

1924

Played 4: Won 1, Lost 1, Drawn 2

Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 119 (R G Forbes-Bassett 5-47) and 254-6 (J S Haines 112 not out, D C D Ryder 50); Sherborne School 329 (G C W Neve 99, J K Hill 72)
Tuesday July 29 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 167 (G Peddie 95 not out; G G H Symes 4-69); Dorset Rangers 168-5 (J M Doulton 65 not out, R J Luffman 54)
Wednesday July 30 and Thursday July 31 v Devon Dumplings at Exeter - Won by 9 wickets
Pilgrims 220 (M E K Westlake 56; P Ashton 6-57) and 21-1; Devon Dumplings 94 and 145 (C B Sharpe 6-76)
Friday August 1 and Saturday August 2 v Exmouth at Exmouth - Drawn
Exmouth 222 (Col Hogg 51; S J Olivier 4-46, G Peddie 4-80); Sherborne Pilgrims 250 (D McDonald 89, Peddie 57; J N Goodwyn 6-73)

Without a most opportunely stolid innings of 95 by G Peddie, the Pilgrims would have cut an exceedingly poor figure against Dorset Rangers in the first match on July 29: the home side's methods of defeating themselves were varied and vigorous - the author, for instance, singled out a would-have-been-wide for the invidious attention of second slip! The Rangers were much too adequate for some moderate bowling, though they might have had to fight harder if our "big noise", C B Sharpe, had not been careless about a bee the day before, and thereby placed himself temporarily hors de combat. The two bright spots in our out-cricket were the bowling of Parry-Jones, and the incredible energy of Olivier's fielding at the end of a very hot evening.

So far from being dispirited at this setback, the Pilgrims arrived at Exeter with the resolution to make amends. Our captain, Col Partridge, had motored through the night to meet us, and won the toss on a perfect wicket. With better batting the side registered over two hundred. Chief credit goes to Westlake, who displayed contempt for the Dumplings bowlers to the tune of 56 runs; but by far the most notable, and stirring, achievement was the opening stroke of Parry-Jones's innings - a crashing, cross-bat, straight drive for four, which evoked tumultuous applause from a keenly critical gathering of spectators. In fact, P-J had a splendid match; perhaps his bowling was not as successful in mere figures as against the Rangers, but the magnificent abandon with which he hurled himself hither and thither in the slips, galvanised the whole team to a display of truly terrific energy in the field, which, as a tone-colour for the highlights of Paddy Sharpe's bowling, proved altogether too much for our opponents, who were defeated by 12 o'clock the next morning by more than an innings.

Another man who will probably cherish this match among the treasures of his memory is Graham Peddie. For was he not singled out from all his envious confreres by a particularly attractive young lady, and requested to sign his name in her autograph book? It is unkind to add that this stern petticoat-hater was momentarily so overcome that he complied with her request.

On Wednesday evening some malign spirit informed us that we could do worse than entertain ourselves at the Exeter Hippodrome. It seemed a strange formula, but we sallied forth and were rewarded with two hours of excruciating torment. The majority of the team feigned some small interest, others, and blatantly P-J, were not content with mere passive protestation. They succeeded in producing a veritable tornado of din, by judicious discord of throat-clearing and programme rustling. However, we were finally released, and next day found ourselves at Exmouth. Our captain here failed to do his duty, and we spent a considerable time in the field - in fact till the rain came late in the evening.

P-J turned out in his fourth pair of clean trousers since the tour began, but yet another Herculean effort in the slips sent them the same way as their predecessors - to the laundry! Spens again distinguished himself as a deep fieldsman. Peddie and the author took turn and turn about hunting in a most interesting, hilly, country in the direction of square leg.

We dined early and very cheerfully with the prospect of Ian Stevens, that superb Devonshire comedian. We motored to Budleigh Salterton, and were not disappointed; the great man rose superior to the colossal heat of the room and produced such a show as none there was ever likely to see bettered. Then we staggered out, to be revived by the delightful and much appreciated hospitality of la famille Vincent Smith.

We arrived back to find the hotel indulging in a grand ball. We men straightaway retired to bed, but a few members of the team "thought they would just have a glance!", and of course the combination of jazz and Exmouth belles proved too strong. The author for one enjoyed himself hugely to the indignant disgust of more than one gentleman, who had waded through the heavy formalities of introductions and programmes! Next day the rain interfered, and made a definite result to the match impossible. Our opponents' first-innings score was passed, however, thanks to a particularly crashing innings by D Macdonald, who planted the ball with great ferocity and frequency well over the trees that surrounded the ground. G Peddie again compiled a large score. Then it was helter-skelter to reach the station.

Our captain with his cheery and invariable manner of denotation should be able to look back on the tour with some satisfaction: he was not implicated in the debacle at Sherborne, and could not be held responsible for the rain at Exmouth, and he set an example in the field, which enabled us to rise superior to the paucity of bowlers. May he lead the team on many more occasions! The man who, perhaps above all others, deserves special mention on the tour was our scorer, John Vincent Smith, who was patriotic enough to travel some 40 miles for four days in succession, in order to mark down every ball bowled. His effort was thoroughly appreciated.

Report by FHW.

1925

Played 4: Won 2, Drawn 2

Friday June 26 and Saturday June 27 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 165 (B C W Windle 79; C M G Moberly 6-33) and 146-1 (H G M Barton 85); Sherborne School 340-5 dec (R Eglington 189 not out, J.A. Nunn 77; R.G. Forbes-Bassett 4-108)

Tuesday July 28 v South Wilts at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
South Wilts 159 (J A Nunn 4-28); Sherborne Pilgrims 163-3 (W E Tucker 50 not out)

Wednesday July 29 and Thursday July 30 v Exmouth at Exmouth - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 112 (H S Carter 6-38) and 268-9 dec (C H Cole 133); Exmouth 112 and 143-4 (G Knapman 55 not out, T J Eales 50)

Friday July 31 and Saturday August 1 v United Services at Mount Wise, Plymouth - Won by innings and 97 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 450-9 dec (G Peddie 231, C H Cole 96, A W B Brakspear 60 not out; Lt Benstead 5-136); United Services 159 (Cdr Rapkin 64) and 194 (Capt Bray 55)

The first match worked itself into what must be acknowledged as the ideal performance for such an occasion; to begin with, the opponents were almost all dismissed before lunch; and afterwards just the right people distinguished themselves - most conveniently because they thus provided such a splendid opportunity for those (and there were many), who could recall similar feats of the same persons at school, and feel the finer fellows for having themselves performed equal, and more brilliant, deeds than their other contemporaries. Our opponents were perhaps a trifle unlucky in that their super-batsman was sent back by a perfect display of juggling, such as the guilty fieldsman, R Forbes-Bassett, could certainly only have produced under the influence of Mr Ford's excellent luncheon strawberries.

