

SHERBORNE

PILGRIMS

2015

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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

Leadership has been much in the news lately. Political leadership, naturally, with a general election that confounded predictions and returned the incumbent prime minister. Sporting leadership, with the appointment of Andrew Strauss, once of Radley, as director of cricket at the ECB – and his immediate, controversial decision to rule out Kevin Pietersen from playing for England again.

And even in sleepy Sherborne, leadership has been an issue over the past year. The Headmaster departed days after the beginning of the Michaelmas term – a new one takes up office in January 2016. What will Dr Dominic Luckett bring to the BSR (and all round the School) that defines his qualities as a good leader? His track record demands respect and there is every reason to believe that he will demonstrate his leadership abilities when he takes up the post after Christmas.

It is a nebulous concept, leadership. Read profiles of successful businessmen or sportsmen and they cite widely differing approaches to it. There is an argument that good leaders fundamentally practise “what works” but just do it markedly better than most of us. What is common to any great leader, though, is that people are prepared to follow them and hold them in high regard. From Moses leading his people into exile and to the cusp of the Promised Land through to Churchill in wartime, there’s a constant theme.

The other evening, I was thinking about leaders from my time at the School. I vividly recall, as a fourth former, being told by a school prefect that gaining such office was “all about being a reformed character”; he then proceeded to list a variety of examples whom he felt fitted that description. I wasn’t sure I agreed then; I certainly didn’t two years later when I was fortunate enough to be asked to join those ranks. I don’t think anyone who has known me would claim I have reformed. Indeed, what was wrong about that suggestion was that they needed to be reformed – leaders are both born and made, but it is their character that is enduring.

Sportsmen were (and are) so often natural leaders. From just before my time at Sherborne, Aadel Kardooni, who bestrode the School as a sporting colossus, was one. He was still being talked about after his departure as he made his way most particularly as a fine scrum half for Leicester. In my own recollection, Tom Ashworth, a wonderfully talented all-round sportsman who now dispenses great wisdom about wine, would stand comparison. Or Justin Ricketts from my own year, who can now be found in Sydney running a business.

There are and will continue to be others. I don’t think, however, that it is a coincidence that all three were captains of the XI. Cricket in particular demands an ability to think laterally and intelligently because of its more reflective, slower nature. All three were, though, also fine rugby players (internationally so in both Kardooni

and Ashworth's case at schoolboy level) and that sense of physical courage also inspires.

Leadership can (and often arguably should) also be spread among more than just one person. Here is where the collective of a club can make a difference. I have noted this before but it continues to be the case that the Pilgrims are gaining greater numbers of players and the burden of running a sporting club (always hard work) is shared across a wider group. This year the rugby team undertook a tour to Jersey – as noted in the report, a first trip to the Channel Islands in 90 years. No mean achievement – and a successful mission, too.

You can read about that and the other achievements of the Pilgrims year in the pages that follow. After a good start in the Cricketer Cup against Old Brightonians, the familiar foe of the Charterhouse Friars comprehensively dismantled the Club's hopes in the competition. The rugby team expanded their fixtures and only lost one match. The hockey side gathers together a fine group of ageing stick-wielders as ever. And in the "minor" sports, enthusiasm abounds – not least with the cross-country runners, whose performance on Wimbledon Common just before Christmas was an outstanding effort. I very much hope that under Nick Scorer, fives will make a resurgence too.

Congratulations to Fergus Taylor and Ian Williams, who won Blues for Oxford in last December's record 43-6 demolition of Cambridge at Twickenham. It was Oxford's highest score, highest margin of victory and a record fifth consecutive win – and Williams was among the try scorers. Not since 1985 has the School had two Pilgrims on the field – then one of each in Rob Rydon (Oxford) and Jon Turner (Cambridge). You have to go back to 1934 to find two OS on the same team, when J.H. Bowman and Peter Candler turned out for the Light Blues.

The School scored a notable Twickenham triumph (surely the first time that phrase can have been written) in the spring when the Junior Colts carried off the NatWest Schools Vase, beating Oakham 34-24 in a fine game of rugby. Ten tries were scored with Nick Jonas, the Sherborne captain, scoring a hat-trick. Astonishingly, his counterpart for Oakham also scored a hat-trick. Now there's a type of leadership to admire. This victory came on the back of an excellent overall Michaelmas term of School rugby with David Muckalt's influence being strongly felt. I can do little better than to quote the Oakham coach, Ian Smith (sometime Leicester flanker and coach), who said: "Everybody who watched the game will understand that Sherborne were deserved winners."

That victory gives comfort that the School is continuing to produce sportsmen of talent in an ever more specialised area. There is a great range of different sports being played at Sherborne now and the pressures on secondary school children don't seem to abate as politicians continue to tinker with examination systems. The School is to be

commended in continuing an approach dating back generations that excellence in sport can beget excellence elsewhere. That too is strong and intelligent leadership.

I should pay tribute here to Richard Green. The Hon. Treasurer of any club is often not paid a great deal of attention unless the money runs out. For 28 years, though, Richard has both ensured that the money hasn't run out, but also kept the Club very much in the pink. That is an extraordinary run and he retired at last October's AGM with the thanks of all Pilgrims. It is slightly sobering to think that he took over when yours truly was a gauche third former.

The Cricketer Cup side begin their 2015 campaign on the Upper against Old Cholmeleians on Sunday June 14 and will welcome all supporters in Sherborne that day. The date of the Club's AGM is Saturday October 17, in the Westcott Room at Sherborne at 12.15pm – please do come along if you can. My thanks go to Charles Eglinton and Philip Lough for their work in helping me to produce this booklet.

*Robert Hands
May 2015*

NEW MEMBERS

As leavers:

B Afzal (m), T J Atwell (f), A E J Bailey (e), T J A Barnes (m), E A S Benney (a), N L Bottari (c), F W Bracher (g), M A N Bridge (d), J S Bridger (c), O A Brooking (f), O H F Cairns (a), O P Calcott (e), F S Cave (m), M S Choroszewski (e), R F Collington (c), A M Cooper (a), E C Coulson (m), M I B Creswell (a), D Denholm (g), J J C Deverell (f), J T P Dickson (b), T G Diehl (a), A B D Ellis-Hancock (d), J H R Fane Trefusis (d), R J L Featherstone (f), C R C Fish (c), H F S Foden (c), R P K Folkes (a), J H Goff-White (g), J A Guildford (d), C A Harrison (e), C E Harrison (e), C R E Haydn Taylor (c), I C Healy (m), W R J Homer (m), H R L Howarth (c), J O Humphrey (f), W A L Hunt (a), E M Kennedy (f), D D Knight (b), O T F Lambert (d), G W Langley (e), A M R Majorin-Beaumont (g), D V Morris (f), P S Morton (g), H C L Moss (m), T Muller (a), B H Newton (d), J J Newton (d), D J O'Donoghue (c), H J G Ormrod (b), T E Owen (e), H A L Parsons (c), E Pickard (a), M H A Pilkington (f), J M Powell (e), C A F Pugsley (d), H B R Reid (b), L S Reithofer-Taylor (f), M H M Ritchie (c), E H R Roberts (a), O E Roberts (m), P Sagnier Mur (a), O R T Sale (m), N Scaglioni (g), J M Sewry (d), H Shah (a), S Singh (g), A C Soanes (m), P A Stanford (g), M O Stone (e), M J Stuart Smith (f), C T L Swann (b), E A G Temple-Pedersen (b), I U Thomason (e), C J W Van Grutten (g), J Vitali (f), E J Whiting (g), F W V Willans (m), J M E Williams (f), C A Wilson (g), T S Wilson (c), W S P Wilton (f), B T N Wood (a)

OBITUARY

R H Anderton (a 64), P J Fegen (g 65), C C T Mumford (h 76), D K Oliphant (b 44), J D Peter-Hoblyn (g 57), M E Quick (a 57), G Read (a 52), A C F Simon (c 04), M S Watts (a 50), A White (a 69)

MANAGERS

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pilgrims cricket@gmail.com

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Rugby: Jamie Snudden (07412 236262); sherbornepilgrimsrugby@gmail.com

Soccer: Henry Birch (07852 438818); h.d.r.birch@durham.ac.uk

Squash and Tennis: Nick Lamb (07720 772138); nickmlamb@yahoo.co.uk

Tennis: James Sewry (07880 515882); jmsewry@gmail.com

CRICKET 2014

Played 15; Won 9; Lost 5; Drawn 1; Cancelled 1

Sunday May 11 v Old Wellingtonians, at Wellington - lost by 1 wicket
Pilgrims 183-5 (O J D Kelly 88*); Wellington 186-9

We suffered a narrow defeat at Wellington somewhat undeservedly. Batting first on a pitch that seemed to be very slow, the opening pair of Oliver Kelly and Charlie Esson struggled early on. Esson and then Humphrey Rose both fell in quick succession, leaving the Pilgrims 15 for two after six overs. Kelly was still battling at the other end, surviving the early pressure and was beginning to hit the gaps and slowly increase the run rate. Archie Mackay-James was then caught for just eight, but thankfully new batsman Ben Lyons managed to hang about and provide support to Kelly.

The pair managed to build a solid partnership, surpassing 50, and bringing us back into the match, but just as it appeared that they were going to take control, Lyons was trapped in front. Kelly had passed his half-century and was now attacking the bowling and, with help from Humphrey Gibbs, we finished on 183 off the 40 overs.

The Wellington openers made a solid start, waiting for the bad ball and regularly rotating the strike. Alex Willis and Simon Lamb created a McGrath Warne-like partnership, both picking up a wicket, putting us on the front foot. Esson then stumped the new batsman to leave Wellington five down. However, a solid partnership brought them back into the match on a wicket that had flattened out.

Mackay-James came on and took two quick wickets, but Wellington had no sign of a tail with the no 8 hitting boundary after boundary, and it looked as if they were going to run away with the game. However, he was then caught, which was soon followed by a run-out, setting up a grandstand finish. The Wellington final pair managed to see them over the line with ten balls to spare, but this could have gone either way.

Sunday May 18 v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough – lost by 2 wickets
Pilgrims 137 (P F C Langly-Smith 50); Marlborough 138-8 (H J Butt 5-32)

We were indebted to Langley-Smith who opened the innings and went on to score 50. Without this contribution we would have been in dire straits. Fine bowling by Henry Butt, with five wickets, put us back in the game but, in truth, we did not have enough to bowl at.

