smibert managing to convert one good goal for the Pilgrims, it was 1-1 at half time. The second half saw the School come at us with pace. Despite a host of good saves, we allowed them two goals and, despite a multitude of opportunities, were unlucky not to convert and the School avenged their defeat at the end of last year.

The second game against the Upper Sixth XI was inevitably played at a slower pace. It was great having three brothers on the pitch and the Selfes all played well,

no doubt spurred on by fraternal competitiveness! Despite allowing one breakaway goal and another weak goal, the Pilgrims ran out the eventual winners 3-2.

The School had a very useful 1st XI. This is primarily due to Rob Hill's impact on School sport. He is a superb hockey player, having represented Great Britain at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and has brought skill and competitiveness to the Sherborne pitches.

Jimmy McKillop

There is a certain inevitability that when a side whose average age is 48 takes on a School side whose average age is 17, it will end in tears. However, not the sort of tears you might imagine. The 16 brave Pilgrims that once again turned out for the two games against the School shed tears of joy as, despite losing both games narrowly, they had survived the afternoon with both bodies and honour intact (that is apart from a few torn hamstrings, a number of bruises and a complete inability to get up the following morning due to ever stiffening backs).

Everyone gave their all with a few memorable highlights: Andrew Wilson scoring from a short corner (he still hits the ball harder than most); Mark Peplow for playing hockey like a prop forward; the Brooking brothers for their stunning presence on the ball; and, of course, Richard Pertwee our very busy *once a year* goalkeeper. We even had a Rydon (dad) playing against a Rydon (son), a perfect Pilgrims moment. What a great day.

Stephen Rees-Williams

Appearances: 9 - Alex Budge, Jimmy McKillop; 6 - Jason Hutt, Will Kipling, Tom Russell, Tom Wykes-Sneyd; 5 - Will Fegen; 4 - Tom Bishop, Kit Regan, Gavin Thow; 3 - Jamie Holdoway, Rupert Lane, Jack Renner; 2 - Alec Bartlett, Alex Beattie, George Bramble, Peter Crouch, Jamie Erskine, Chris Holdoway, Pete Langly-Smith, Rory Macfarlane, Andy Searson, Edward Selfe, Patrick Selfe, Jos Simson, Jamie Smibert, Ed Stephenson, Alex Webb; 1 - Olly Bendall, Henry Hunt, James Kipling.

FIVES 2009

2009 saw more Pilgrims return to the fives courts than for many years. Once again, Simon Stokes and Struan Coad represented the Rugby Fives Association in a match against the School. The RFA proved too strong, running out easy winners but passing on valuable tips to the boys.

On Pilgrims Day – Saturday March 14 – eight Pilgrims took to the Courts to say farewell to the author after 36 years of running fives at Sherborne. Past National

School Champions, Finalists, Oxford Blues – including the present captain, David Park, were all there. Just as a matter of interest the one missing National Champion – Nick Hyde – was representing the OSGS, so he was on “school business”!

The Pilgrims were far too strong for the boys and staff, winning the contest 336-136, but the final encounter between Richard Green and James Rogers, and Mike Cleaver and Paul Carling, ended in deadlock; a tie had to be the correct result after 35 years of encounters! May I take this opportunity of thanking all the Pilgrims who have come down to Sherborne over the years to play against the School, giving of their time selflessly to encourage the boys and enjoy such a great game.

The post match dinner and presentation was a wonderful way for me to bow out from School fives. My thanks to you all – not forgetting the home team of Paul Carling and Nick Scorer. Finally, Nick MacIver, after fourteen years of sterling service, has passed on the mantle of manager to David Kirk.

Mike Cleaver

SQUASH 2008-09

This is probably the first time for many seasons that we have not played a competitive match by the end of March. The School players had too many other things going on to be able to play our annual match in mid-March. It was a good sign that they are so active on the sporting front, but disappointing for us.

The Londonderry Cup is similar but different. As usual, we entered, and paid the entry fee, well before Christmas. However, the draw was made at least three months later than usual. We are therefore still in the competition, and have the pleasure of playing Tonbridge in the first round.

Nick Lamb

CROSS COUNTRY 2008-09

The 55th running of the Thames Hare and Hounds alumni race on Wimbledon Common on December 13 produced Sherborne’s best ever result. It had been tipping down with freezing rain all day so the conditions were perfect: five miles of shin-deep mud and other aquatic delights. We had a strong open team of nine, many of whom had left Sherborne recently, led by Ed Pitt Ford.

Ed Knudsen, fit from competitive work at Durham, led the charge, coming third in the fast time of 27:50. There was then quite a long gap – which needs to be filled if the step is to be made from second to first, to Pitt Ford at 22nd in 31:30. He had a fierce battle with Hugh Knudsen who finished a second later in 31:31 for 23rd. Sedbergh won with an outstanding 24 points (first four finishers in the top ten) but Sherborne, for the first time, were second with 76 points. Winchester were third with 89 points. This was an excellent result for Sherborne as Winchester have won in nine out of the past 11 years.