The opposition thus dispatched, there followed the gatherings of those jolly companies in which every Shirburnian counts it a privilege to participate. This is the time when the mighty monsters of the past bandy their hair-raising tales, like so many ping-pong balls, across the groaning table, while we youngsters of the brotherhood sit in awe-struck dumbness - and offer silent prayers of thanks for the rapid civilisation of the "public school system"! And afterwards there was no lack of entertainment, the principal artistes were an outrageous motorcycle, somebody else's car, and a rider, Forbes-Bassett, who rivalled in daring and skill the world famed trapeze fiends of Olympic's circus.

It poured incessantly the next morning, and in addition our official umpire intimated that he had suddenly lost enthusiasm; doubtless he was chary of associating himself - and in a responsible position - with such a band of Pilgrims. But things (i.e. run-outs, leg-befores etc) would have gone ill for the team, had not our ever-ready-to-help E J Freeman stepped forward to fill the breach and the white coat. We found that the rain had ceased at Exmouth, but upon winning the toss, ourselves provided an excellent substitute in the stream of batsmen who poured in and out of the pavilion in rapid succession. Still, our opponents were, in their turn, even more realistic.

No little excitement was evinced at dinner, when it was discovered that we (amongst others) were later to be entertained by a company of nymphs and swains of amateur

and/or dramatic inclinations. Somebody - some have it that this indiscretion was committed by the writer - suggested that the team might confer some token of their appreciation of the performance on the artiste (of course of the fair sex) of their combined choosing. Each member of the team considering himself, like any self-respecting gentleman, an unfaltering connoisseur in beauty, it only needed this piquant element of anticipatory relish to send us en masse to our seats - most opportunely placed in the front rows - and enable us to sit grimly resolute through the preliminary casters of an emphatically clownish clown.

With the departure of the latter, the fun began, and continued furiously until, dazzled by the intricate display of member-waving by beauteous damsels, a welcome entr'acte gave us the opportunity to stagger panting outside, only to be pounced upon and bidden deliver our embarrassed verdict. No sooner, however, had Bill (W E Tucker, permanent team secretary for all affaires-cux-dames) sifted into order the sentimental chaos of votes, than we were hurried back again, only to reconsider our opinions, as each item pranced yet more enticingly across the stage. The greatest credit is due to the gallant Bill, who eventually took the only course possible i.e. singled out the lady of his own choosing, and saw her retired across the footlights attached to the well-won prize. A most delightful evening.

The rain next day was again inopportune - from our point of view, as we claimed; from Exmouth's, as Exmouth claimed. However, the pauses in cricket had provided an excellent opportunity for fertile brains to conceive yet further entertainment for our leisure moments. Consequently, when we arrived at the hotel that evening we discovered, some with enthusiasm, some with assumed ennui, some with ill-concealed disgust, that irresistible embassies had been busy during the showers, and the direct result was the imminent arrival of certain prima donnas of yester-night (incidentally and tactlessly, those whom we had overlooked in the distribution of our bouquet!).

In short, some of us were expected to smoothe the creases from our foreheads and waistcoats, and parade ourselves as dancing partners. Unwilling though we had been to undertake this enterprise, yet, when the band had long since completed its excellent repertoire, obvious reluctance to depart was evinced on both sides. We blush to relate that one strong man (R Morton) lost his heart that night, but was just in time to snatch it back, when the fair thief intimated that it was in danger of being whisked off shortly to India; which both considered impracticable.

At last a general departure seemed imminent and the writer personally seized the opportunity to bolt for his room. As he opened the door, however, he was greeted with the purr of a familiar motor in the garage below. Next moment the purr had risen to a roar, almost immediately culminating in a resounding crash. With rage swelling in his heart he leaped to the window to glare down upon his own little motor being extricated from the hedge flanking the garage, whither one Brakspear had marked it sternwards.

In answer to his stentorian bawl of none too nice language, he was informed that the

wretched thing was only being borrowed to take the last damsels home, and was it all right? The answer was, I fear, a terrible growl in which "morning" and "wait" were mercifully the only obvious words. At this point it might be opportune to register the appreciation of a vehicular tour by the non-driving section of the team. They even apparently desire to thank the luckless wights who performed the labour of conveying some two hooligans a-piece round the country; and certainly a tour is very much more enjoyable, and totally free from Bradshaw anxiety when conducted with a sufficiency of vehicles.

Next to Plymouth: here a number of notable achievements are to our credit; first and foremost the record score, well over two hundred from an individual Pilgrim bat, G Peddie's; secondly the fielding of Bill Tucker (in masterly manner, too) with no heel to his boot for a whole day; thirdly the arrival of the whole team on time on the second day (we feel this must also be a record); and climatical effort, the photographing of the said team - in a downpour.

When it is added that our militarist in embryo, G Peddie, smote off in a cinema the cap of a citizen misguided enough not to stand during the rendering of *God Save The King*, and that J A Nunn did feloniously and deliberately bring heavily to earth the somewhat boastful captain of our opponents, by striking him viciously on the knee with a most accurate break-back, it will readily be acceded that the Pilgrims did not fail to leave their mark in this hospitable city. It only remains to congratulate our captain on an eminently successful tour, and to add that, only in consideration of the future happiness of the Westlake home, is his name conspicuous by its absence.

Report by FHW.