Sunday June 8, v Radley Rangers, at Radley – lost by 118 runs
Radley 194 (H G S Bailey 52); Pilgrims 76

We bowled well enough in benign batting conditions to uproot the opposition for less than 200, with Cooke in particular putting in an effective spell. However, the rest of the match is best forgotten as we were rattled out for 68 and 8 extras by a bowling attack which, although commendably accurate, posed little threat otherwise. It seemed that too many batsmen had come to the match with little or no current cricket behind them.

Sunday 15 June v Old Brightonians, Cricketer Cup first round at Sherborne - won by 120 runs
Pilgrims 299-3 (C A R Esson 82, C S C. Cooke 76*, T P Atkins 54); Old Brightonians 179-8 (A H Davies 63)

A solid batting display, with Esson leading the way with an attacking 82, well supported by Atkins and Cooke, against a travel weary Brighton attack which wilted as the day wore on, gave us a commanding total which the opposition never seriously threatened. We bowled tidily enough, with James Francis being particularly effective. This was a good morale boosting win to take us into the next round.

Saturday June 28 v The School, at Sherborne - cancelled, rain

Sunday June 29 v Charterhouse Friars, Cricketer Cup second round, at Sherborne –lost by 8 wickets
Pilgrims 176-9; Charterhouse Friars 177-2 (O T Pike 88*, G Adolphus 64*)

On a warm sunny day the Pilgrims never really got into the match and were soundly beaten by eight wickets by a strong Charterhouse side with just under nine overs remaining.

On winning the toss we elected to bat on a pitch which offered some early help to the bowlers which Esson, with his customary skill and application, managed to skilfully resist for 41. Charlie Cooke showed his considerable batting abilities but fell to a good ball on 28 just when he appeared to be on the brink of seizing the initiative. On his dismissal we were 82 for three after 30 overs and clearly behind the clock. With the pressure mounting Theo Cooke, Henry Cheal and George Wayman all made promising starts but succumbed to a consistently accurate bowling attack. By the 44th over the score was 150 but we then only added 26 in the last six overs leaving us on 176 for nine when a further 50 runs would have represented a par score in the conditions. There was therefore a premium on taking early wickets and keeping things tight in the field. At 13 for two, with both Friars opening batsmen out, a couple more early wickets could well have made all the difference.

However, the door was firmly shut by Pike and Adolphus, who in easing batting conditions and with the luxury of no real scoreboard pressure, batted without taking any undue risk against an attack which toiled manfully but lacked a cutting edge.

Sunday July 6, Bryanston T20 tournament, won all three games so Tournament Champions

As has been the norm in recent years the week started with a Twenty20 tournament at Bryanston on the Sunday. The Pilgrims turned up in good spirits, but slightly lacking in numbers for the first game against Canford, and when we were reduced further by Wayman being hit in the face after top edging a delivery and having to be taken to hospital by Gibbs (who hadn't yet batted) we were probably better equipped to be performing at the Hong Kong Sevens. However, thanks to some good batting by Jack Lyons and sporting generosity from Canford to allow Nurton to bat on his own at the end, the Pilgrims managed to bat out the overs and post a decent score. Canford never looked like reaching their target and we went through to face Clayesmore in the final. On the 1st XI pitch which bizarrely had prep school-sized boundaries, Clayesmore got off to a flier and the Pilgrims were looking down the barrel of a big score. However, the heavy rain showers that were forecast duly arrived and put a halt to proceedings. It was agreed that a bowl-out in the nets would decide the result and after a thrilling spectacle in which the number of hits was tied after 15 deliveries per team, the Pilgrims triumphed after the second sudden death contribution (which was a good job as we were running out of players)! This was a great way to start the week despite the weather and something to celebrate on the Sunday evening.

Monday July 7 v Sherborne CC, at The Terrace – won by 2 wickets Sherborne CC 236-9 (J Elliot Square 74, R Parfitt 51, H O Robins 4-49); Pilgrims 237-8

On Monday we travelled up the hill to the Terrace, the first time for many years for the annual fixture with Sherborne CC. After some excellent batting by the home side and some fairly indifferent fielding by the Pilgrims, Sherborne CC posted an imposing

total. The chase got off to a good start with William Cochran-Dyet hitting 40 and looking calm and assured and we eventually got home with one wicket and nine balls to spare.

Tuesday July 8 v Dorset Rangers, at Sherborne – won by 8 wickets
Dorset Rangers 161-8 (but target reduced to 98); Pilgrims 99-2

Tuesday saw the return of the Dorset Rangers, opponents against whom we used to play on a regular basis but hadn't done so for a number of years. The visitors were restricted by some excellent Pilgrims out-cricket and managed a meagre total of 161. Rain intervened between innings and it looked like it was going to be difficult to get a result but both teams were keen to get on with matters and the Pilgrims comfortably chased a reduced target of 98 in the damp conditions.

Wednesday July 9 v Bryanston Butterflies, at Sherborne – won by 5 wickets
Bryanston 187-9 (T A C Turney 70*); Pilgrims 190-5 (T P Atkins 60)

Bryanston visited the Upper in the middle of the week and, despite a fairly demanding night, the Pilgrims somehow got off to the perfect start by removing the prolific Bryanston opener with the third ball of the match. Bryanston never really recovered from this early setback and set the Pilgrims a moderate total to achieve. This was done with some excellent, well-paced innings from Carline and Atkins as we got home by five wickets.

Thursday July 10 v Clayesmore Cormorants, at Clayesmore – won by 3 wickets
Clayesmore Cormorants 162 (A B Berkeley 4-37); Pilgrims 164-7 (W M Smibert 54)

Clayesmore were unable to field 11 players on their home patch, but fortunately the Pilgrims had resources to spare and not only gave the home side two players, but also had a number on the side watching. On a very hot afternoon we bowled some good and some indifferent spells but managed to restrict the hosts to a very manageable total. Wickets were lost regularly in the reply (not least when turncoat Pusinelli was brought into the attack for Clayesmore) but enough runs were being scored to make it a very tense finish. We got home thanks to some excellent hitting from Smibert.

Friday July 11 v Canford Cygnets, at Sherborne – won by 45 runs
Pilgrims 235 (D M Pugh 71, J D T Marsh 3-38); Canford Cygnets 190 (F E Taylor 59)

Once again the Pilgrims had to provide the visiting 9-man opposition with two players (this time the Taylor brothers) but this was easily done with men still to spare. The home side batted first for a change and put together a good score with contributions from Esson and Pugh. Early wickets meant the chase looked very unlikely for Canford, but Fergus Taylor managed to smash some of his team mates round the park to give them a chance. Once he was dismissed Canford were still some way off but

excellent hitting by their late-middle order ensured a close finish. Canford were eventually bowled out for 190, some 45 runs short of the target.

We thus finished one of the most successful weeks in recent memory. The strength in numbers suggests that Pilgrims cricket is in rude health and will remain so for some years to come.

Sunday August 3 v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford – lost by 52 runs
Hampshire Hogs 286-6 dec (H G Wakefield 127, S P J Aldridge 56);
Pilgrims 234 (H D I Clifton 85*; R C Aldridge 5-50)

Initially this was to be a two-day match but due to a lack of numbers from the Hogs, it became one day. We lost the toss and were forced to field in some very hot conditions. Nevertheless, George Napier and Nick Southwell bowled beautifully with the new ball and were rewarded with a wicket apiece. However, two tough catches were dropped, swinging the momentum in the Hogs' favour. With a very fast outfield, any shot piercing the infielders would race to the boundary. After being 19 for two, Wakefield and Aldridge put on a hundred partnership. Skipper Charlie Clifton brought himself on the bowl, and was rewarded with an excellent catch by Rory Graham at first slip. But Wakefield was still striking the ball well and he began to increase the intensity, hitting boundary after boundary. The Hogs lower order provided some late support, and they saw Wakefield through to a deserved century, although the Pilgrims will rue the drop early on in his innings.

We got off to a nightmare start losing four wickets in the forty minutes before tea. Harry and Charlie Clifton looked to rebuild after the break but the latter gave Aldridge his fifth wicket, once again clean bowled. All hope of a victory had faded and we were now playing for the draw; all that was needed was for someone to build a partnership with Harry Clifton. Henry Butt looked comfortable at the crease but he was bowled for 14 and the Pilgrims looked in disarray. It now seemed only a matter of time before the Hogs picked up the remaining two wickets but Southwell had other ideas. He took advantage of a very aggressive field and consistently hit the spinners for four. Could this be the partnership we had been waiting for? With less than ten overs to bat out, it looked as if we could claim a draw, but Southwell went for one shot too many and was caught in the covers.

Saturday August 30 v Eton Ramblers, at Eton – drawn
Pilgrims 304-7 (E A R Bonnell 104; Steele 4-80); Eton Ramblers 205-9 (J Fulton 92)

The Pilgrims came one wicket from victory in an ultimately thrilling end of season game against the Ramblers. Asked to bat first on a good cricket wicket that promised to offer something for everyone, Ellwood and Gibbs got off to a brisk start, capitalising on loose bowling and cantering along at six an over until 38 for no wicket became 38 for two in two deliveries. Ed Bonnell came to the crease and, despite a lack

of match practice (or his own equipment), played a fantastic innings- carving the opposition around the park with consummate ease, eventually reaching a great century. He was supported first by Will Smibert and then Simon Walsh, who ran hard and played some fine strokes. The lower order piled on some more, with Rydon and Leach crashing it around to take us past the 300 mark.

Quick wickets at the start of the Eton innings, 21 for three before tea, seemed to promise a rapid conclusion to the match. Robins and ringer Pascoe bowled very nicely. However, their opener made the most of a dropped catch to bat superbly and with support from various partners it seemed as if the game was dead. A late flurry of wickets suddenly made it interesting, and Ellwood took everyone by surprise by hurling a few down at good speed and with a bit of nip; this member of the slip cordon apologises for not clinging on to a 'very sharp' chance. It was Ellwood who bowled the last over, striking with the penultimate ball to bring in the No 11 and set up a grandstand finish. Alas, no fairy tale but a strong performance and a good end to the season.

CRICKET FIXTURES 2015

Sun May 10 Old Wellingtonians (a); Sun May 17 Marlborough Blues (a); Sun June 7 Radley Rangers (a); Sun June 14 Old Cholmeleians (h)*; Sat June 27 The School; Sun July 5 Twenty20 at Bryanston; Mon July 6 Sherborne CC (h); Tues July 7 MCC (h); Weds July 8 Bryanston Butterflies (a); Thurs July 9 Clayesmore Cormorants (h); Fri July 10 Canford Cygnets (a); Sun July 19 Butterflies (h), Sat/Sun Aug 1/2 Hampshire Hogs (a); Sat Aug 29 Eton Ramblers (a).