Angus Cater

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2008-09

The winners at the three meetings were:

Summer 2008: Turner and Foot Putter (scratch) – Nick Aubin; Page Cup (handicap) – Gavin Webb-Wilson; Stableford competition – Dick Draper; Harry Croly Cup (under 27 Stableford) – Tom C B Williams.

Autumn 2008: Captain's Prize – Andrew Rose; Vice-Captain's Prize – Gavin Webb-Wilson; Greig Cup – Bill Davis; Autumn Cup – John Youngman; Manning Trophy – Howard Gill; Watney and Bishop Dish (veterans) – Bill Davis.

Spring 2009: Harris Vase (scratch) – Philip Brown; Hempson Cup (handicap) – Rob Rydon; Shaw 12 and over (scratch) – Iain Webb-Wilson; Shaw 12 and over (handicap) – Nick Gavin-Brown; Storrs Salver (veterans) – Iain Webb-Wilson; Parry Cup (inter-house) – The Digby; Shaw and Stables (foursomes) – Martin Macpherson and David Watney; Howell Williams Salver (combined rounds) – Rob Rydon.

At the AGM at Royal Ashdown on Sunday April 19, Robin Amooore was elected Captain, with Tony Steele-Perkins and Andrew Rose as Vice-Captains.

Matches v clubs and other societies: played 25

Won: 9 v Tonbridge, School and Staff, Aldeburgh, Loretto, Malvern, Downside, Winchester, Blundell's, Marlborough

Halved: 5 v Sherborne, Littlehampton, Cheltenham, Aldenham, Radley

Lost: 11 v Lancing, Saunton, Woodbridge, Thorpeness, Woking, Rye, West Sussex, School and Staff, Westminster, Epsom, Highgate

Grafton Morrish 2008

There were highs and lows in this year's campaign. We started in excellent form in the qualifying at Royal Ashdown in May. Our 91 gross stableford points was the best score of the day and five better than the field. In late September we had a good first day with wins over Bradfield and Bancroft's. Severe fog the next day delayed golf until 1.20pm and nine-hole matches had to be played. We won comfortably against St Bees, but had a struggle with Merchant Taylors'. A point each, and the top pair three down on the 7th tee, we seemed doomed. However, Rhys Francis and Clive Martin won the next three, only to lose to a birdie on the 10th. Astonishingly, their opposition had gone to extra holes in the previous match, winning with an eagle at the first.

Mellin Salver 2008

The Thursday was a fine day, after very heavy rain the previous day, and the course was a bit damp with very soggy bunkers. We were first off in the Burles Salver (over 65s) against Lancing, with Peter Southcombe and Mike Jerrom as the first pair, followed by Dick Draper and Richard Hughes in the second pair. The top pair were soon in trouble and lost 6 and 5, but Draper and Hughes played well to win 4 and 2. This brought the sudden death rules into play, and Lancing, fielding their top pair, overcame our bottom pair at the first extra hole.

Meanwhile, the qualifying round for the Millard Salver was taking place. Jim Copen and Peter Flory visited 13 wet bunkers and comprehensively failed to qualify for the matchplay stage. After lunch we played Bradfield in the Burles Plate. Southcombe and Jerrom again had a difficult time, losing 5 and 4. Draper and Hughes had a close game but lost on the final green, and our participation in the senior sections of the Mellin ended.

The Mellin Salver team teed off at 8.30am on Friday against Lancing. Our first pair was Mike Falconer and Gavin Webb-Wilson, followed by John Youngman and Mark Cannon Brookes, and Martin Ireland and David Dinkeldein playing bottom. The matches were pretty even and there was not much in it at the Hut (12th) being square, square and one up. Thereafter, Youngman and Cannon Brookes made steady progress to win by 2 and 1, but Ireland and Dinkeldein lost four of the next five holes to lose by 3 and 1, which was very disappointing. Thus the match hinged on the top pair of Falconer and Webb-Wilson, who were square after the 16th but lost the 17th. They therefore needed to win the 18th to square the match, which they did with a very solid four. The deciding 19th was rather an anti-climax as Lancing won it with a five, after we had visited one of those still soggy bunkers.

After lunch it was Bradfield in the Plate, and our first two pairs were faced with some good golf, leaving Falconer and Webb-Wilson two down at the Hut, and Youngman and Cannon Brookes three down. Ireland and Dinkeldein had a good run around the turn and were three up. The second pair duly lost by 3 and 2, while the bottom pair won by 4 and 3. So once again it was all down to Falconer and Webb-Wilson. Having halved the short 13th in two (the third two by the opposition), they got back to one down after the 16th. However, a birdie four was too good for us at the 17th and we lost by 2 and 1.

The manager had spoken with John Beer earlier in the week. John, now nearly 98, had played in and managed the Mellin for many years, and he offered the following advice “Whatever you do, young Flory, you must get through to the Saturday”. Sorry, John.