1926

Played 6: Won 3, Lost 1, Drawn 2

Friday June 25 and Saturday June 26 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by innings and 8 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 245 (G C W Neve 75, H P Clarke 59; R G Kreyer 4-69) and 131 (C M G Moberly 6-53); Sherborne School 384 (R H Gladden 76, J W N Sharpe 57, T B Sharpe 53)

Tuesday July 27 v M B Elderton's XI at Sherborne - Drawn

M B Elderton's XI 273-5 dec (P W Vasey 96, H C Burt 59, T Bowring 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 207-8 (C H Cole 51)

Thursday July 29 and Friday July 30 v Jersey Island at Victoria College - Won by 123 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 245 (J Spearman 4-55) and 206 (J A Nunn 79; W Saxon 6-63); Jersey Island 166 (H P Clarke 5-38) and 162 (C H Cole 5-72)

Saturday July 31 v Jersey Garrison at Victoria College - Drawn

Jersey Garrison 308 (H L B Ellis 95, O C Adams 56; C H Cole 4-85); Sherborne Pilgrims 228-8 (Pte Parris 4-46)

Monday August 2 and Tuesday August 3 v Guernsey Island at College Field - Won by

71 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 160 (H P Clarke 55; A M Acland 6-47) and 289 (R V Payne 60, C H Cole 57, J A Nunn 56; H F Morris 5-72); Guernsey Island 158 (R G Forbes-Bassett 4-55, Cole 4-55) and 220 (H Wood 50; Cole 6-103, Forbes-Bassett 4-58)

Wednesday August 4 v Guernsey Garrison at Port Field - Won by 5 wickets

Guernsey Garrison 139 (C H Cole 8-62); Sherborne Pilgrims 143-5

The Pilgrims' tour began on July 27 with a match at Sherborne against M B Elderton's XI and defeat was only avoided by the narrowest of margins, when the opponents just failed to get the last wicket before time. The Pilgrims hardly showed their best form either in bowling, batting or fielding, but perhaps they may urge in excuse the excitement due to their prospective visit to the Channel Islands, for which they set off next morning under the captaincy of G M Carey, who was supported by a most able secretary in Max Westlake and a most efficient umpire and handyman in Freeman.

There were some who doubted the wisdom of a visit overseas since they declared that they would be totally unable to shake off the effects of mal de mer in time to do themselves justice on the cricket field. However, they need not have feared, since we had excellent crossings. The voyage out was not particularly noteworthy except for an unfortunate occurrence to Bill Brakspear. It appeared that he entered the tea-saloon, where every place was occupied save that directly opposite a very unprepossessing old woman. Inevitably Bill sat down. Parry-Jones, who had all the morning been in his most naive mood, was heard to whisper unnecessarily audibly to GMC that he didn't "think much of Bill's wife!" To Bill's credit he accepted the insinuation with alacrity; it was in fact to his utmost regret that the lady disembarked at Guernsey before he could get on speaking terms.

Given to understand, on arrival at Guernsey, that the boat would take half an hour to disgorge its mails and passengers before proceeding to Jersey, the team went ashore to stretch its legs. Jack Rawlins and Humphrey Wright, not content with a stretch, took a considerable walk to discover the beauty-spots of the town. The occupation took them so long, and was such thirsty work, that they stopped for refreshment on the way back. Presently it occurred to them that the boat was about due to leave: they therefore strolled towards the quay. To their obvious embarrassment the boat appeared to be moving out; there was nothing to do but hurl dignity to the winds and run, which they did with some alacrity, much to the amusement of the deck-hands who exalted them with voluble patois.

Even so, however, the boat was too far out to reach; it could not be recalled; blacker still, the next boat left at 6.30am the next morning! Most fortunately Guernsey is a land stocked with the friends of Sherborne, and the Kinnersleys most hospitably came to the rescue. In consolation for their early rise, the delinquents were told, on reaching Jersey, that the proper boat had taken an hour to manoeuvre alongside the quay the evening before, since the harbour at Jersey is very small and tricky.

The first evening we were the guests of Lady Boots, latest and most distinguished recruit to the ranks of Jersey millionaires - at least most of the younger members of

the team paraded, whilst the seniors, with a complete disregard for social etiquette, refused to stir from their comfortable chairs. They missed much! A most select gathering was assembled when we arrived, and we should have been mightily embarrassed if Major and Mrs Carey had not taken us under their wings. Even so, the occasion was too much for Jack Rawlins and Jan Nunn who, having piloted their respective dowagers to the finish of a severe dance, straightaway beat a dastardly retreat to a less exacting resort.

The remainder of us were horrified at the prospect of an imminent explanation of their hasty departure; however, Rex Forbes-Bassett is not the man to be lightly subdued. He had soon explored the beautiful Japanese lantern-lighted grounds, and was presently discovered promoting a sailing competition upon the artificial lake, with lanterns for yachts. Bill B and Haines built up a complicated transport system, whereby they guaranteed a continual supply of olives and other succulent fruits from the handsome gold plate of the refreshment room to the sailing party. Payne, Olivier and Wright bore the brunt of Jersey society in their arms and just saved the credit of the Pilgrims. A very memorable evening.

The next day was memorable for an experience with which few of us had met before - an earthquake. True it was only a baby earthquake, but we were told that chimneys fell in the town and people ran about and shouted. It happened just at the end of the lunch interval, but did not seem to affect the batsmen; though indeed the atmosphere was so oppressive throughout the day that only with the inspiration of our most keen captain, GMC, could the Pilgrims have fielded with such energy that they made some rather mediocre bowling formidable enough to win the match. The crowd was excellently represented, and became extra enthusiastic when Sir Julian Byng, the Governor, went out to umpire and later when a fierce infantryman hit Cole for three terrific "sixes" consecutively.

In the evening we all went to the Hippodrome, which was not vastly entertaining, though Jan produced extraordinary impromptu noises at intervals, in discord with the orchestra, which he asserted to be imitations of a saxophone, into such discredit has that instrument fallen. The noises however were nothing to the really brilliant recital of jazz music to which he treated us next morning in the pavilion, while we waited for the opposing team (the Garrison) presumably to come off parade. Our final day's cricketering at Jersey was perhaps the least creditable, as we had to fight hard to accomplish a draw. Our bowlers again were not very efficient (always excepting Cole). One could forgive Archer, for Bill B had developed an abnormally acute ear for telephone calls, and the imminence of a message from Stowe about those exam papers must have weighed heavily on Nicky-Nicky-Chow-Chow's mind.

After dinner the majority of the team piled into a char-à-banc and were conducted on a short tour of the island, which was inspiring, though cold. A few more adventurous spirits had contrived to get themselves invited to join various parties, which were attending the opening of a swagger dance-hall that evening. However else they enjoyed themselves, they at least had the pleasure of rubbing shoulders with the Governor, as he pirouetted a graceful, if obsolete, foxtrot with the pro, who had just

given us an excellent exhibition Charleston. Most of them ended the evening by being driven round the island furiously by young ladies. Wright slinked out in a Rolls-Royce, to find himself presently at a millionaire's champagne supper party.