* 1st round Cricketer Cup; 2nd round June 28; 3rd round July 12; Semi-finals July 26; Final Aug 16. If successful, the 2nd round would be at home and after that away.

RUGBY 2014-15

Following a successful but short season last year, the Pilgrims XV felt ready for a bigger challenge. An ambitious fixture list was established, with six games in London, one on the Upper against Old Cliftonians and one in Jersey. Unfortunately one London game against Bristol University Old Boys and the game on the Upper were cancelled due to the opposition being unable to field teams. There were still six games to be played, and the season was set up as a challenge to continue our unbeaten streak.

This fixture list was bookended by two exciting events. The season started with the now annual 10s competition on the Upper. The tournament at the start of the season was a great success, with over 50 Pilgrims and supporters making up teams from 2013 leavers back to 2006. Exceptional rugby was played by all involved, showing great promise for the season to come. The 2010 vintage Pilgrims emerged as champions at

the end of the day after a close-fought competition, and players and supporters enjoyed a splendid barbecue afterwards.

The tour involved twenty Pilgrims making their way over to Jersey for the inaugural end of season tour to play Jersey United Banks RFC. As the report below shows, this was a good test against a team that plays and trains regularly, and a good team-bonding opportunity for a side that we hope will be successful for years to come!

Aside from the match against Eastbourne Stags, the Pilgrims XV won every match, usually in great style (champagne rugby – a term perhaps overused by the captain). This was helped by frequently being able to field strong sides due to the hard work of Tom Carr as squad organiser committing players to turning up at the weekends.

This season has been a great boost to Pilgrims rugby, which has shown strength in depth and teamwork both on and off the pitch. Next season has the potential to be even tougher with more games planned, but this season and the tour demonstrate that Pilgrims rugby will be ready for the challenge.

Sunday November 2 2014 v East India Club Won 22-10

Before the start of the game the Pilgrims were underdogs, with the East India Club side warming up frantically while the Pilgrims side, plagued with last minute injuries, looked on. There was talk of dropping down to 12 a side, but after negotiations with the East India captain a full team took the field with the aid of a couple of ringers.

The Pilgrims kicked off and the mobility of the pack showed immediately, bolstered by Matt Snudden moving in from the backs, and Charlie Whitcombe. This theme continued throughout the game, with the occasional inevitable slip from a scratch team. The dominance in the forwards proved the game changer, with Seb Jaques controlling the backs from fly half and repeatedly finding gaps in the opposition defence. The East Indians finally crumbled after constant pressure, allowing one of our ringers to sprint through and touch down. Pilgrims captain, Jamie Snudden, scored a fantastic try, powering through several tackles from the half way line to barge over for a classic front row effort.

The lack of substitutes showed late on in the game, as Hugh Willis and Joss Edlmann finally had to go off after early injuries and heroic efforts. The East India Club finally penetrated our tired defence for a couple of well-executed last minute tries.

All things considered, this fantastic performance showed the great talent of the Pilgrims, in particular first up tackling from Phil Hammick and Alex Kerby, and outstanding rucking from Tom Carr and George Mackintosh.

Saturday January 24 2015 v Imperial Medics Won 38-21

The day started in confusion over where we were playing, with Pilgrims spread to all corners of Richmond. This led to several alarmed phone calls starting with “we’re not playing on the old London Welsh pitch, are we?” Fantastic as this would have been, it was not the case! Eventually the sizeable squad congregated outside the agricultural changing rooms, and we prepared for the game.

After a long warm-up and repeated calls by the captain for “champagne rugby”, the Pilgrims kicked off. Efficient rucking followed by the safe hands of the backs led to the ball reaching Will “I’ve never played out of the front row” Day-Robinson, making his debut on the wing. Unexpectedly, considering the amount of knee-strapping, some quick and agile footwork followed before he was finally brought down. This level of play from the backs continued throughout the first half, with the look of a team that plays much more often than every few weeks. The forwards proved too strong for the beleaguered Medics, helped on by the strong foundation made by props Ameer Rashed and Tom Fleming.

As the first half wore on, champagne rugby was certainly shown. Clinical counter-rucking by the forwards put pressure on the opposition half backs and the ball was barely out of the Pilgrims’ hands. Tries rained in from both forwards and backs, including two from thundering charges by Nick Holding-Parsons.

At half time the Pilgrims squad showed great professionalism. Even though the play had been very good, we knew we could do better, and the general consensus was that we should use this opportunity to practise phases of play for the next games and for the end of season tour. Unfortunately, instead of tightening up our play, we started taking risks, particularly with offloads. We started hunting for tries, and several times it paid off. However, we also lost the ball several times, and this allowed the opposition to score on a couple of occasions. It also led to some outstanding covering tackles, particularly from Tom Fleming who chased down a wing with a 10-yard head start, and from James Bowker, who had only just been given the all clear following a knee injury.

The team also showed their professionalism at the final whistle, expressing disappointment at the second half performance, but also discussing ways to improve in the next game, and showing a hunger to play well. The first half particularly was “champagne rugby”, and the game was played in good spirit.

Sunday February 8 2015 v Eastbourne Stags Lost 11-24

Our long unbeaten streak came to a sorrowful end with an unfortunate loss at the hands of Eastbourne Stags, with two late handling errors costing us the match. After surviving early pressure we grew into the game and the pack secured good ball, enabling the three-quarters to penetrate the Stags’ defence. Ben Lyons punted a

penalty into touch by the corner flag, and set up a great opportunity for the forwards to put pressure on their opponents. The resultant set-piece came straight from the coaches' manual. The ball was secured, and the pack drove the maul towards the try-line. With Eastbourne defenders sucked in, the ball was shipped out through the backs and wing Phil Hammick dotted down in the corner. We did not let our concentration slip and were almost in again straight off the restart. Ed Bonnell capitalised on a loose kick and broke through the defensive line. We took the ball through the phases but poor hands out wide cost us a certain try.

Just as the Pilgrims were about to turn the screw, the Stags were allowed back into the match. With only a slight overlap, Eastbourne threw the ball out to their wing just inside the 22-metre line. He switched on the turbo, wriggled away from a couple of would-be tacklers and scored in the corner. The Stags kicker added the extras. With the Stags 7-5 up at half-time this game was there for the taking and we came out strongly after the break. However, more than once poor handling out wide again cost try-scoring opportunities.

After declining to kick at goal in the first half, the Pilgrims were now keen to take the points when available. Ben Lyons duly slotted over two penalties to give us a four-point lead, and the clock was on our side. George Smibert made a couple of piercing breaks but we just lacked that little bit of consistency to kill off the opposition, and the Stags were now slowing the Pilgrims ball down. The game became a war of attrition, and it was going to take a moment of magic or an error to decide it. The Stags kicked the ball long, and full back Charlie Esson looked to counter-attack. However, his pass fell straight into the arms of an opponent who scored under the posts. The kicker made no mistake and we now trailed by three points with 15 minutes left.

We knew we had to play more aggressively and were soon rewarded. The Stags gave away a penalty at the breakdown, which provided Ben Lyons the chance to level the scores. However, his kick went narrowly wide and we needed to dig deep once more. The Stags once again made life difficult for us, retaining the ball well and getting over the gain-line. However, they conceded possession after giving away a penalty and we had an opportunity to clear our lines. Ringer Alex Williams took it upon himself to tap and go from deep, but his pass failed to go to hand. An onrushing Stags defender gobbled the ball up, passed out wide and with a score in the corner the game was effectively over. The Stags showed no sign of letting up as we entered the last five minutes. They kept the ball with the forwards inside the 22 and following a blind side break bundled the ball home. The final whistle sounded and we knew that, in all senses of the word, we had let the game slip from our grasp.

Saturday February 28 2015 v Old Gregorians Won 36-0

We retained the bragging rights over the old enemy Downside with a thumping victory at Old Deer Park, scoring six tries in the process. In good old English wet and muddy conditions, the Pilgrims fought off early pressure and it was plain sailing from

then on. Hugh Willis made a break brushing off a few tacklers and a few phases later he put the first points on the board, bundling over from 5 yards. Ben Lyons duly added the two points. The Pilgrims had to wait until right at the end of the half to extend their lead; Will Day-Robinson making sure our efforts were rewarded by scoring near the corner. Lyons converted expertly to make the score 14-0 at half-time.

With the rain tumbling down and the turf ever muddier, we continued to play high tempo rugby in woeful conditions. Freshness from the subs bench surprised Downside, and we scored within minutes of the restart through James Moubray. The Pilgrims did not take their foot off the gas and James Capel was the next man to touch down. The hooker showed the footwork of Jason Robinson in his prime, sidestepping three defenders and going over to score. Sheer class from the 22-year-old! With Downside beginning to tire, the game really opened up for George Day-Robinson to show his pace. The wing picked the ball up on the half-way line, wriggled away from a few tacklers, left the full back on his backside, and scored under the posts.

Moments later he repeated the feat with grace and guile until the actual scoring of the try. With no defenders around him, Day-Robinson collapsed in a heap over the line – and had to be stretchered off. The last 15 minutes or so saw some average rugby, with the Pilgrims being too expansive at times, rather than sticking to the basics. An injury crisis meant that Sherborne's very own Phil Anscombe had to fill in for Downside, but he could not surmount a comeback with his new team mates. The final whistle sounded and the Pilgrims had not conceded any points for the first time this season – a fantastic effort in terrible conditions.

Saturday March 7 2015 v London Hawaiians Won 70-12

The Pilgrims completed back-to-back thumping victories with a comfortable win over the London Hawaiians on a glorious March morning. Jack Lyons got us off to a great start, receiving the ball out wide and showing pace, power and balance to score. Brother Ben soon followed suit following a superb break from George Smibert. The Pilgrims began to believe that the opposition, who train and play together every week, were there for the taking. Hugh Carrow looked to have added a third try when he tore down the right wing, but the full back came across and clattered the big man into touch. However Jack Lyons soon doubled his try tally, with the Hawaiians' defence putting up little fight.

The Pilgrims let their concentration slip, and a kick over our defence was fly-hacked on and the referee missed a clear knock-on over the try-line and awarded the Hawaiians their first try. However, the Pilgrims put their foot back on the accelerator and the tries began to flow. Freddy Mills scored for the forwards' union, bundling over from five yards. Seb Jaques, who had set up two tries already, finally put his name on the score sheet. Jack Lyons completed his hat-trick before half-time, with the Pilgrims doing the basics right out wide and hitting the gaps as they appeared. Jack was encouraged to convert his try in front of the posts. However, the wing seems

better with the ball in hand than from the tee, and his effort blasted beneath the crossbar.