Family Day 2008

Fourteen family pairs assembled at Woking in mid-October to play for the Peter Currie Cup. The winners with 38 points were Gavin and Thomas Webb-Wilson, with Rob and Will Rydon a point behind. Mike and Elisabeth Falconer won the first nine, with Simon and Mary Brown the second nine.

Brent Knoll 2009

This was a disappointing day against two old School rivals. The top pair of Rhys Francis and James Chappell lost in the morning to Blundell’s, while Ambrose and Elliot-Square had a rollercoaster round. They were three up after eight, and then lost five of the next six holes. They fought back to all square before missing a shortish putt on the last green. Whalley and Aubin regained some previous form as a partnership, with the latter’s putter working well. Nobody played well in the afternoon and Clifton won fairly comfortably.

The results v Blundell’s and Clifton were:

Rhys Francis and James Chappell: lost 5 and 4; lost 2 and 1;

Hugo Ambrose and Ed Elliot-Square: lost 1 down; lost 4 and 3;

Nick Aubin and Nigel Whalley: won 2 and 1; lost 1 down.

Halford Hewitt 2009

January’s draw saw that we were at Deal for the third year in a row and playing Lancing in the first round for the second time in four years. Whilst Deal is the preferred venue for most of the team, being drawn to play the first round on Friday has the frustrating effect of waiting on the sidelines for a day whilst the majority of other teams get going in earnest; an unwanted “day off”.

This year saw the appointment of Stuart Gillett as vice-captain as we sought to bring new initiatives and variety to our preparations. A session in March with a golfing “shrink” meant that in April the team arrived at Deal trying to apply words such as “focus” and “concentration” to their golf game, and not their school reports whilst grappling with the academic curriculum some years previously.

The team spent their “day off” mentally preparing and clearing minds only to be met at 8.00am on Friday by a thick blanket of fog. When play started some 20 minutes late, we were led off in customary fashion by Francis and Martin. Somewhat unusually, they struggled with their game and reached the turn 1 down. Behind them Ambrose and Martin started well and were two up after 7, and just missed the opportunity of going 3 up at the turn by three- putting the 9th green. Gillett and Hyde started poorly reaching the turn 3 down. Couzens and Chappell also reached the turn 3 down, but in differing circumstances as their match produced good scoring from the Lancing pair. With Aubin and Whalley 2 up at the turn, it was definitely advantage Lancing.

Francis and Martin continued to struggle with the greens eventually losing 3 and 2. Ambrose and Martin lost their lead with the opposition playing par golf around the turn, and then going one up due to a wayward drive from Ambrose at 13. Par golf from there by both sides allowed Lancing their second point. Gillett and Hyde did well to get their match back to only one down after 12 but were eventually closed out 2 and 1 without really playing to their potential. With the bottom pairs both getting control of their matches by playing great golf, the top three pairs had in effect gifted the match to Lancing.

Losing is a bitter pill to swallow, and this loss was made more galling because we genuinely felt we had underperformed for the first time in many years. Thanks go to our loyal and growing number of supporters for coming to see us, as well as apologies because the fare the team served up for them was largely unpalatable.

Being a first round loser means one has the dubious privilege of competing in the Consolation Plate. The first and second rounds against Chigwell and St Bees were successfully negotiated, before losing to Rossall in the quarter-finals.

The results v Lancing were:

Rhys Francis and Clive Martin: lost 3 and 2;
Hugo Ambrose and Peter Martin: lost 1 down;
Stuart Gillett and Nick Hyde: lost 2 and 1;
James Chappell and Toby Couzens: half;
Nick Aubin and Nigel Whalley: half.

Reports by Hugo Ambrose, Peter Flory and Nigel Whalley

SCHOOL CRICKET 2008

This season was going to be about rebuilding, with 11 from last year's squad gone. This would provide an opportunity for young players to make their mark and gain valuable experience in the 1st XI, and for senior boys to perform in their last year of schoolboy cricket. Overall, 18 boys represented the XI, and of those, 14 will be back in 2009, giving a strong base of experience on which to build.

The weather decided the first two matches. As a pre-season fixture, Sherborne travelled to Dulwich College to be met with damp conditions. Robin Irving won the toss and elected to bat. Sherborne made 116 for four from a rain-restricted 33 overs. Theo Cooke (45) was the stand-out batsman, well supported by Hugh Willis. The match was abandoned before Sherborne could bowl a ball. King's Bruton was rained off the following Saturday after a wet week. John Old and his team worked a miracle to ensure that the game against Sherborne CC was played, given the weather. Sherborne batted first on a bowler-friendly surface and were dismissed for 136, fourth-former Henry Cheal top-scoring with 38. The Town lost wickets at regular intervals, which kept the School in the game. The game came down to the last over with the Town needing five to win with one wicket left. Will Peatfield took the key wicket with his final ball and the School won by three runs. It was obvious that this team would have to work hard with the bat to post a score, while the bowling attack would threaten any side.