Sunday was a really exciting day. The whole team decamped early from the hotel and took train to the links. A great contest was to be staged, a four-ball match between two senior members of the team (who presumptuously dubbed themselves "the veterans") and two junior members. GMC and Humphrey Cole were the former, Bill B and Jan the latter. Amid ribald acclamation the four players all smote their balls off the first tee with great vigour and skill, but very soon experience began to overcome lustiness, and finally the veterans scored a magnificent victory by a cruel margin. Cole once more proved himself the man for a big occasion, as unperturbed by three-yard putts as by ordeals of the order "three minutes to go, four runs to make". In the afternoon we were most kindly entertained to tennis by a delightful gentleman, named Robins, whose two courts were in a perfect condition, rarely achieved in the uncertain climate of England. Apart from Max Westlake, our skill was not equal to the occasion, but everything was so pleasant, and the tea so very excellent, that our inefficiency was forgotten.

In the evening a number of us went to bathe in the town pool. There were however so many spectators, and Olivier was so certain that his bathing-dress had developed an awkward transparency, that he and Wright decided to try elsewhere. They therefore boarded an ancient vehicle and were taken out to a famous bathing spot. This turned out to be a long stretch of pebbly beach, with the tide at its lowest, and the sea somewhere on the horizon. So they set out to walk round the coast till they found a more amenable spot. Evidently the driver found it cold and lonely waiting, so he went home fareless. Mercifully a convenient train presently hove in sight which, though less dignified, proved a cheaper means of conveyance back to the town.

And so to Guernsey, to which we were all looking forward, not least Bill B who hoped to find his "wife" still sojourning there. FHW alone was not anxious to report when we reached the quayside, since he had inadvertently packed his ticket in the depths of his stud-box, so he explained to the official. The latter was, we suppose correctly, not impressed and a new ticket had to be purchased. Another beautiful crossing and we approached the ground feeling very strong and hearty. Unfortunately we arrived at the wrong end of the field, but the undaunted P-J led the way, and the home team must have been mildly shocked at the spectacle of their visitors conducting a sort of raid over the palings, hard on a preliminary bombardment of cricket-bags. Once inside we found a most delightful ground and a very jolly gathering in the brilliant sunshine.

After two days' cricket we just won a really exciting match, even though our captain had developed a very sore leg and was forced to be merely a spectator for the second afternoon's fielding. Max proved a most capable substitute and was in his most destructive mood behind the wicket, on more than one occasion sweeping all three stumps clean out of the ground in magnificent efforts to secure a batsman toppling over his crease. Humphrey C was, as usual, the big man of the match. He

and Jan both batted extremely well in the second innings, but it was in bowling that he surpassed even himself. He has a superb confidence in himself, which is very rarely not justified, and although, as we quite agreed with him, he was abominably supported in the field (Jan, Peter Clarke and FHW all dropped a catch in this match, so that each member of the side had put down at least one catch on the tour), the scorebook figures indicate his colossal long spells superbly.

One might mention here that our official scorer, Hopwood, actually did score for half an-hour during this match. Of course, he had been unable to help us in Jersey, as he had decided to stay in Guernsey and wait our return thither. Goodness only knows what we should have done without the faithful P-J. The whole team's only regret of the tour was that the latter could not be persuaded to make an appearance in action upon the cricket field.

We were all equally captivated by the hospitality of every Guernseyite we met. GMC was given quite a reception as a long-lost native, and we were all very entertained by his skill in recognizing the interesting people, and lamentably failing to recall the faces and feats of the dull species. It was most unfortunate that his leg was so troublesome at the time: it must, however, be recorded to the undying credit of one of his hostesses that she actually persuaded him to forget the pain and lead her out for a waltz in the ballroom one night.

Perhaps the Old Government House is not the ideal hotel for a team, which intends to play grim cricket. It dances every night; it has displays of fireworks; its dinners and its wines are excellent; in fact, the spirit of festivity reigns. Naturally the Pilgrims enjoyed themselves hugely in billiard-room and ballroom and, 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.

Our last day's cricket was against the Garrison, whom we had defeated by tea time, so we agreed to indulge in half an hour's hitting a side, which proved very good fun. Bowlers proper were relegated to the deep field, whilst bowlers improper proceeded to fling full pitches and long hops by every conceivable machination somewhere in the direction of the enemy. When it came to the Pilgrims' turn to bat, the hitting was so incredibly truculent that we raised a score of 138 to our opponents' 97. Peter Clarke greatly distinguished himself by hitting repeated sixes - one a perfect Goliath, right over the road into a turnip field in the distance.

Having despatched the Garrison, some of us brought our stay to a climax with a wonderful midnight picnic in one of Guernsey's famous bays. It was a superb moonlight night, and to prevent Jack Rawlins and his partner from becoming sentimental, we had to induce Jan to tell us some of his Cornish stories. Away he went, and one alone lasted till we reached home, and though we were lost in admiration for the raconteur's staying power, we also remembered to laugh quite frequently.

We reached the hotel to find that others had been enjoying themselves equally, if

more locally and more energetically. Nicky-Nicky Chow-Chow began the trouble by getting a jug of water thrown over him by RF-B. He naturally gave chase and his tormentor fled with such rapidity down the stairs that he tripped up over his confederate, Bill B, and all three fell in a struggling mass. Nicky extricated himself first and succeeded in bringing off a brilliant coup by waiting in the bathroom till they passed, and then emptying most of the contents of the said bathroom upon them. He then made his "get-away" and resisted the siege in his bedroom until his room-mate, Haines, conceived the obvious plan.

No sooner had Nicky opened the door to let him in to bed, than a surging mob burst into the room. In the ensuing melée RF-B was seen to pick up Nicky and hurl him down several flights of stairs, though not before his victim had dealt very roughly with Bill B's head. After that they all shook hands and the annex (thank goodness it wasn't in the main hotel!) became comparatively quiet. Bill looked very ill in the morning and all the response we could elicit to our solicitous enquiries was "Awful!! I doubt if any man's ever been through it as I have!" However, he cheered up after a stiff lemonade in the lounge. We most mournfully took our leave of this very pleasant island.