Half-time came with the Pilgrims leading 53-5, but to their credit the Hawaiians came out fighting. After 15 minutes of slow play, an error allowed our opponents to score. The Hawaiians began to tire. Pusinelli atoned for his earlier error, spotting a gap between the ruck and the defensive line, and with no full back in sight he touched down between the posts. Hugh Carrow completed the scoring with a try in the corner, following some regulation handling through the backs. This was a superb performance from the Pilgrims, closing matters on English soil for the season. Next stop: Jersey.

Saturday March 21 v Jersey United Banks XV Won 29-20

After months of waiting, the tour was finally upon us. James Bowker, the keenest tourist, arrived first in Jersey at 7am and proceeded to research the Pilgrims. To his amusement, he found that the last Club tour to depart from English shores was a cricket tour in 1926, coincidentally also to the Channel Islands. More amusingly, a report of this tour can be found on the Pilgrims website. It tells a tale of a great tour full of amusing escapades, which became an inspiration for our tour.

The tension was palpable as the remaining Pilgrims gathered in Gatwick North Terminal's infamous Red Lion. Eventually the last flight was boarded, and the tourists congregated at their Jersey hotel, except for the three Pilgrims on the very last flight. They had foregone the complimentary drinks and snacks on British Airways and instead saved money by flying Easyjet. This came back to haunt them when their flight was delayed by several hours.

Since the game kicked off at 11am the next morning, the tourists decided, in order to be fresh, that only beer would be drunk. Everyone stuck to this ruling, other than George Mackintosh, who decided that rosé champagne would be more suitable.

The next morning, the tourists woke up fresh and ready for action to find Hugh Willis missing. Jersey nightlife was too much for him, and he had decided to call it a night early, but unable to find his hotel in the dark, he had ended up staying with a friend who lived nearby. He eventually arrived back at the hotel rather sheepishly just in time for breakfast before it was time to head to the ground.

The taxi company sent too few cars and the squad arrived with only 15 minutes to warm up. This worked in our favour, as we were keen not to expend all our energy before the start. The game duly began, and it was soon clear that the teams were evenly matched. The Jersey side had the advantage of some of the referee's controversial decisions, but he did little to spoil a very exciting and good-spirited game of rugby.

After frantic early exchanges, we shook off the effects of the previous evening and put together some solid phases of rugby. This led eventually to a lucky team try, due to lacklustre tackling from the opposition. Jersey came back from the kick-off with some well-drilled counter-rucking, and camped on our line; we did not give an inch for many minutes, withstanding countless runs by their rampaging forwards, until the heavily bearded Jersey prop finally blasted through.

At half-time the scores were even at 10-10. This spurred the touring side on, having been reminded that the opposition train and play regularly. They were clearly worried about losing to an occasional side, and resorted to an underhand tactic in presenting us with a half-time gift of a slab of beer. The mighty Pilgrims to a man said “No, this game is here for the taking!”

The game resumed with vigour, Lyons major kicking off deep into Jersey territory followed by a chase from the forwards that would have had professional sides running in terror. Certainly the opposition forward who found himself underneath the ball only to find the eight forwards bearing down on him like a stampede of wild animals could not take the pressure, and promptly dropped the ball. A few phases later and Matt “Napoleon” Snudden touched down under the posts.

The game continued in a stalemate, with both sides managing to cross the line. Jersey were ahead at 20-17 with not long left on the clock. The running was relentless, with forwards charging, getting knocked down but never giving up, just rucking over and trying again, as we had been coached a long time ago on those cold, wet winter afternoons on Carey’s. Then came the break. Big Hugh Willis gathered the ball at the back of a ruck, and found some open space, only to be humbled by an enormous tackle from another chubby opposition prop. The ball was passed out of the back of the ruck quickly by Napoleon, finding the indefatigable James Bowker who, confronted by a wall of green United Banks shirts, executed a textbook offload into the waiting hands of Ben Lyons. Lyons jinked through opposition tacklers with spell-binding footwork and dummy passes, before finally passing to his brother who beat two men before diving over the line. Fortunately, cameraman Windy caught all this on camera, accompanied by the dulcet tones of Humphrey Rose’s commentary. Since this score was special, it has been nominated for the RFU try of the month competition.

The conversion left the dogged Pilgrims side just ahead with plenty of time left. We were definitely on the front foot, and had several opportunities to score, including a stunning run by Si Dawson, the resolute utility forward. Finding a gap, Si charged through clear to the try line, only to drop the ball! Eventually the Pilgrims scored once more after a succession of inventive line-outs including an “All Day” call involving a short throw to W D-R standing at the front of the lineout. This categorically did not work, but fortunately we kept the ball. With the scores at 29-20 it seemed the game was won, but the referee had other ideas. United Banks again pinned us to our line,

and persistent defence resulted in a penalty to them on the 5 metre line. Fortunately we held off the scrum, and following a mistake by the opposition the game was won.

The next morning, the chaps woke up slightly blurry eyed, congregating outside the hotel after checking out. Finally it was time to part ways and head back to England. After a weekend of team bonding we had become a close-knit group, safe in the knowledge that we had contributed to Pilgrims history.

The writer of the 1926 tour report states that “for the benefit of future members of teams which tour to Guernsey, one may declare unhesitatingly that no men are more hospitable and no ladies are more fair than those of this island”. Although we were on the neighbouring island, we held the description to be still valid 89 years later. A very good weekend was had by all, and we hope that it will not be another 89 years until the next tour.

The following played in one or more matches this season: Jamie Snudden, Matt Snudden, Seb Jaques, Phil Hammick, Alex Kerby, Charlie Whitcombe, Joss Edlmann, Hugh Willis, Alex Willis, George Mackintosh, Tom Carr, Ameer Rashed, Tom Fleming, Humphrey Rose, James Bowker, Nick Holding-Parsons, Ollie Lintott, Ben Lyons, Jack Lyons, George Smibert, James Trotman, Freddie Mills, Ed Bonnell, Will Day-Robinson, George Day-Robinson, Phil Anscombe, Ed Scott-Bowden, Chris Tavender, Mike Tavender, Alastair Pusinelli, Charlie Esson, Max Heal, Henry Reynolds, Alex Cattle, James Capel, Will Capel, James Moubray, Si Dawson, Jamie Excell, Hugh Carrow.

HOCKEY 2014-15

Having taken over managing Pilgrims hockey from the experienced Jimmy McKillop, I had the pleasure of organising the long-running Haileybury sevens tournament and the day against the School.

With packed cars and dusty sticks, an elite 10 left London in the early hours of Sunday October 26 to make the trip to Haileybury. After a swift warm-up and a slap around we were eager for our first game against Charterhouse. Unfortunately, they hadn't turned up so we had a much-needed bye. Our second game finished 2-2 against Tonbridge that was on a knife edge throughout. Our following games were less than close, with heavy losses to Aldenham and St Edward's and if it wasn't for some impressive keeping from the hero of three years ago, Alfie Heath, we could have been looking at far worse results. With most old boy teams turning up with their own hockey coaches, we were always going to be starting on the back foot. A quick lunch provided by Haileybury and we were back in the cars.

The first fixture in 2015 was a day back on the Hughie Holmes pitch on a bitterly cold Sunday morning against the School. We managed to pull together a strong 13 “Younger Pilgrims” and 12 “Veterans” thanks to the organisation of Jonathan Powe and Justin Brooking.

Sunday March 15 v School 1st XI Drawn 2-2

This was a very close game with the Pilgrims having much of the possession and the majority of the shots. With a tap in by Jamie Excell with his first touch, followed by a fantastic push flick by Beanie Isles, the Pilgrims were 2-1 going into the last minute. Disaster struck with 15 seconds left, when the School broke away and finished a well-worked passing goal to level the scores. The final result was 2-2 but it was a cracking performance by all, particularly the Ellwood brothers in the mid field.

v School 6th form XI Lost 3-6

The second game the Pilgrim Youth team faced was against the U6th side. Unsurprisingly the Pilgrims were slightly slower out of the traps than the School, which resulted in us losing three early goals at the start of the first half. With some swapping of positions and the crafty skills of Paddy Selfe and the Ellwood brothers, we brought the score back to 2-3 at half-time. The second half continued in similar fashion to the first, with the Pilgrims conceding early goals, missing chances and losing structure in defence. But we ended with a well-worked goal to finish.

Pilgrims Veterans v School 2nd XI Lost 0-1

Pilgrims Veterans v School Colts XI Lost 1-8

Once again a robust XI, with two subs, congregated for their annual hockey match against the School. For many it is the only hockey game they play all year, so it is nothing short of a miracle that some good hockey is actually played, and even more so that there were only minor injuries at the close of play. The format was a match before lunch and a match straight afterwards. Lunch, while not a Falstaffian affair, was the undoing of us, and proved that once going, we need to keep going. Any break is an opportunity for our bodies to catch up with our heads, which were stridently telling us to lie down with the Sunday newspapers in front of a fire.

And so it was. The first match saw the vets put on a good show, a close game with opportunities at both ends. At our age possession of the ball is so important and, in fact, as a coach of children, this applies to all ages, but as the body wearies the brain must compensate. The vets did this very well from the backs to the midfield, but on occasion lost accuracy in getting the ball to the forwards. We lost, which was a fair result, although disappointing as we had it within us to win.

The second match was an altogether different affair. In a rare show of putting an intelligent plan into unselfish action the schoolboys recognised the vets’ Achilles heel, i.e. we were all knackered, and they played a quick and accurate passing game. This nullified the years of wise experience, and they cut us open in the midfield and backs.

There was only so much that Pete Crinks in goal could do as wave after wave ended up in front of goal with opportunities to score.

However, once again our sturdy band had met, played, reacquainted and we all felt stronger for it. Vivat the old gits!

Jamie Smibert

SOCCER 2015

Sunday March 22, 2015 v School 1st XI Won 2-0

The Pilgrims arrived well before kick-off to soak in the nostalgic atmosphere of the Lower, and to breathe in the air of so many moons ago.

The School took the early initiative, consistently winning the ball in midfield but without finding the killer defence-splitting pass. The expected early robust challenges came in fact from the 1st XI, who showed that they were not frightened of their seniors. Steve Clayton's side looked to have scored early on when our goalkeeper, Charlie Carline, parried the ball back into the danger area, but he quickly recovered and knocked the ball to safety.

Moments later the Pilgrims were in trouble again. A long ball seemed to strike George Atkins' hand in the penalty area; but the boys' appeals failed to convince referee Don Cameron. Early chances for Harry Edwards and skipper Henry Birch went sadly begging, and Benedict Berkeley's afternoon came to an abrupt halt when a bang to the head and a bloodied nose meant he had to leave the pitch.