Canford away is always a difficult prospect. "Lucky Irv" won the toss again (he only lost the toss twice all year) and Sherborne batted. George Wissett-Warner (39) and Tom Atkins (37) made 85 for the first wicket. Both players looked in good nick but both played rash shots to get out and the XI collapsed to 130 all out, with only Cooke also getting into double figures. This was never enough and Canford cruised home with five wickets to spare.

The same pattern followed in the matches against Cheltenham, Marlborough and Taunton: Sherborne batted first and failed to post runs on the board. Wissett-Warner and Christian Maclaren got starts against Cheltenham but 120 was a poor score; Marlborough passed the Sherborne total of 149 with only three wickets lost.

The highlight of the season was the National Twenty20 first round at Bradfield. The Sherborne batsmen seemed to play with a freedom that had escaped them in 50-over cricket. The first game was King Edward's, Southampton. Irving won the toss and Wissett-Warner (56) and Atkins (57) cut loose and dispatched the bowling to all regions of the ground. Sherborne posted 154 from 20 overs. Excellent bowling restricted KES to 136.

Game two was against Lord Wandsworth College from Farnham. Cooke and Atkins (43) put on an unbeaten second-wicket partnership of 131, Cooke demonstrating that he has shots all round the wicket; his timing was effortless and this was, for me, the best innings of the season. Peatfield took three wickets and Henry Comyn took a brilliant catch on the boundary to dismiss their best player. Sherborne won this tight game by five runs.

The last game of the day was against Bradfield. We were without Wissett-Warner, who dislocated his collarbone in the fielding warm-up. Sherborne bowled first; Ed Bonnell (3 for 20) and Hamshaw-Thomas (4 for 19) restricted Bradfield to 87 from 20 overs. Atkins, Peatfield and Will Smibert saw us home and into the last 16.

Millfield proved far too strong in every area, bowling Sherborne out for 63, with only Peatfield (25) getting into double figures. Peatfield rattled a few Millfield nerves by taking three wickets in three overs and bowled with real pace and skill, but in vain.

King's Taunton was the opposition in the last 16 knockout stage of the Twenty20. The Upper had a carnival atmosphere with music, coloured clothing and a large vocal crowd of supporters. Sherborne started well when Peatfield took a wicket in the first over but the King's batsmen played sensibly and posted a competitive score of 140 from 20 overs.

Sherborne needed to keep their heads and bat sensibly in partnerships to create pressure on the Taunton bowlers. Wissett-Warner and Atkins did just that; after two overs Sherborne had 18 on the board - unfortunately that was the sole time they were ahead of the rate, collapsing disappointingly to 84 all out.

Blundell's was a chance to finish the season on a high note. Sherborne batted first and finally produced a competitive total. Wissett-Warner (45), Cooke (40), Peatfield (34) all got in and Will Marks and Tom Gowan waggled the Sherborne tail. 204 for nine was a competitive score. The game ebbed and flowed as the Blundell's batsmen got themselves into match-winning partnerships, only for Sherborne to fight back and take a couple of wickets. They say "catches win matches" – Atkins took a brilliant catch at deep mid-wicket off an Irving "moon ball" to dismiss the form player and this allowed Sherborne to pressurise the young Blundell's players into mistakes. Irving's match-winning figures of five for 48 will go on the board in the Pavilion – and Blundell's were bowled out for 169.

The Free Foresters game saw Sherborne blood some younger players. Sherborne scored 201 runs chasing a total of 219. Atkins batted well for his 73, Chris Peatfield (32) and Selfe (30) chipped in but the lack of experience in the lower order showed. MCC had put together a strong side with some Pilgrims from last

year's XI playing. Jack Jenkins (left 07) made 79, Ben Atwell (left 90) 44 and Charlie Esson (left 07) 25, all chipping in to the MCC total of 229 for four declared. Sherborne collapsed to 83 for six, but Jack Hamshaw-Thomas and Tom Gowan defended the last ten overs to cling on for a draw.

Blue Leopards, a touring team from South Africa, struggled in wintry conditions to close in on the Sherborne total of 174 from 40 overs. Tom Atkins will be kicking himself; he scored an excellent 91. Cheal (39) was starting to come back into form after a lean spell through the middle of the season. Peatfield and Maclaren, who both took three wickets, restricted Blue Leopards to 148 all out.

The final Saturday of term saw an excellent game of cricket against the Pilgrims. Sherborne posted 250 from 50 overs. Henry Cheal smashed 79 and could become a very dominant batsman for the next three years in the XI if he continues to listen and develop. Chris Peatfield showed his class as a young player in the middle order, with Selfe and Marks batting well at the end. Will Peatfield's three wickets put the Pilgrims behind the rate. Marks, Irving and Maclaren all took two wickets apiece to restrict the Pilgrims to 182 in 43 overs.

Diocesan College from South Africa, who had been our host on the tour last Christmas, proved far too strong for a weakened team because of availability problems after the end of term and ran out ten-wicket winners in a very one-sided contest. This was a disappointing end to the season as the Festival at Haileybury was cancelled because of bad weather.

Rob Hill

Cricket: Played 13: won 4; lost 7; drawn 2; abandoned 6;
Twenty/20: played 5; won 4; lost 1.