Crowds of friends and a considerable retinue of Jack's conquests accompanied us to the quay where we made some pretence of cheerfulness by indulging in a terrific combat of grape hurling from boat to quay, which eventually had to be called off, when we discovered several innocent passengers suffering from juice-soiled hats and faces. There was indeed a ray of sunshine when Bill, who had evinced a curious uneasiness since reaching the quay, suddenly sprang towards the gangway, where a great basket was being lifted on board. He shouted, "My wife, there's my wife!" and the astonished crowd gave way as he rushed forward and tore open the lid before the officials could resist. It was tragic to see his face when he discovered absolute emptiness. It was time to go and we sailed away over a beautiful calm sea.

I am sure that everyone was perfectly sincere in voting it quite the best tour they had ever been on. The weather was absolutely perfect, the company could not have been bettered, the opponents were wonderful hosts, if they were not mighty cricketers, and our captain was the ideal combination of seriousness and humour. Finally, we must thank Max, who made us most comfortable, and if he did get us into financial difficulties, extricated us gallantly in the end.

Report by FHW.

1927

Played 4: Won 3, Drawn 1.

Friday June 24 and Saturday June 25 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
Sherborne School 264 (R Eglinton 92, R H Gladden 72; B C W Windle 7-73) and 65-4 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 176 (F H Wright 62) and 156-3 (L H Bean 50*)
Tuesday July 26 v Exmouth at Exmouth - Won by 7 wickets

Exmouth 53 (R V Payne 6-12, W P Haines 4-31); Sherborne Pilgrims 54-3
Wednesday July 27 and Thursday July 28 v North Devon at Instow - Won by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 198 (J A Nunn 56; R.K. Taylor 4-29) and 92-6; North Devon 78 (R
V Payne 5-34) and 210 (J H Paul 106; Payne 6-64)
Friday July 29 July v Devon Dumplings at Bystock - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 210 (W W Meldon 6-63); Devon Dumplings 16-1 - Rain

The tour was shorter than usual, the match at Sherborne being cut out, to the regret of many who like to renew their acquaintance with the old school ground. The bad weather was most disappointing, but did not succeed in damping the cheery spirits of the Pilgrims, who filled in the intervals of waiting with bridge and other less solemn (and more noisy) amusements in the pavilion. Still one could not help thinking of the gorgeous time in the Channel Islands last year, with GMC - now so sadly absent - at our head.

The Pilgrims assembled by car at Exmouth in a deluge, having come by various routes (via Axminster, Honiton, Sidmouth etc) according as they used their own judgment, or trusted to the itinerary so thoughtfully provided by the staff. The rain ceased before lunch, and the wicket drying remarkably quickly, a start was made by 2 o'clock. The opposition was very weak, and we scored an easy win. Everyone was delighted to see L C Powys and Rev A Field on the ground, and to be able (in the case of one Pilgrim anyhow) to exchange memories of bygone triumphs and anxieties of pre-war tours. We took the road once more in the evening for Instow (dining en route at Exeter) and reached the Marine Hotel in another downpour by 11pm. And so to bed, after a long and tiring day.

It was a joy to play once again on the charming Instow ground with its ancient pavilion. But, unfortunately, the rain was still following us, and we were lucky to force a win between the showers, after an epidemic of dropped catches in North Devon's second innings, and a somewhat ignominious scramble to get 90-odd runs necessary for a win. Instow itself - picturesque as it is - cannot be called lively in the evenings, but Barnstaple and Bideford are within reach, and some of the more energetic responded to the call of the "flickers" after dinner on Wednesday. On Thursday evening, after the only day that was mainly fine, the whole party set out to view the beauties of Devon - the younger and gayer section attending a dance kindly got up for us on the spur of the moment; the more sedate members preferring the beauties of nature made a pilgrimage to Clovelly in the dusk. Both sections appeared thoroughly satisfied with their evening.

Friday morning saw the cavalcade scouring the Devonshire lanes (pouring as usual) in search of an elusive Bystock; and once more the official itinerary came in for some adverse criticism. When found, however, Bystock proved a perfectly delightful example of the private ground, nowadays all too rare. By lunchtime the weather had cleared and cricket was possible by 3 o'clock, on a mud wicket. The Pilgrims completed an innings of just over 200 and dismissed one opponent for some 20 runs, and that was all the cricket in the match. Saturday morning found the rain streaming down again and the match was given up before lunch to enable those of

us who had many miles to cover to get on our homeward way.

The personnel of the party was much as usual, with the welcome addition of Cuthbert Partridge, and equally welcome reappearance of Graham Peddie. Needless to add everything was most happy and harmonious. From a cricket point of view the outstanding feature was the bowling of Payne - a greatly improved performer - Partridge kept wicket very finely and J A Nunn (the Oxford double Blue) batted consistently, and showed a nice taste in his choice of caps! There was, I think, a general feeling that the tour was rather too short - though one would probably have the same feeling if it lasted for a fortnight; and the Sunday on tour with its variety and change was missed. But, on the whole, a very happy tour, in spite of the (oft-mentioned) rain.

Report by C H Cole.

1928

Played 6: Won 4, Drawn 2.

Friday June 29 and Saturday June 30 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 340 (D A Hodgkinson 88; J A Nunn 5-141); Sherborne Pilgrims 151 and 102-4
Tuesday July 31 v T R K Jones's XI at Blundell's - Drawn
T R K Jones's XI 105-2 - Rain
Wednesday August 1 and Thursday August 2 v North Devon at Instow - Won by 8 wickets
North Devon 136 (B W B Sharpe 4-38) and 132; Sherborne Pilgrims 248 (R Eglington 127) and 23-2
Saturday August 4 v Holsworthy at Holsworthy - Won by 8 wickets
Holsworthy 62; Sherborne Pilgrims 63-2
Monday August 6 v Okehampton at Okehampton - Won by 2 wickets
Okehampton 147 (Mole 61; R G Kreyer 6-38); Sherborne Pilgrims 151-8 (R H Kendal 52*; Blight 4-25)
Tuesday August 7 v Millaton at Millaton - Won by 9 wickets
Millaton 155 (G M Cornish 4-52); Sherborne Pilgrims 156-1 (R Eglington 70*)

The fixture list, though longer than those of the last few years, was somewhat weaker than usual; the two-day match with the Devon Dumplings was cancelled at short notice, owing to a misunderstanding in dates and Max Westlake, having tried 26 clubs without success, eventually fixed matches with Okehampton and Millaton. Nevertheless, though we shall get better fixtures another year, we all thoroughly enjoyed the cricket we played.