A switch from a 3-5-2 formation to a more conventional 4-4-2 changed the whole complexion of the game. Striker Christian MacLaren stole the ball off an unwary defender and coolly stroked the ball past the goalie to make it 1-0 to the Pilgrims, now in complete control of possession. James Capel pulled the strings from the centre of midfield, and MacLaren provided superb link-up play to the likes of Rory Graham and Alex Pusinelli. A highlight was Capel's nonchalant shoulder pass, more akin to a game of FIFA Street than to the Lower. Meanwhile, the new centre-half pairing of Freddy Mills and Alex Hamilton proved equal to the task of heading away balls chipped into the box.

Both teams were sluggish after half-time, and neither could string passes together. Chances came to the Pilgrims' first half goalie Carline, now up front, and Alex Chandler. Halfway through the half, however, the Pilgrims killed off the game. Man of the Match MacLaren found Rory Graham with a ball over the top, and the former first team captain sublimely chipped the 'keeper from outside the area – a moment of sheer quality! The School only threatened the new goalie Atkins once late in the game, when he dealt with a 30-yard free kick bouncing in front of him in unconventional

manner! The final whistle brought relief to both sides. 1st XI Coach Steve Clayton had the last word: “That’s one of the best Pilgrims performances I’ve seen for a number of years.” We will look to retain bragging rights when the sides meet again next year.

Alex Pusinelli

FIVES

There has not been any Pilgrims fives for a few years now, but this will soon change. As an OS who played fives, I was asked recently to take on the management of the team and am now in a slightly odd position. I am also master in charge of fives at the School, so next year will be managing both the Pilgrims team and the School team when they face each other!

Having played throughout my time at Sherborne, I kept playing whilst studying chemistry at university. After a brief gap I was back at Sherborne teaching chemistry, and amongst other things, helping Mike Cleaver coach the boys. With Mike’s retirement the overall responsibility fell to me and ten years since my return to the School, I still very much enjoy this great game. If you once played fives and would like to get involved in a match, do please get in touch.

Nick Scorer

SQUASH 2014-15

Our squash season started late this year and unfortunately did not last long. The Londonderry Cup draw was released at the start of October 2014 but, due to a severe delay in contact by our opposition, the fixture that kicked off the season did not take place until early December and was definitely a last-minute affair. As a result, the match did not take place on the original date arranged, we could not field anything like our strongest team, our fixture at the RAC in Pall Mall cost more than ever before and Cranleigh won through to the second round in a match they did not deserve to win. This may sound like the grumbles of a sore loser. I am definitely grumbling but I am not a sore loser – I never had a chance to play! The team on the day - Justin Gulston, Jeremy Bishop, James Leakey, David Leakey and George Bramble put in a great performance and took every match to the final game but, although we had match balls for a team victory, Cranleigh just edged us out on the night. An incredibly disappointing result but one that we can learn from in future years – next time we’ll claim the match as allowed under the rules of the competition.

The only other match that was played was against the School in March 2015. We won 4-1 with the usual band of local Pilgrims in a poorly-contested fixture – we had to work hard to lose the one tie. The match next year will hopefully move to the Michaelmas term when the boys can field a stronger team. However, the School’s

squash is suffering through the surfeit of other sports and I don't know how much this will help. The calendar for Pilgrims squash will change slightly. The first fixture will be in Sherborne on Sunday September 20 to coincide with the Pilgrims' rugby 10s tournament, and will soon be followed by the School match. In an ideal world, this will be followed by a long run in the Londonderry Cup.

Nick Lamb

TENNIS 2014-15

The 2015 season has already started in a substantially more positive manner than last year. In 2014, the Pilgrims played only one competitive game – not one match, not one set, just one game! With none of our leading competitors available we did not enter the D'Abernon Cup and the match against the School was abandoned due to torrential rain after that one game. However, the Pilgrims did win that sole game so we had a 100% winning record in 2014 - but not a very satisfying one.

Our season started early this year with the qualifying round of the D'Abernon Cup on Saturday March 28 at Stoke Park. The D'Abernon Cup is a very competitive tournament. I have entered the Pilgrims into this competition for most of the last six or seven years but have never quite managed to get past the qualifying round of eight schools. This year, we were represented by James Sewry and me. With this fresh enthusiasm, we were looking forward to the contests ahead.

The first match was against RGS Newcastle, with our hesitancy and their cut-throat attitude soon ending the contest with a 6-1 victory to Newcastle. This was not the start we wanted but after a good hit on the indoor carpet between matches, we were both more comfortable with the pace of the court. Our next match was against Wellington and, having recognised our opponents, I knew it was one we could win. We started well and got a lot of balls in court using every bit of our rackets, both strings and frame, and the occasional net cord. With a little luck and superior tennis, we reversed our earlier loss with a 6-1 victory. The final game in our round robin group was against Stowe and Chester King, the owner of Stoke Park. We once again won 6-1 and finished second in our group to Newcastle. We had to play the winners from the other group, Harrow, to claim one of the two qualifying spots from the day's competition. We had definitely got the feel of the courts by this time and came into our own in this final match. We made Harrow play a lot of balls, left them stranded at the net on a number of occasions with perfectly weighted lobs and James found the Midas touch with some huge returns. As a result, we surprised Harrow and marched on to the main draw alongside Newcastle. To my knowledge, this is the first time we have qualified.

The next round of the D'Abernon Cup will be played on Sunday June 14 against either: Repton, Reed's, St. Paul's or UCS. Tim Henman has been known to turn out for Reed's so we will undoubtedly need continued improvement round by round to progress.

In addition to the D'Abernon Cup, we have three other dates planned in the calendar. The first is the match against the School on Sunday May 17 (the OS weekend), which has been re-scheduled from its normal fixture at Commem. Instead, at Commem on Saturday June 27, we will play a purely Pilgrims fixture between young (those who have left the School in the last ten years) and older Pilgrims. The final date for the diary is Sunday September 20, when we will arrange an event for all standards to coincide with other sports such as the successful rugby 10s tournament.

I look forward to continuing our already successful season and hope this includes getting more Pilgrims on court than ever before. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with either James or me (contact details on page 5) if you would like to be involved or simply want to know a little more.

Nick Lamb

CROSS COUNTRY 2014-15

In December the usual Alumni Race was held on Wimbledon Common. We fielded 14 runners with an age range from 18 to 62. There were 142 runners and 21 teams participating. We secured 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 19th positions and won the Henry VII trophy. Overall we were 1st in the Open Competition; 6th in the Veterans; 8th in the over 50s; and and 7th in the over 60s. This was a great achievement for our entire team.

Theo Irvine

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2014-15

Grafton Morrish 2014

After qualifying in May at North Hants where we finished second, we embarked on the trek to Norfolk in our usual confident manner with a strong team. The loss of Robbie Busher to the professional ranks was the only negative to fielding our strongest side. The draw was favourable, but the Grafton is notorious for delivering a shock or two in the early rounds with more and more schools having good, young golfers to strengthen their old boys' sides.

The first round saw us drawn against Hymer's, who we had played in 1982, and we were confident of our chances. They had two good, young players that strengthened their team. Our pairings were: Francis and Irving; Gillett and Couzens; Pralle and Clive Martin. The top pair struggled and the second pair managed to scrape a win on the 17th which was enough as the bottom pair played well for a good win.

Much debate took place at lunch as we hadn't performed well in the top two pairs and it was decided to change to Francis with Couzens and Gillett with Irving. It is worth

noting that this was something that historically we had shied away from, but the consensus was we needed to try to ensure the best possible chance of securing two points. This seemed to spur on the team and it was a pivotal moment in the campaign. The dynamic changed instantly and a renewed enthusiasm saw St John's, Leatherhead dispatched 3-0. In the first round they had beaten Seaford, who had won the qualifier at North Hants, so we knew they were a good side.

A tough match against Haileybury saw us prevail 2-1, and then a more comfortable win against Shrewsbury in awful weather gave us a semi-final place against Loughborough in the morning. They proved a tough team and all matches were close; Francis and Couzens winning on the 18th, Gillett and Irving losing on the 17th; and then Pralle and Martin winning on the 16th.

Then the fun started as Clifton managed to scrape through their semi with just two pairs after one of their team suffered back spasms in the night and was unable to play. We assumed that we would then only need two pairs for the final so Gillett and Irving stood down. Some debate ensued as to how the draw should be made, but the rules were clarified that as they only had two pairs then we only needed to put two pairs forward and the third match would be a point to us. With 15 minutes before the final the Clifton captain declared he had to be on a flight from Heathrow that evening and couldn't therefore risk playing. This meant that Clifton started the final somewhat flustered to say the least but we didn't mind. Francis and Couzens played sublime golf and were four up after four, which proved decisive as they strolled to a 7 and 6 victory. Knowing the progress of the top match, it was tough for Pralle and Martin to respond to a good early start from Clifton, and after playing so well for the first five rounds they struggled to maintain their excellent play, but got the required half.

This was a fantastic effort from the whole team and a just reward for the efforts from all those present, as well as those that have been part of this journey for many years. It was a victory that was well received in the clubhouse afterwards and special thanks must go to the Society Captain, John Irving, who supported us through each round, so it was very special sharing the winning of the final with him.

Mellin Salver 2014

Once again we were treated to a golf course in excellent condition after the favourable weather in the spring and early summer, but the severe rough and greens which are always sloping and fast presented a challenge to the players which our teams did not meet as well as we might have hoped. Some consolation could be found, however, in the hot and generally dry weather that we enjoyed.

In the first round of the Burles Salver (over 65s) against Aldenham, our team comprised Mike Falconer and Gavin Webb-Wilson, a seasoned pairing, and David Dinkeldein with Alan Gale, the latter making his first appearance in this event and acquitting himself well. Both pairs managed to play the wrong ball at one point,

although, in the case of the second pair, there was some doubt at which hole this had occurred and even whether in retrospect we had played the wrong ball at all! Rulings had to be sought and we did not come well out of this and, whether or not the final result was affected, the top pair did not reproduce their winning habits of the past and the second pair were dormie down but were conceded a halved match.

Mike Jerrom replaced Falconer (who had been struggling with a sore hip) in the afternoon Plate match against Haileybury. After Haileybury had won the top game, Dinkeldein and Gale played well to win theirs. They were then selected to represent the team in a sudden-death play-off in which they succumbed. So that was the end of our Burles involvement for this year.