*50 overs match, *+ 40 overs, + 35 overs

Apr 12	*Sherborne 116-4 (D M Goodwin 4-13); Dulwich	Drawn - rain
Apr 19	*Sherborne; King's Bruton	Abandoned - rain
Apr 22	*Sherborne 136; Sherborne CC 133-9	Won by 3 runs
Apr 24	+Sherborne 130 (T G Grainzevelles 4-14); Canford 134-5 (T W E Darby 50)	Lost by 5 wickets

Apr 26	*Sherborne 120; Cheltenham 121-6	Lost by 4 wickets
May 1	*Sherborne; Bryanston	Abandoned - rain
May 3	*Sherborne; King's Taunton	Abandoned - rain
May 10	*Sherborne 149; Marlborough 150-3 (H A C Pike 80)	Lost by 7 wickets
May 17	*Sherborne 63; Millfield 64-3	Lost by 7 wickets
June 7	*Sherborne 124 (W H Gater 5-23); Taunton 125-8	Lost by 2 wickets
June 14	*Sherborne 204-9; Blundell's 169 (J R E Irving 5-48)	Won by 35 runs
June 23	Free Foresters 219-9 dec (M Cross 90, P R C Came 69; Irving 4-10); Sherborne 201 (T P Atkins 73; T Nicoll 5-51)	Lost by 18 runs
June 25	MCC 229-4 dec (J H C Jenkins 79); Sherborne 148-9 (A J Coleman 4-22)	Drawn
June 26	*+Sherborne 196-8 (Atkins 91); Blue Leopards 148 (R Logan 52)	Won by 48 runs
June 28	*Sherborne 250-9 (H H O Cheal 79; H W F Gibbs 4-72); Sherborne Pilgrims 182	Won by 68 runs
July 5	*+Sherborne 60 (J Judd 4-13); Diocesan College 62-0	Lost by 10 wickets
July 8-10	Festival v Cheltenham, Haileybury and Marlborough – all three days were abandoned	

National Twenty20 competition

May 11	Sherborne 155-4 (T P Atkins 57, G E Wissett-Warner 56); King Edward's Southampton 136-7	Won by 19 runs
	Lord Wandsworth 128-7; Sherborne 132-1 (T S C Cooke 77 not out)	Won by 9 wickets
	Bradfield 87 (J A Hamshaw-Thomas 4-19); Sherborne 88-2	Won by 8 wickets
June 13	King's Taunton 140-7; Sherborne 84	Lost by 56 runs

Other Twenty20 matches

May 15	Sherborne; Taunton	Abandoned – rain
June 20	Bow House 125-6; Sherborne 127-6	Won by 4 wickets

SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2009

Sat	Apr	18	Bryanston ** (a)	Sat	June	20	Canford
Sun	Apr	19	Sherborne CC	Sat	June	27	Monkton Combe
Sat	Apr	25	Cheltenham (a)	Tue	June	30	Free Foresters
Sun	Apr	26	National ** regional	Wed	July	1	Trinity College, Australia
Thu	Apr	30	Bryanston (a)	Thu	July	2	MCC
Sat	May	2	King's Taunton	Sat	July	4	Pilgrims
Sat	May	9	Marlborough (a)				
Thu	May	14	King's Bruton				
Sat	May	16	Millfield (a)	** Twenty20			
Thu	May	21	Canford ** (a)	Mon-Wed July 6-8:			
Sat	June	6	Taunton (a)	Sherborne with Cheltenham, Haileybury and Marlborough			
Sat	June	13	Blundell's				

SCHOOL RUGBY 2008

Played 13: Won 9; Lost 4.

Mill Hill	Won	28-8	Marlborough	Lost	6-19
Bishop Wordsworth's	Won	17-6	Bryanston	Lost	5-17
Radley	Won	23-17	Blundell's	Won	78-0
Canford	Won	20-13	King's Bruton	Won	41-0
Wellington	Lost	5-38	Millfield	Lost	6-55
Clifton	Won	25-7	Downside	Won	51-0
King's Taunton	Won	29-5			

The XV recorded their best season in recent times, following on from a most successful pre-season tour to South Africa in the summer. It was clear from the early matches that the emphasis placed on improved conditioning and fitness levels would pay dividends, as the XV often took to the pitch looking more powerful and stronger than their opponents.

A pre-season fixture against Mill Hill indicated that the pack would be strong, and there were plenty of good runners in the backline to provide a cutting edge in attack. A 28-8 victory was full of free-flowing back play and good support play from the forwards. This was taken into the first block fixture of the season and a comfortable 17-6 win away at Bishop Wordsworth's in which the forwards, and in particular a powerful and well-organised driving lineout, laid the platform for three well-worked tries.

Radley were next up on a bright and sunny afternoon on the Upper. Again the forwards got the upper hand and a strong scrummaging performance allowed captain and No 8, Nick Holding-Parsons, to pick and drive for two tries. Two poor individual defensive errors let Radley back into the game but a 23-17 final score was more comfortable than it looked.