We left Sherborne at 9.00am on Tuesday by car, for a 50-mile run to Tiverton, our baggage going by lorry under the command of our umpire, the ever faithful E J Freeman. Play being impossible before lunch owing to rain, we started at 2.00. Max called "Heads!" He was wrong. We fielded. In two hours our opponents made 105 for

two by rather unenterprising cricket, when rain put an end to play for the day and we set off for the Royal Hotel, Bideford. Dinner, a stroll round Bideford and billiards ended our first day.

At 9.00am next day we were down to breakfast, ready for the fray. An hour later Sam Eglington appeared. He is apparently one of these people who like to be left alone to wrestle with their bacon and eggs, for he never came down to breakfast until we had all finished. We arrived at Instow in lovely weather. Max called "Heads!" It was "Tails" and we fielded. Having disposed of North Devon for 136, we knocked up 248 thanks to a noteworthy 127 from Sam. Stumps were then drawn for the day, and eight of us set off in Sam's two-seater for Appledore, where we chartered a sailing boat under the command of Fishwick, a true Devon man, and hero of many epics of the sea. After a most enjoyable sail - dinner - and so ended our second day.

Next morning found us marshalling ourselves under the direction of one Puddicombe to be photographed. This painful operation over, we once more set off for Instow. Sam Eglington, Ian Wilson and the writer arriving early, found a highly exciting game of cricket in progress between some oddly-assorted scouts, who were encamped nearby. They joined in. The writer bowled. Having been hit off his length, and smitten to the four points of the compass by a diminutive "tenderfoot", wolf-cub, or what-not, he felt it high time to try to piece together the broken fragments of his prestige by going in to bat. This he did in no uncertain manner by smashing a couple of panes of glass in the neighbouring North Devon pavilion, which cost him 2/- and he retired, a poorer and a wiser man.

The Pilgrims then took the field again and disposed of North Devon for 132 in their second venture, leaving us 21 to make, which we did for the loss of two wickets, and the match was over by 3 o'clock. Tea at the hotel was followed by another sail with friend Fishwick, and a couple of fishing lines. It was a joy to see Sam's face light up with eager triumph when he felt his first bite, and it was a still greater joy to see his wrath when he found it was no fish, but only EJ who was surreptitiously tugging at the line from the stern. This, however, was our only "bite" - and so back to the hotel for dinner, fishless and hungry. Here we found the brothers Kendal, who had been playing golf with two of our opponents, half-way through the menu, Dick demanding two helpings of everything - much to the consternation of the hotel staff. It appears that they played with two men whose handicaps could be counted on the fingers of one hand and gave a performance which reflected nothing but credit upon the Pilgrims and the illustrious house of Kendal.

After dinner we set out in cars for Clovelly. We descended the main street of this delightful old village, till "Muffin" (Captain G M Cornish) protested that the nails in his shoes had punctured his feet well nigh to the bone, and refused to go any further. After a short pause at the New Inn, we returned home, and so to bed.

Dawn next morning saw Max, "Muffin" and the writer on the Bideford platform, waiting to catch the 8.19 train to Sherborne for the Parry-Jones-Carey wedding (Hodgkinson, Kreyer and Devitt following later in the last named's car). It must be

here recorded that Sam rose early that morning. But only for motives which were utterly base. His window, and those of some other Pilgrims, overlooked the platform and the train steamed out of the station to the accompaniment of a volley of jeers and a gallon or so of water, directed with amazing accuracy from the aforementioned windows, upon our defenceless heads.

The wedding went off excellently, and we all wish Mr and Mrs P-J every happiness. Olivier joined us on our return journey, the burden of his duties as a schoolmaster having prevented him from joining us earlier, and we got back to Bideford at 10.30pm. The remainder of the team spent the day afloat with Fishwick. Seven hours did they toil in the deep, and caught nothing. Geoffrey Warner apparently did his best by diving to a depth of 15 feet, but the fish must have seen him coming. However, they all seem to have had a very good day. Sleep that night was delayed for a time while we extracted various articles from our beds and restored our bedclothes to a state wherein we could at least get into bed, even if our feet did protrude into the night. Suspicion here falls on Sam.

Next morning we bade farewell to Bideford, and having arrived at Holsworthy, Max called "heads". However, we had already got our fielding trousers on, having got used to Max by then, and took the field without further delay. We disposed of our opponents very cheaply and won easily. Thence to Okehampton where we found the White Hart Hotel an excellent spot, especially Wilson, who thoroughly approved of the proprietor's daughter. In a misguided moment after dinner we decided to go to the "pictures". With cunning diplomacy Sam got us in for 9d as the show was half over. It was 9d more than it was worth. Undoubtedly the worst show ever.

On Sunday we went to Wellcombe Bay, having been invited to a picnic there by Wavell Wakefield, the English rugger international, and his wife. The Pilgrims arrived about 12.00 to find WW and a party awaiting us, and an excellent bathe followed, those of us who had omitted to bring bathing costumes being fitted up with all sorts of weird garments which would hardly have been suitable for the Lido, but which served their purpose on this occasion. Lunch followed on the beach, then a stirring game of rounders, and then another bathe. A splendid bathing pool was discovered among the rocks and above the tide, deep and as clear as crystal. Here Geoffrey Warner, in particular, gave an excellent rendering of an aquarium scene. After some thrilling surf-riding we exposed ourselves to the tender mercies of the sun, which was excelling itself that day. (The writer is going through the painful operation of growing a new skin as he writes this screed.) And so back to Okehampton for duck and green peas. An exhausting ping-pong tournament followed, which the writer blushes to relate he won, after a nerve-racking final with Max: and then bed.

We awoke next morning to another lovely day. A real village cricket match was in store for us. Max is nothing if not consistent, so we fielded. Thanks to a good innings by a Cornish Mole, we were faced with a score of 147. The said Mole was eventually caught in the deep by Sam, who unexpectedly bobbed up in the long grass. Then the Pilgrims' progress to and from the wicket was rapid and beset with unutterable peril. The ball performed amazing feats of terrorism on a badly worn wicket. It shot along

the ground, it soared far over the wicket-keeper's head, it smote the Pilgrims hip and thigh. Six wickets fell for 76. Then rose a David among us to cope with this Goliath. Dick Kendal proceeded to retaliate and his splendid innings, nobly supported by Geoffrey Warner's, brought us victory by two wickets. A fine finish to a very sporting match. Thence to the Fountain Inn, where Sam dispensed drinks from behind the bar in true Devon style and showed how he had missed his vocation.