Meanwhile, after a few years in which we had been unable to field a pair over 75 in the Millard Salver, Simon Brown had finally reached the requisite age to play with Peter Southcombe. Needing to finish in the top four pairs of the Stableford to qualify for the match-play, they failed to do so entirely owing to deficiencies in the short-game wherein those tricky West Hill greens got the better of them.

The chances of the Mellin Salver team (over 55s) were unfortunately blighted by the last-minute withdrawal of Chris Nevill, as a result of which Falconer (still nursing his hip) for the morning round and Jerrom (also with a painful hip) for the afternoon nobly stepped in to partner Nigel Whalley in the second pair. Rhys Francis and Michael Farley once again made up the top pair while the old stagers, Mark Cannon Brookes and John Youngman, brought up the rear. We defeated Aldenham in the first round, the top and third pairs both winning their games while the middle pair were also winning theirs but conceded a half once the overall result had been determined.

So on to the second round, against Haileybury. We had the advantage most of the way with the first two pairs being ahead although the third pair had a bad spell and were three down at one point. Sadly, this position was reversed in the final stages and, although Cannon Brookes and Youngman recovered and were about to win their match on the 18th, the other pairs had been unable to hold on to their leads and both lost on the last hole.

So it was all over for another disappointing year. However, we hope Nevill will be available next year and, after that, more reinforcements from Halford Hewitt players will start progressively to reach the age for the Mellin and we can confidently anticipate a resumption of past winning habits.

Family Day 2014

Twenty two players came to Woking on October 12 to compete for the Peter Currie Cup. Iain and Gilly Webb-Wilson were first with 38 stableford points, with Rodney and Jonathan Short second with 36 points.

Brent Knoll 2015

This year's Brent Knoll turned out to be a rather wet and windy affair, and unfortunately Sherborne were not on their best form. Last year we had beaten both the teams we were drawn against on Saturday and they were out for revenge. We were drawn against the Navy first. The top pair started well with Pralle holing a 10 footer for a half at the first, and Whalley chipping dead from the right of the 2nd. After that we took three from around the green every time, and produced a long run of bogeys which, after a steady performance from the Navy, ended in defeat on the 13th green. The second match sparked into life on the 2nd hole when one of the Navy team refused us a free drop from a plugged ball. Various discussions ensued including a phone call to the clubhouse. Eventually, the Navy captain in the third match confirmed the free drop as the local rule was printed on the notice board in the Club, and had also been told to us on the 1st tee! Aubin was fuming about all the fuss and the Navy player was grumpy for the next six holes. The incident inspired the Sherborne pair who should be congratulated for beating the two scratch golfers on the 17th green. The final pair were now standing on the 17th tee, two up and looking good. However, it was not to be plain sailing. With a 30mph wind off the right, the high draw from Irving was blown well off course and lost in the buckthorn. Kelly went back to the tee and hit a similar shot into the same place. The hole was conceded. Two excellent drives down 18 left short irons to the green. Irving was just off the edge of the green and the Navy were 25 feet away. A good long putt from Kelly went six feet past and Irving holed with style and confidence to win the match one up.

All the effort on the last few holes took its time and we were already due on the tee when we finished. A rushed lunch, and back out 20 minutes later, we were playing a return of last year's final against the Wigorns. The top match got off to a solid start; two up after 5 and feeling much more in control. However, that did not last. Whalley hit a bad drive at 6, a poor second at 7, a good drive at 8 that did not turn on the wind and into a bunker, and Pralle's tee shot on 9 just spun back off the front of the green. We were two down at the turn and never recovered against steady golf. The news behind was not good when we heard that the second match were six down and the last match were three down. However, the second match were three down, but with only four holes left. Unfortunately, a spectacular second shot by the Wigorns from a bank on the right finished 15 feet from the hole and the match was lost. The last match was only one down with three to go when a half was agreed.

This was a disappointing day for Sherborne who were in the Sunday morning consolation stableford for the first time in over ten years. We woke on Sunday to the gale that was forecast, with rain and a 50mph wind. We were relieved to hear when we got to the Club that the stableford had been cancelled and the plate competition semi-final and final were being played over 4 holes each. It was that bad. Epsom beat the Navy in the final of the Plate; and the Buckthorns, having beaten the Wigorns 2½-½ in the semi-final, beat Warwickshire Bears 3-0 in the final.

Halford Hewitt 2015

We were drawn to play Whitgift on the Friday morning at Deal; our third Friday draw in a row. The potential team had their first outing at the trial weekend which started with 36 holes at the Berkshire at the end of February, followed by 27 holes at Deal the next day and concluding with an 18 hole match against the Club on the Sunday.

Due to the Friday first round, we used the Thursday for a friendly match against Epsom at Prince's as a chance to see who was fit and in form before selecting the team and pairings. However, the quality of golf wasn't great and it was a display of damage limitation as opposed to classy scoring.

The team and pairings were agreed as follows on the Thursday evening: Rhys Francis and Toby Couzens; Robin Irving and Ed Kelly; Nick Aubin and Gordon Curtis; Stuart Gillett and Josh Pralle; Clive Martin and Ed Elliot-Square.

Francis and Couzens led by example. They were confidently hitting fairways and greens all morning and on the odd occasion a green was missed they got up and down. They brought home a solid point, winning 3 and 2. Irving and Kelly were down and Irving was fighting the hooks. Even Kelly's imperial short game and putting talent wasn't enough. They were out played, eventually losing 5 and 4.

Gillett and Pralle played "Spiethian golf", taking only 30 to reach the turn. They won comfortably by 5 and 4. John Youngman who was spectating suggested he couldn't recall during 55 years of Hewitt experience ever witnessing such outstanding golf. Peter Hedges, who was playing for Whitgift, was shell-shocked!

The news from the engine room wasn't good. Martin and Elliot-Square were not firing on all cylinders, with the former not at full strength as he was still recovering from flu, and unfortunately their opposition took advantage beating us 4 and 3.

The outcome therefore hinged on the third pair of Aubin and Curtis. Reports suggested that neither side had played the front nine particularly well, but somehow we were still in with a chance. As they turned to play the gruelling back six holes at Deal, the wind picked up, as did the intensity of the golf.

We gifted the 15th after Curtis lost his second shot right, and went two down. Curtis hit his 16th tee shot right into thick rough. Aubin struggled to move it far, but it did find the semi rough. The opposition had lost their tee shot and were now playing their provisional ball. We were 160 yards from the green in two, Curtis hit his iron shot slightly heavy and the ball was now 20 yards short in three. The opposition had a 25-foot putt for a six and Aubin was debating whether to chip or putt up the bank in front of the green. He chipped it, the ball checked and stopped quicker than expected; we two putted and won the hole with a double bogey six - one down.

Aubin kept the momentum going by hitting a good tee shot on the 17th to the right edge of the fairway. A well struck six iron just caught the left swale on the green but we were putting. Whitgift were short right in two and putted up to leave a nerve-jangling six footer. Aubin's putt from the bottom of the swale was good for pace, but slightly left. Whitgift go for their par and miss, the crowds all sigh, and Curtis has a five footer to get the match back to all square. The ball slides by on the left side and we remain one down.

Surprisingly, Whitgift carve their tee shot at the 18th short and right into the rough. Curtis took a few deep breaths, pulled out his driver, and hit a low bullet, killing a few worms along its flight path, leaving Aubin 170 yards from the middle of the fairway. Whitgift hit an impeccable rescue wood from the right rough to ten foot. Aubin hits a high six iron straight at the flag, leaving a twelve footer for birdie to take the match to extra holes. Sadly the ball slides by the left side of the hole and Whitgift have two for the match from ten foot. Whitgift lag the first put and the match is conceded.

The disappointment amongst the team and supporters after losing yet another first round match was immense. Our opposition continue to improve and we need to do the same. A huge thank you to all the supporters that continue to show faith and travel down to the Kent coastline to support the team, which is much appreciated.

The Plate pairings were confirmed as Francis and Pralle, Irving and Elliot-Square, Aubin and Curtis, with Irving assumed the captain's role allowing Couzens the chance to return home for the first time in eleven years to celebrate his wedding anniversary.

The mood became relaxed and the boys were going to have some fun. First at Prince's that afternoon were Oundle who we beat 2-1. Francis and Pralle should have tried a little harder, as they seemed to be having far too much fun!

The boys continued their fun and celebrations in the King's Arms, nearly needing to call out the Kent fire brigade, but Aubin got them all to bed, eventually. On Saturday morning, the sun was shining and they quickly got revenge on Glenalmond 2-1 and then Wrekin 2½-½.

There was a short discussion over dinner and Irving decided to keep the same pairs but mix the order a little. Starting from the 10th hole at Royal Cinque Ports, the semi-finals began. Francis and Pralle were solid; Aubin and Curtis were struggling a little and Irving with Elliot-Square put on a real masterclass of short game skills at the end of their contest against Rossall.

They were one down with two to play, when playing the short 8th. Irving put Elliot-Square in the first bunker. The opposition then followed into the bunker just in front. Elliot-Square then decided a full shot back into the wind might be easier so knifed the bunker shot 80 yards over the green onto the beach where the ball came to rest on a

plastic milk bottle carton. Irving while cursing Elliot-Square, took a few deep breaths, and then put us to ten feet and Elliot-Square holed for a four. All square on the 18th tee they go on to win in extra holes and we had made the plate final against Epsom.

Having played Epsom in a friendly on Thursday and being shown how to play the game, this was a good chance to make amends. Francis and Pralle did just that playing good golf and winning 2 and 1, but unfortunately the middle pair lost by 6 and 5, so the spotlight was shining again on Aubin and Curtis. Were they able to draw upon the disappointment of losing in the main event against Whitgift? Thankfully yes! They came through a tight game eventually winning 1 up and Sherborne had won the Halford Hewitt Plate.

Tournament reports by Stuart Gillett, John Youngman, Nigel Whalley and Toby Couzens

SCHOOL CRICKET 2014

Played 14, Won 6, Drawn 1, Tied 1, Lost 3, Abandoned 3

We had high hopes for this promising side, and despite the setbacks from the early weather, the boys can be happy with the progress they have made this season.

Following a hugely successful winter tour to Zimbabwe where we played against four schools, coupled with an extensive Lent term programme, the side looked in good shape.

The 1st XI were led by Ollie Sale, who has proven his worth in the role superbly, leading from the front and inspiring an excellent work ethic amongst the junior members of the side. He leaves having secured a young professional's contract with Somerset CCC, and has already featured in 2015 for the 2nd XI v Glamorgan.

We started well with victory in the annual fixture against Sherborne CC, whilst beating rivals Marlborough by eight wickets on the first Saturday; an important win especially after the memories of last year's defeat to them. Ollie Calcott showed some fine form with a well-made 67. The two fixtures against King's Taunton and Bryanston were lost to the wet weather, though the latter was rearranged and saw the XI gain a comfortable win by six wickets.