The fourth game of the season against Canford provided a reality check for the team. Completely outplayed in the first half and unable to impose their game on the Canford pack, the XV were 5-13 down at half-time. Only a strong second half revival, comprising two well worked tries and some stout defending, including the tryline tackle of the season by loose-head prop Ed Scott-Bowden, allowed Sherborne their fourth straight victory.

Wellington, the Daily Mail Cup winners, were next on the fixture list and a beautiful autumnal day at Wellington was the stage for a fine game of schoolboy rugby. Despite missing their two Bath Academy players, Holding-Parsons and Hugh Willis through injury, the team put in a spirited performance and with 20

minutes to go were in contention at 5-12 down. Sherborne had scored a well worked team try off the top of a lineout allowing winger Seb Jaques to score in the far corner. Alas, Wellington, inspired by their outstanding fullback, scored three late tries to run out victors by 38-5.

Two home games at fortress Upper were the perfect opportunity for Sherborne to get this defeat out of the system and the XV did not disappoint. Clifton were dispatched 25-7, whilst the following weeks, a highly regarded King's Taunton, were also beaten 29-5. This set up an enticing encounter against Marlborough away, but alas the XV put in their most disorganised performance of the season to go down 6-19. Two early tries were conceded, and some baffling refereeing decisions didn't allow Sherborne to get a foothold in the game, but to lose in such poor fashion was most disappointing.

Bryanston, and its host of imported sixth formers on rugby scholarships, would always be a tough game but on a wet and windy afternoon at Bryanston the Sherborne team played with great heart, desire and a superb driving lineout. Having played into a gale in the first half, two tries conceded meant the XV turned around 0-17 down at half-time. An excellent second-half performance saw Sherborne score from a succession of driving lineouts. Although Sherborne then enjoyed good territory and possession they unfortunately lacked the cutting edge required to score further and went down 5-17.

Frustrations at losing proved the catalyst for creating history the following week with a demolition of Blundell's on the Upper. The side ran in 12 tries to record their greatest victory in the history of Shirburnian rugby with a resounding 78-0 win played in front of a large and appreciative audience. The XV then continued their rich vein of form with a 41-0 rout of King's Bruton with similar high-quality attacking rugby, inspired by the driving play of the forwards and finished by some incisive back play.

Coming into the final two games, the players knew that Millfield away was always going to be a very tough ask. A team packed with internationals and without doubt the biggest front five in the country, Millfield more than matched Sherborne's traditional forward domination which allowed their talented backline the time and space to run in some fine tries. Sherborne fought to the very end but a 6-55 defeat showed the gulf between Millfield and all the teams they have played this season. The final game saw a revival of the traditional Downside fixture. Sherborne proved much too powerful in all areas for their old foes, and a 51-0 victory at Downside capped off a fine season by the team.

In terms of personnel, Nick Holding-Parsons captained the team superbly throughout and led by example. Hugh Willis, his back-row partner, also played

some excellent rugby, whilst second-rower Oli Crosthwaite-Eyre played every minute of every game in his two seasons in the XV, a remarkable achievement for someone who plays the game with a real physical intensity. Ian Williams and Ed Scott-Bowden provided some steel in the front row, whilst the open-side duties were shared between two Lower Sixth boys Alex Cochrane-Dyett and Fergus Taylor, both players to watch out for next season, as is Oli Farrer who has the potential to become an outstanding lock.

Behind the scrum it was virtually an all Lower Sixth affair, with Oli Mottram making some valuable contributions in matches, particularly with his goal kicking. Scrum-half Piers Jackson, outside backs Jack Nott-Bower, Hugh Carrow and George Day-Robinson will all be back next season when the outlook for Sherborne rugby again looks very bright.

Elsewhere, the Under-14 Mini Colts A had a fantastic season, winning all but two of their 12 matches. They played an attractive brand of rugby with centre David Buck proving an outstanding addition to the School. The Under-14s have considerable strength in depth, as the Bs have a similar record to that of the As beating all before them.

The Under-15 Junior Colts A made it to the last 32 of the Daily Mail Cup, having enjoyed an excellent cup run. Lastly, the 2nd XV, coached by Mike Davis, enjoyed a fine season winning 10 of their 13 games and, like the 1st XV, the vast majority of the team was comprised of Lower Sixth formers. The future certainly looks promising for 2009 and, with the correct preparation (conditioning and pre-season programme), I am sure that Sherborne rugby will continue to build on the great success achieved this season.