After dinner we set off by car for the Hippodrome, Exeter, where we went through purgatory watching a repulsive woman trying to make herself look more repulsive, followed by a fat would-be prima donna with four chins (five on the high notes) rendering extracts from Grand Opera, during which the behaviour of the Pilgrims, considering all things, was highly commendable. After this, however, the show greatly improved, the O'Gorman Bros and a man with a performing hat, being most popular, and the evening was voted a definite success.

Tuesday morning found us gazing forlornly at the rain which was falling steadily on the delightful private ground at Millaton. However, after an early lunch, a start was made at 2.00. Max went through the usual formality of losing the toss and we disposed of our opponents for 155. It is perhaps worthy of mention that Sam scored 22 (four fours and a six) off the first over of our innings, and our opponents could not complain that they were kept longer than necessary in the drizzle, for we got the necessary runs in an hour for the loss of one wicket.

So ended a thoroughly enjoyable tour, and our only hope is that Max Westlake will have had lessons in tossing by next year, and will not repeat the performance of losing the toss five times out of five. But apart from this lapse he was the excellent captain he always is both on and off the field, and we must thank him for the perfection of all arrangements. May he continue to make such perfect arrangements for many a long day.

Report by B W B Sharpe.

1929

Played 5: Won 1, Drawn 4.

Friday June 28 and Saturday June 29 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 219 (R H Kendal 62, R Eglington 53) and 91-4; Sherborne School 304-7 dec (F A Simmonds 123, J A Tallent 78)

Tuesday July 30 and Wednesday July 31 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Wykehamists 267 (P J Brett 51; R V Payne 4-52) and 8-0 - Rain; Sherborne Pilgrims 239 (R Eglington 69, R B Wyatt-Smith 66)

Friday August 2 and Saturday August 3 v Devon Dumplings at Blundell's - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 196 (W W Meldon 5-45, R I F McIntosh 5-66); Devon Dumplings 209 (J K McFarlan 89; J A Nunn 5-75) - Rain

Monday August 5 and Tuesday August 6 v North Devon at Instow - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 228 (D A Hodgkinson 79, R B Wyatt-Smith 69; R V Bardsley 5-72,

G Wilson 5-95) and 220-7 dec (Wyatt-Smith 58*); North Devon 210 (R Foster 74, C F Stanger-Leathes 6-49) and 158-8

Wednesday August 7 v Millaton at Millaton - Won by 5 wickets

Millaton 123 (B W B Sharpe 4-22); Sherborne Pilgrims 125-5 (F Coleridge 4-51)

"Tossie" - a degenerate form of the assertorical Tirrie introduced from the North by C F Stanger-Leathes. It means a plain, ordinary sixpence, and deduce what derivation you will, for us it stood irrevocably for the value of six pennies, paid into the secretary's treasury by all butter-fingered fieldsmen (and to whom, or when, paid out only MEKW can explain). This foreword might lead the reader, who did not know the personnel of the 1929 team, to deduce that we were gamblers in spirit and action, and that our out-cricket was a hard business affair. Far from it. It was merely, as Stanger declared, that the affronted bowler could obtain satisfaction from the offending fieldsmen in the form of publicly rendered reparation. Not that he would be thereby induced to catch better the next day. But it ratified the sufferer's presumed sense of justice. But the exchange of Tossies was not confined to the cricket field. It played a prominent part at the card table and in the skittle alley. It must be acknowledged that the Tossie is a convenient medium of exchange, and its properties as such were fully utilized.

It was because rain obliterated several whole days of cricket that we, the uninitiated, had so many opportunities of studying and applauding the diverse moves and countermoves of the two particular Tossie experts - Stanger and Sam Eglington. From the first moment of the tour these two were friends as close as David and Jonathan - and more ingenious. Between them they supplied a never-failing flow of wit and humorous anecdote, freshly supplied from day to day, since they had the ability to find, and the true appreciation of, those incidents which happily fall to the lot of those who enjoy them most richly. But it would be a mistake to imagine that the rest of the team waited upon the pleasure of these two before the fun began. They had each, and every one, a lively sense of the due proportions of the to-be and the not-to-be seriously treated, and were consequently the very best of company, as all bands of Pilgrims are certain to be.

The first two matches were disappointing, particularly the first against the OWs at Sherborne. The OWs paid us the cricketing honour of bringing an excellent side (it is unnecessary to add that as guests they were incomparable). After the first day's play there was likely to be an excellent match, but the next day the rain poured down, and we had only time to bring our completed first innings close to the OWs total before the match was abandoned.

Next day we arrived at Exeter at various times. If the motor car increases the difficulties of the team secretary, and exhausts his vocabulary of exhortative words when a match is to be reached by 11.30am, it allows a latitude and freedom of movement which certainly enhance the pleasures of a tour. This year we had a fine team, but our particular Pride of the Road was still the Kendals' vigorous conveyance. In the hands of its able pilots, it roared and led whenever we travelled. It inexplicably (or was it the cunningly applied string) continued to be a glory to the eye, and a

tribute to Vauxhall Motors Ltd.

Rain prevented the whole of the second day's play at Tiverton and we were the more sorry because we felt that we had hardly done ourselves justice in the first innings. JAN was able to relieve his feelings through the pockets of two indifferent bridge playing opponents, but the rest of us must wait till next year.

Our sojourn in Exeter was marked by two, and in some cases three, intensely hot evenings at the cinema, where we patiently waited for, and then watched, abominable films and sweated in company. JAN, DAH, and FHW drove one evening onto Dartmoor. They climbed the twisting and magnificent road to Moretonhampstead, regaled themselves with good Devon ale, when, as ever, JAN's jovial countenance and manner thoroughly won the company; then up onto the Moor - where they did not linger over long, JAN being impressionable, DAH discussing the probability of runaway convicts and an owl hooting!

Sunday we spent "making" Bideford. The majority of the team lunched there, and then went on in the rain to tea at a delightful hotel, The Hoops, owned by a keen cricketer late of the navy, who entertained his guests most royally. The inner man need never fear with Devonshire splits and wheat cakes before him for tea, but here there was a set of table skittles to delight the higher side of human nature. What skill is required for this game was demonstrated alike by the feats of the local champions, and the boggles of the inexperienced Pilgrims!