The following week was the annual T20 regional finals day, this year held at Millfield. Despite a comfortable win over Plymouth, with Cochran-Dyet making an impressive 59, the side failed to progress as they were out-witted by an energetic Millfield side who displayed plenty of cricketing nous to win by nine wickets. Sherborne were group runners up out of the four teams; but not enough to progress this year.

The final game before half-term ended disappointingly with defeat by Cheltenham. After only managing to post 187 (Cochrane-Dyet 68), the home side toiled as the Cheltenham batsmen dug deep on a very flat pitch and cruised to victory by six wickets. Before we knew it the half-term break was here and gave the boys a chance to re-energise and turn out for their club sides in search of the form that had been eluding many so far this season.

The break must have worked well, as we bounced back with victory over a strong Blundell's side. On a very wet Saturday, Blundell's ground staff did well to get the game on, and Ollie Sale duly elected to bowl first. We restricted Blundell's to 192, which was always going to be competitive on a wicket still offering plenty for the bowlers. The ever impressive James Vitali (three for 22) once again proved his worth as an excellent end of innings bowler and helped hold back the home side from what could have been a much larger total. Sherborne batted superbly, showing maturity and character as they successfully chased the total with seven wickets down. Captain Ollie Sale steered his team to victory with a fine 91*; a true skipper's innings.

Next was a trip to Canford. This was by far the tensest finish I have ever seen to a school 1st XI game, and it eventually resulted in the first ever tied game between the two schools. Three youngsters impressed on the day, James Caldwell and Charlie Smith with the bat, whilst the promising all-rounder, Conrad Fish, displayed some excellent skills under pressure; a sign of good things to come.

After a draw against MCC, (Cochrane-Dyet 50), the final Saturday was against Taunton. They made 172, with George Pope taking three wickets on his home debut. We reached the total for the loss of five wickets, this time it was the turn of Fergus Hughes-Onslow to step up, making a fluent 55*.

The team then travelled to Clifton on the final Tuesday of term. After last year's comprehensive drubbing, the XI were determined to put up more of a fight against a Clifton side who have a heavy contingent of players from Gloucestershire CCC. Despite this, we collapsed to 48 for five. From this position, the game looked almost over. However, George Pope and James Caldwell (59*) had other ideas. With some late order hitting from Charlie Smith, it allowed us to get up to 178. Despite some fine new ball bowling from James Vitali, Clifton were able to win by five wickets with seven balls to spare. This performance showed immense character from the boys and performances like this with the bat can only provide a positive spring-board for next year's side.

The games against King's Parramatta and the Pilgrims fell foul of the weather, and, just as the season had started, it ended with the covers being pulled on and the sound of rain on the pavilion roof. Another season has come and gone, as do many of our experienced teams this season who we wish well for their future cricketing careers.

I would like to thank Alan Willows for his tireless energy and enthusiasm for the boys this season, as well as John Akins and his ground staff, Adrian Williams and the catering staff, and all that have been involved with Sherborne cricket. A huge thank you to all the parental support we have received, and long may this continue as you are important cogs in the cricketing wheel here at Sherborne.

Tom Flowers

SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2015

Thur Apr 16	Sherborne CC	Sat May 9	Marlborough (a)
Fri Apr 17	Wellington School	Sat May 16	Cheltenham (a)
Sun Apr 26	Free Foresters	Sat June 6	Blundell's
Thur Apr 23	Taunton (a)	Sat June 13	Canford
Sat Apr 25	King's Taunton	Fri June 21	MCC
Thur Apr 30	Bryanston (a)	Sat June 20	Clifton (a)
Sat May 2	Millfield	Sat June 27	Sherborne Pilgrims

SCHOOL RUGBY 2014-15

Played 16, Won 13, Lost 3; points for 441, against 189

School fixtures

Blundell's won 33-5; Radley won 26-7; Bishop Wordsworth's won 38-5; Marlborough won 22-0; Cheltenham lost 3-16; Wellington College lost 17-45; St Paul's won 28-18; Bryanston won 13-5; Canford won 43-7; Clifton won 33-12; King's Taunton won 31-8.

NatWest Cup

Poole Grammar won 26-12; Richard Huish College won 45-7; Exeter won 26-22; Truro won 46-7; Dauntsey's lost 11-13.

U15 NatWest Cup

Woodroffe won 53-0; King's Taunton lost 10-24, (so in to the Vase competition).

U15 NatWest Vase

Clyst Vale Community w/o; Woodroffe w/o; Queen Elizabeth's Academy won 50-0; Torquay Grammar won 43-0; Churchdown won 22-7; St Columba's won 21-8; RGS Newcastle won 38-15; final at Twickenham v Oakham won 34-24.

Sevens

Played 32, Won 22, Lost 10, points for 630, against 414

The 1st VII won the tournament at Colston's and the Plate competition at Bryanston. They qualified for the finals of the Open event at Rosslyn Park as one of only nine finalists, losing in the semi-final to John Fisher.

U16 Sevens Played 13, Won 6, Lost 6, Drew 1, points for 262, against 237

The Colts VII were semi-finalists at Canford, and finished 2nd in their group at Rosslyn Park but did not qualify for the next day.

Last year I suggested that there was the capacity for us to achieve more than our current efforts, and for the young players of Sherborne to be all that they are capable of becoming; only then will we be truly up there with the schools rugby elite. This season has certainly seen us move a step closer to fulfilling our potential.

The pre-season preparations were held at Sherborne with 40 players training for two days. The captain, Matthew Key, was instrumental in establishing clear goals and clarity on the culture that would be needed to succeed. The first match against Blundell's saw us retain the James Harding Cup in front of a very loud and supportive Upper crowd. Our visit to Radley would mark the 100th year of the fixture. Radley provided all involved with a day to remember as the 20 fixtures were played back to back culminating in the 1st XV match, which was played for the new Centenary Cup in front of a crowd that was in the thousands. We were very keen to make amends for the embarrassing home defeat last season and did so in emphatic style with a very clinical performance and a great win.

Against Bishop's we showed a great deal of patience and maturity in the approach to wearing down a very committed opposition. Following a well-earned exeat break the next run of fixtures would bring Marlborough to the Upper and then two tough trips to Cheltenham and Wellington College. Marlborough returned to the fixture list after a two-year break, and it was business as usual as the visitors put the Sherborne line under early pressure. Some outstanding defence (this year re-branded as attack without the ball) ensured that our line remained intact and the pressure from a dominant pack provided a great platform which resulted in four tries and our fourth straight victory. The front row of Matt Key, William Neish and Jack Edmondson were becoming a formidable force and provided us with a fantastic scrum throughout the season.

Cheltenham would bring about the first hurdle for the XV. Despite a dominant performance from us in most areas of the field, they played a much better tactical game and stole an unexpected victory. For the first time this season the team had been out thought with a kick and chase try, and some poor discipline at the breakdown cost us the game.

Wellington gave us an opportunity to learn from the previous week's defeat. They boasted seven international backs and this was certainly the difference between the

sides. With the Sherborne pack dominating the set-piece it needed something special from the Wellington backs, and they obliged with four unbelievable tries, two either side of the break. The XV remained positive and played to the final whistle. Special mention must be made of two players who made their XV debuts in this match and really stepped up; Zandy Dembinski faced last year's England U16 centre but gave a good account of himself, and Ben Murray put himself about and was a real physical presence at lock.

The half-term break provided 25 Sherborne players with the opportunity to be involved in the inaugural Mike Davis Trophy which will be played bi-annually against St Paul's. This fixture provided us with the opportunity to give some of our Colts and 2nd XV players the opportunity to experience 1st XV rugby. The game was a fantastic occasion with Mike on hand to present the Trophy to the winners. With the Thames as the backdrop and the threat of having to tell Mrs Davis that the Cup was in London, the XV put in a very committed and physical performance to return to winning ways.

On a rain drenched Saturday afternoon at Bryanston, the lads showed real character and controlled the game to secure a much needed victory. The excellent form was carried forward into the match against Canford. On the Upper, the backs, led by Fergus Hughes-Onslow, showed real flare as the team raced away to victory. The combinations in the mid field, back three and half-back had continued to grow throughout the season, and it was in this match that they really clicked. Casper Bailey, George Wallington, Tom Lewis and Monty Cairnes have certainly grown throughout the season and they will be pivotal members of next year's back line with Fergus Hamilton.

The penultimate match of the term was against Clifton. Traditionally this has always been a very close affair, but this was not the case as the XV raced into an early lead, following some dominant line-out play. Oliver Wurfbain, Zak Smith and Charlie Smith provided clean ball in the line-out and James Fenwick controlled our driving maul (as he did throughout the season) and benefited, reaching double figures on his personal try count! Our "attack without the ball" was becoming more of a dominant feature of our play with the XV only conceding 57 points in our last six matches. The determination not to concede points was clearly evident as we went into our last Saturday game against King's Taunton, our fourth game in 14 days (with two NatWest Cup matches).

With a dominant lead built up through a combination of excellent set-piece and continuity play and with less than three minutes to play, King's threw everything they had at us as they attempted to finish their season with one last try. The determination and work rate from a drained 1st XV was relentless and once again the Sherborne line remained intact.

The NatWest Cup Competition started with two early victories against Poole Grammar and Richard Huish. The home tie against Exeter was to be our first real test in the competition and a mixture of complacency on our part and some outstanding performances from the Exeter XV provided us with a much needed reminder that cup rugby is very different to the weekly challenges our Saturday fixtures bring. This acted as a real wake-up call with Truro getting the backlash. This would be our final cup game before Christmas with a last 16 away fixture against Dauntsey's awaiting us after the break.

The visit to Dauntsey's in late January proved to be a very frustrating day! With the XV having not played competitively since early December, we did not start the game like a team who had just registered one of the most successful seasons for many a year. The forwards dominated, as they had throughout the season, but lacked that clinical finishing that had seen us dominate many a line-out and drive play. The backs lacked the sharpness that had been so evident in their performances against Clifton and Canford. With the game tied on penalty kicks at half-time, Sherborne started the second half really well and should have scored on three occasions, two driving mauls were held up and after an unbelievable line of run by Charlie Smith, we saw the ball dislodged from his hands as he crossed the line after a last-ditch tackle. Dauntsey's will certainly acknowledge that their try was somewhat fortuitous as a clearance kick dropped between two Sherborne defenders before bouncing at right angles into the hands of a surprised chasing back. Sherborne managed to score with the last play of the game and a conversion kick would have drawn the game and put us through. The kick at goal summed up our day as it passed the left upright no more than an inch on the wrong side of the post! Our cup run was over and Dauntsey's exited in the following round losing to the eventual winners, Bromsgrove.