Gavin Moffat

SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2009

Sat	Sept	12	B. Wordsworth's	Sat	Nov	7	Marlborough
Sat	Sept	19	Radley (a)	Sat	Nov	14	Bryanston
Sat	Oct	3	Wellington	Thu	Nov	19	Canford (a)
Tue	Oct	6	Tauranga, NZ	Sat	Nov	28	Blundell's (a)
Sat	Oct	10	Clifton (a)	Wed	Dec	2	King's Taunton (a)
Sat	Oct	17	Cheltenham				

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2009

Played 21; Won 12; Drawn 3; Lost 6

Monkton Combe	Drawn	0-0	Millfield	Lost	2-8
King's Bruton	Won	4-1	S-final v Dean Close	Lost	0-2
Taunton	Won	4-1	Clifton	Lost	2-3
Canford	Lost	0-5	King's Taunton	Won	6-2
<u>County Cup</u>			Clayesmore	Won	6-3
S-final v Clayesmore	Won	2-0	Marlborough	Won	4-0
Final v Canford	Won	3-1	Sherborne Pilgrims	Won	3-1
Bryanston	Lost	1-3	King Edward's Bath	Drawn	2-2
Millfield	Drawn	3-3	Prior Park	Lost	3-4
Blundell's	Won	5-1	Solihull	Won	3-1
<u>Regional finals</u>			Windsor GS	Won	2-1
Queen Elizabeth Coll	Won	3-1			

This has been the most successful season in terms of matches won for a very long time. The team won the Dorset Cup for the first time in 14 years when they beat Canford in a thrilling final, 3-1. Sherborne won through to the regional group but lost to the eventual winners, Dean Close, in the semi-final. We played attractive hockey; fast and direct in attack, and calm and assured in defence.

Alex Croft, the captain, was outstanding in goal and his reaction saves gave the team a huge sense of confidence. The most notable game of the season was a well-deserved 3-3 draw with Millfield. This was a team effort, all the players worked for each other to produce an excellent display watched by a large crowd on the Hughie Holmes. Jack Hamshaw-Thomas and Charlie Garnett were outstanding all season in defence. Ed Bonnell and George Ellwood had excellent seasons, and will be the mainstay of the defence next season. Ed Bacon was the players' Player of the Season and thoroughly deserved that award; he controlled the midfield.

Will Selfe scored 12 goals and created many more in his third season for the XI; his attacking flair and the ability to score great goals always made Sherborne a threat in attack. John Montgomery was very effective and will dominate the midfield for another two years. Ed Matts linked and provided for players around him with a maturity that belied his years; he has had a great season and the potential to be outstanding in the years to come. Anton Christen scored 11 goals and will come back next year a better player. Jamie Guerin forced his way into the starting lineup through hard work and determination; it was a shame that injury prevented him from finishing the season on the pitch.

Looking at the number of players returning next year and the quality of players coming through, the future of Sherborne hockey looks very bright indeed. The wider picture shows that we have played more matches this year than last, despite the snow and ice cancelling at least one block fixture. The first season of the refurbished Upper Astro has been an invaluable asset; the resurfaced facility has allowed for more players to have extra practice time. This facility has been excellent and enjoyed by players and coaches alike, and we would like to extend our thanks to the Governors for their support for this venture.

The season has been very successful at the Senior and Mini Colts level. The 2nd XI were unbeaten with some excellent hockey. The 4th XI were unbeaten until their final match against Marlborough. The Mini Colts had their best season for some time, with some quality players, five playing for their Dorset age group.

Rob Hill

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	
					F	A
1st XI	21	12	3	6	57	43
2nd XI	11	10	1	0	50	13
3rd XI	8	3	1	4	20	20
4th XI	6	5	0	1	18	11
Colts A	11	2	1	8	21	42
Colts B	7	2	1	4	16	23
Junior Colts A	9	3	0	6	9	25
Junior Colts B	10	4	4	2	26	17
Junior Colts C	5	0	0	5	1	19
Mini Colts A	12	5	1	6	24	31
Mini Colts B	11	7	0	4	36	17
Mini Colts C	8	4	1	3	28	17
Mini Colts D	2	0	0	2	2	18
Total	121	57	13	51	308	296

SCHOOL GOLF 2009

The School have always enjoyed visits to Burnham and Berrow Golf Club and, in particular, for the West of England schools matchplay competition. This was held on March 18 and 19, and was to prove an eventful two days.

The sun was shining, and shirt sleeves were the order of the day on the practice afternoon. Good golf was played, even by Messrs Cleaver and Pryor, but hanging

over the proceedings was the question as to who would play at No 5. Lewis Hinch was unable to play on the first day for academic reasons, but common sense prevailed for the final. On the return to Sherborne that evening all golfers were contacted and no one was available. Step up the 1st XV hooker – James Trotman.

Wednesday morning was again warm, sunny and windless. Marlborough had scratched so Taunton were our opponents. The result was never in doubt with a comfortable 4-1 victory, and Canford, whom we always seemed to lose to, were next. Jos Pralle (3.4) and Robbie Busher (4.3) were looking very strong at Nos 1 and 2. Zaidoon Zakaria (8) had not played since October but had struck the ball confidently against Taunton. Charlie Leach (14), who was also a little rusty, and James Trotman made up the team.

James Trotman suffered at the hands of the Canford No 5, but close victories in the top three matches took us to a nail-biting 3-2 victory – the first win that I had ever had against Canford in 13 years of trying.