On the representative front, Jack Edmondson was selected to represent England U18s in the 2015 FIRA competition in France. He will hopefully be starting a chemical engineering degree at Bath University and has signed a scholar's academy contract with Bath for the 2015-16 season. Fergus Hughes-Onslow, Charlie Smith, Tom Lewis, Fergus Hamilton, Casper Bailey and Zak Smith have all been involved in the Bath Academy U18 squad and Zandy Dembinski has been in the U16 squad.

Some of last year's leavers continue to do very well with their rugby. Richard Galloway has been selected to play for Scotland U20s in the 2015 Junior World Cup and Will Homer gained selection for England U20s in this year's Six Nations competition. In the junior teams there have been representative honours for Dorset and Wilts at U14 and U15 and several players are hoping to hear that they have been selected for the Bath U16 squad for next season.

This year's Mini-Colts have found that size can be a major determining factor in results at this level. The Sherborne 3rd form has a number of very good rugby players

but their lack of size has meant that despite some very encouraging performances, their playing record has suffered.

The Junior Colts continued to play with the flair, directness and maturity that they developed last year. Early victories against Blundell's, Radley, Bishop's, Marlborough and Cheltenham plus a victory in the NatWest Cup second round, gave the team the confidence to express themselves through a brand of rugby that proved too much even for sides who were physically bigger than us. As is often the case at this level, players are prone to taking their "eye off the ball" and this happened in the NatWest cup when the team lost away to the King's Taunton XV that they had beaten by 60 points at the end of last season. This could have been the turning point of the season, however, the team were keen to learn from their mistakes and went through the remaining Saturday fixtures only losing twice and made it to the NatWest Vase final against Oakham at Twickenham. The game was commented on by many spectators as being the game of the Finals day with Sherborne producing some outstanding team rugby to beat Oakham. The spirit that has been generated through the two-year relationship between players and coaches (Rhidian McGuire and Ian Martin), became more evident as the boys travelled around winning four games away from home to reach the final.

The 1st VII have been afforded the opportunity to focus purely on sevens this year which has certainly helped us to close the gap on the regular big hitters on the sevens circuit. With six tournaments in place the 1st VII played at Millfield, Brecon (quarter-finalists), Colston's (winners), Oakham, Bryanston (plate winners) and Rosslyn Park in the Open School competition (semi-finalists). The side was captained by Fergus Hamilton and their efforts throughout the short season have been very commendable; with 11 of the 17 players in the squad set to return next year, the future of sevens at the School looks promising.

There have certainly been many highlights this season and to pick one would be very difficult. I must congratulate the 1st XV on their superb season winning 13 of their 16 fixtures and being unbeaten since half term (eight consecutive wins), and not losing a match on the Upper. The Colts have had an excellent season with the A XV losing a very close County Cup semi-final and the C XV unbeaten. The Junior Colts A victory at Twickenham in the Vase Final was a fantastic occasion for all involved with the School, and they were supported by the D XV who had the pick of the playing records at this age group. The Mini-Colts have certainly found this season tough but I have witnessed a tremendous spirit which will serve them well as they move through the School and grow (hopefully!). In the sevens the 1st VII performances at Colston's and Bryanston, as well as their tremendous efforts reaching the semi-final of the Rosslyn Park Open competition have all contributed to what has been the most successful season to date in my tenure as Head of Rugby.

This season, the rugby has improved with the common dominator in all age groups being the recognition and acceptance that playing as a team is a vital ingredient in

success. Matthew Key has been inspirational in instilling this and he will leave a legacy of how great things can be achieved with good team work, strong values and clear goals. Many of the 300-plus boys playing rugby at Sherborne have taken a huge step to becoming the players that they are all capable of being.

We now look forward to our three week tour to Australia in July, with a total of six matches split between Brisbane, Sydney and Cairns.

David Muckalt

SCHOOL 1st XV RUGBY FIXTURES 2015

The provisional dates for 2015 are: Sept 5 Monmouth (a); Sept 12 Radley (h); Sept 19 Cheltenham (h); Oct 3 Marlborough (a); Oct 10 Wellington College (h); Oct 22 Bryanston (h); Nov 7 Abingdon (a); Nov 14 Canford (a); Nov 19 Blundell's (a); Nov 28 Clifton (a); Dec 5 King's Taunton (h)

Please check on the School website for the latest information.

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2015

Played 11; Won 4; Lost.4, Drawn 3

A tour to Barcelona started in January with 42 boys touring for six days of pre-season training and matches. We participated in the Goes Cup at Egara Hockey Club in beautiful landscape near Serra de Coll Cardus. The results were very mixed with a good win against Slazenger Club, and really close matches against Juniors, Terrassa and Abingdon. On the final evening we witnessed a colourful procession in the centre of Barcelona. Dia de los Reyes Magos (The three wise men) is one of the most celebrated festivals in Barcelona.

Back home, we went to Dauntsey's where we lost a close match 0-2. With intense training sessions during the week, the team started to gel and this was evident against a well organised Taunton side. With five minutes left we were leading 4-1, and it was disappointing to concede two late goals which took the gloss off an inspiring performance. We then had good wins against King's Taunton (6-2) and Bryanston (5-2), and it looked as if we were set for a good season. However, the Dorset Cup was very disappointing losing to Bryanston (1-2) in the semi-final, and Clayesmore (0-3) for third place.

The Canford fixture always lifts the boys and this year's match proved to be a superb display of fast-flowing hockey. Canford dominated the first half and at the interval were 3-0 up. Sherborne started the second half with pace and aggression and were rewarded with a superb team goal finished off by James Toomey. The second goal

was courtesy of Toomey, an aggressive run in to the D was stopped by a Canford defender with a sloppy tackle and this was deemed an on goal foul which resorted in a penalty stroke being awarded. James Dickins calmly converted. Although we lost 2-3, the boys were a pleasure to watch and the display was of great maturity.

The matches against King Edward VI Southampton, Clifton and Clayesmore all ended in draws. Solid defensive displays from Hugh Williams, Ollie Rose and George Pope kept the opposition attack at bay. The midfield of Jonnie Massey, Adam Montgomery and Henry Field proved to be the heartbeat of the team and they worked tirelessly to ensure the team stayed in contention. There was a festival of goals against Gillingham (8-0) with Freddie Lillingston-Price and Dickins both scoring hat-tricks.

The National Cup campaign got off to a flying start with a fantastic result away at Blundell's (4-1); goals from Freddie Lillingston-Price, Josh Skipsey and Jonnie Massey ensured we progressed to the next round. After last year's 9-1 victory over Wellington School, the 1st XI were in a confident mood, they prepared well and started keenly with excellent hockey which was rewarded quite early on with a goal after some excellent play. The second half started brightly with intense hockey constantly putting the Wellington defence under great pressure. A well worked short corner produced the second goal and we didn't look back. Converting a further three goals in a ten-minute spell broke Wellington and the game was well and truly over. The third round was against Taunton: we started poorly and this continued throughout the game, which was of great disappointment to all concerned with Taunton securing a place in the next round with a solid 5-1 win.

The season for our other teams has been fairly successful. The Colts reached the regional finals but came unstuck against good teams from Queen's Taunton and Dean Close, while the Junior Colts lost only once against Canford. The Mini Colts also deserve credit for an exceptional first season, again only losing once and claiming a place in the regional finals. We hope they can reach the nationals.

At the end of the Trinity term we say farewell to Peter Stiff. He has been coaching hockey for 36 years: starting at Haberdashers' Aske's, then at Stowe and for the last four years at Sherborne. All the staff and boys wish him a happy retirement. Peter says: "It has been my pleasure and privilege to be part of hockey teams across all my years of teaching. What successive generations of boys have given me by way of their good humoured friendship has kept me going through the darkness and cold of winter seasons."

Chris Roberts

**SHERBORNE PILGRIMS CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2015**

General Fund	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income:</i>				
Subscriptions	6,323		3,623	
Donations	2,591		1,762	
Bank interest	-		636	
	-		636	
		8,914		6,021
<i>Expenditure:</i>				
Audit	100		100	
Booklet and website	1,330		701	
Corporation tax	127		-	
Cricket	2,162		1,672	
Cross country	17		180	
Hockey	145		200	
Rugby	2,675		2,937	
Soccer	200		210	
Squash	100		120	
Tennis	-		30	
	-		30	
		(6,856)		(6,150)
 (Deficit) / Surplus for the year		2,058		(129)
 General Fund at April 1		41,878		42,007
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		2,058		(129)
General Fund at March 31		43,936		41,878

BALANCE SHEET AT MARCH 31 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Cash at bank	*43,936	*41,878
Represented by:		
General Fund	43,936	41,878

*£36,000 was invested in a Nationwide 2.25% Bond in April 2013 and matures on April 16 2016.

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 2015 and Balance Sheet at that date are in accordance with this information.

J A Steele-Perkins, 7 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RT May 6 2015

THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE

2015

PRESIDENT

A D Leakey

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

H C K Archer

VICE-PRESIDENTS

E D Fursdon and E P J F Lyons

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE

Retiring 2015

G P Gent

R Hands

P F C Langly-Smith

P J Lough

A D Nurton

T E Pitt Ford

Retiring 2016

R A Bagnall

C E S Clifton

D A R Guy

N M Lamb

J I McKillop

S M Rees-Williams

Retiring 2017

N K Cook

J C Harden

J A J Moubray

R A Rydon

J P Snudden

F E Taylor

HON SECRETARY

E P J F Lyons

0117 941 9533 (O)

edlyons@lyonslaw.co.uk

HON TREASURER

J D V Wheatley

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 the OSS Office, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AP. Tel. 01935 810558 oss@sherborne.org

Founder G M Carey

PRESIDENTS

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

TRUSTEES

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

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

1923-35	N H E Partridge
1935-50	D C D Ryder
1950-54	J S W Lush
1954-72	M R G Earls-Davis
1972-88	C R J Eglinton
1988-00	G P Gent
2000-07	C R J Eglinton
2007-	E P J F Lyons

HON TREASURERS

1966-86	J C Alan Smith
1986-14	R H Green
2014-	J D V Wheatley

Vice-Presidents who did not serve as President

1923-27	G M Carey	1964-70	R F W Leonard, MBE
1927-48	L C Powys	1970-73	M S Glennie
1935-48	N H E Partridge	1981-87	J C Foot
1966-64	W E Tucker, CVO, TD		

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.