The mood in the camp was very focused on Thursday morning for the final against Cheltenham. No breakfast was had at School as we left at 7.15am. The thought of bacon and egg baps kept everyone going. The good news was that Lewis Hinch was with us. Again the sun shone and all players set off down the 1st fairway with good drives. Mark Pryor and I joined them at the turn where we were up in two matches and down in three. At the 13th the match was level. News came to us that Charlie Leach had lost, and that Robbie Busher was two down. As we approached the 16th green there was a cluster of players watching intently. Jos Pralle had won 3 and 1, Robbie Busher was all square and Zaidoon Zakaria was three up. As Zaidoon lined up a short putt to win his match 3 and 2, Lewis Hinch appeared over the horizon with thumbs up! Zaidoon holed the putt and Sherborne had won a memorable victory over Cheltenham 3-2.

This was only the third time that the School had won the trophy in the 50 years of the competition, and the first time for 30 years. It will be good to see Sherborne's name once again on the board in the Clubhouse.

The results against Taunton, Canford and Cheltenham were:

J B D Pralle (g); won 3 and 1; won 2 and 1; won 3 and 1;

R J S Busher (a); won 6 and 5; won 4 and 3; lost 1 down;

Z Zakaria (f); won 9 and 8; won 3 and 1; won 3 and 2;

C A L Leach (b); won 4 and 3; lost 2 and 1; lost 7 and 6;

J J Trotman (b); lost 5 and 4; lost 9 and 8; L J Hinch (d); won 6 and 5.

Mike Cleaver

**SHERBORNE PILGRIMS CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2009**

General Fund	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income:</i>				
Subscriptions	2,312		2,733	
Donations	2,393		2,109	
Bank interest	<u>1,246</u>		<u>1,498</u>	
		5,951		6,340
<i>Expenditure:</i>				
Audit	100		100	
Postage, secretarial and website	991		723	
Cricket	2,211		904	
Cross Country	-		107	
Hockey	382		20	
Rugby	500		1,102	
Squash	<u>-</u>		<u>40</u>	
		<u>(4,184)</u>		<u>(2,996)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>1,767</u>		<u>3,344</u>
General Fund at April 1		33,679		30,355
Surplus for the year		<u>1,767</u>		<u>3,344</u>
General Fund at March 31		<u><u>35,446</u></u>		<u><u>33,679</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET AT MARCH 31 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
Cash at bank	<u>35,446</u>	<u>33,679</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund	<u><u>35,446</u></u>	<u><u>33,679</u></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 March 31 2009 and Balance Sheet at that date are in accordance with this information.

J D V Wheatley, 300 East 56 Street, Apt 4D, New York City, NY 10022, USA

April 16 2009

THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE

2009

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 2009

M J Cleaver
G P Gent
R Hands
R E Hattam
P F C Langly-Smith
A D Nurton

Retiring 2010

R A Bagnall
N M Lamb
J I McKillop
A I H Prentice
S M Rees-Williams
A N P Searson
N J Ware

Retiring 2011

G A Bramble
N K Cook
P R D Gould
J C Harden
W P Hargrove
A M Hatch

HON SECRETARY

E P J F Lyons
01934 853520 (H)
ed@lyonsrounsfell.co.uk

HON TREASURER

R H Green

CLUB WEBSITE

www.sherbornepilgrims.co.uk

EDITOR

R Hands
07876 653874 (M)
robert.hands@thetimes.co.uk

CLUB ARCHIVIST

C R J Eglington
020 8946 3863 (H)
charles.eglington@blueyonder.co.uk

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
 1959-67 C R Hopwood
 1959-99 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
 1959-86 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 H E Partridge
 1948-52 A H Trelawny-Ross
 1948-55 J A Tallent, CBE, TD
 1954-58 D C D Ryder
 1955-64 W E Tucker, CVO, TD, FRCS
 1958-61 M E K Westlake
 1961-64 R 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 Leakey

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

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

RULES

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

Rugby v Downside - April 2009



Back row from left: guest, Ollie Luard, Jonty Saunders, guest, Jimmy Carroll, Freddie Corlett, guest, guest
Front row from left: Matt Hutt, Jason Hutt, Jos Simson, George Bramble, guest, Paddy Shaw-Brown, Will Fegen

School Golf - Winners of the West of England Tournament



From left: Zaidoon Zakaria, Jos Pralle, Charlie Leach, Lewis Hinch, Robbie Busher (Captain)

Cross Country on Wimbledon Common - December 2008



From left: Tom Foster, Charlie Whitcombe, Max Hobbs, Angus Cater, Ed Pitt Ford, Hugh Knudsen, Simon Dawson, John Pocock, Ed Knudsen

Winners of the Haileybury Hockey Cup - January 2009



From left: Jamie Holdoway, Edward Cotton (Millfield), Chris Baker (St Lawrence College, Ramsgate), Rupert Lane, Jimmy McKillop, Jack Renner, Kit Regan, Alexander Budge, Jason Hutt, Will Fegen



Jimmy McKillop with the Cup

Hockey v School - March 2009



Patrick, William and Edward Selfe