Stanger and Sam played golf at Westward Ho! They arrived too late to find a caddie, but though neither of them had seen the course before, they boldly plunged off, and Stanger banging the ball right merrily attracted so much local excitement that he had no lack of directors at his coat-tails. He did not disappoint them, and returned a bogey score. Glorious golf indeed! But he was not unduly elated, nor did he recount each stroke (or I would faithfully have repeated their description here!), but settled down peacefully after dinner to cutting the pack against Sam for Tossies, the approved manner of killing the odd hour or so.

Instow is one of the most delightful grounds on which to play. The pavilion vies in antiquity with Bideford's historical quays and Kingsley's "Westward Ho!" memories, although it is not fully established whether the ground was the recognised bowling-pitch of Drake and his sea-dogs on holiday from Plymouth! At least they would have appreciated the pavilion's well-stocked cellar and larder, and it is not difficult to imagine the dressing room pitchers, fine, swelling products of the potter's art, uptilted, and in the process of emptying down some lusty salt-stained throat.

North Devon are invariable courteous and charming opponents. Unfortunately rain again interfered with the match, though it did not prevent plenty of very pleasant cricket. After his one failure of this tour, B Wyatt-Smith pulled another sparkling sixty "out of the bag" and with Payne gave us a big chance of winning, but we had not quite time enough in which to get our opponents out.

On the first evening, Mr and Mrs Brownrigg and their son, one of our opponents, most kindly invited three of us to dine at their hotel. We were afterwards vastly entertained by a game of "rummy". Sam proved himself once again a man of versatility and occasion by entering into a scandalous league with the youngest, and, if not fairest, at least equally fair, Miss Brownrigg, which was quite unbeatable, and monstrously unfair. Fortunately there was no material stakes. All the same, North Devon could feel a justifiable uneasiness when Sam came in to bat next day, lest his overnight confederate, now in the scoring-box, should credit him, as a reward, with fifty runs from the word "Go". Happily the Brownrigg high sense of sportsmanship saved the embarrassing situation.

Arriving for the last day at Millaton we began with a tragedy. Our captain, while prettily playing catch before the beginning of the match, took a ball on his eyebrow which was considerably slit, a misfortune which removed him temporarily from the positions of captain and stumper. Stanger proudly shouldered the former responsibility, and although he began with a mighty flourish by gaining a wicket for no runs, could thereafter contrive no means of getting rid of either of the next two stout-hearted batsmen, until just before lunch one was unluckily run out, although the captain himself doing his best to miss the wicket from point-blank range. After a tremendous and splendid lunch, we did not have much difficulty in outing the rest, though FHW unluckily (after his enormous meal, for he is a self-indulgent person) was given two catches off consecutive balls at long-on and dropped them both, to his illimitable chagrin, for he had had visions of pocketing the pool of Tossies, the promised reward for the best catch on tour.

At tea time we had twenty runs to make, and three wickets only to fall but as, unknown to our happy opponents, Max had practically reversed the batting-order, we did not feel uncomfortable. Sam, playing to orders, with a little ingenuity thrown in, had made the bowling look monstrously difficult before tea, so the opponents were bright with expectations after their buns. But in the first over afterwards, Sam banged off the runs, made a valiant attempt to run out B Sharpe, who was giving a most blatant exhibition of six-hitting, gave up the struggle, and got himself out.

As always, we have practically everything for which to thank Max Westlake. His arrangements were faultless, and his fixture list delightful. He could hardly claim to control the heavens, and cricket secretaries are not expected to out-Buchan Buchan! We were compatible, we had most pleasant opponents, and we had the greatest respect for, and delight in, our captain. It was a happy thought of Stanger's to toast his health on the last evening, and we most sincerely endorsed his motion with musical honours.

Report by F.H.W.

1930

Played 4: Lost 1, Drawn 3.

Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 389-3 dec (D E Carey 200*, R J Brown 82*, P H F Mermagen 62);
Sherborne Pilgrims 263 (G C W Neve 89)
Monday July 28 and Tuesday July 29 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 287 (D A Hodgkinson 93, P H F Mermagen 92); Dorset Rangers
161 (H H Hayes 53; Mermagen 4-31, A W Hopcraft 4-73) and 183-5 (R S Thompson
52)
Wednesday July 30 v Lymington at Lymington - Drawn
Lymington 190-7 dec (G Cornu 72, H Firth 70*); Sherborne Pilgrims 156-9 (Cornu 6-
85)
Friday August 1 and Saturday August 2 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 4
wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 298 (C F Stanger-Leathes 105, B W B Sharpe 84; E A P Jenkins 4-
63, P J W Milligan 4-80) and 118-5 dec; Old Wykehamists 262 (Milligan 57; G M
Cornish 4-88, A W Hopcraft 4-95) and 155-6

We assembled at Sherborne on Monday July 28 except for one who had fallen by the
wayside and another who had officially stated his intention of assembling himself
later anyway, so that was all right, especially as Toby Spens was at hand to take the
place of the fallen thereby doing both himself and the Pilgrims a lot of good: the latter
by good cricket and the former by scooping the Tossie money. Whilst on the subject
of Tossies we would suggest that 3d would appear to be an adequate fine for non-
benders and middle-aged gentlemen.

Max Westlake organised the tour and won the toss on all occasions: the first was in
every respect a very fine performance, the latter was merely good - vide Lymington
match. Our visit to the gambling den at Raynham took place on the first day of the
tour. As is, we believe, customary in such establishments, drink flowed and time flew:
so much so that proceedings broke up at a late hour. As no one lost more than 1/3d,
and that was mine host himself, we can only assume that he and our most excellent
hostess are trying to lead the Pilgrims on for another year. Thanks very much - both
ways.

When not getting the Pilgrims out of the cricket soup, it transpires that Stanger
spends his leisure time in building ships, and that he once built the *Mauretania*, a
ship which goes backwards and forwards between God's country and our own. Under
his (Stanger's) supervision we paid a visit to the *Mauretania* at Southampton and
spent some 3½ hours in inspecting the ship which was extremely interesting. Even
the kitchen (52 cooks) and the engine room were not hidden from us. Indeed, during
our inspection of the latter place there was many a Pilgrim who wished that, like the
Fathers' *Mayflower*, the *Mauretania* had been made a sailing ship. But you can't have
everything.

We went to the theatre to see "Tilly of Bloomsbury". A good play but some of the
actors were not quite up to their parts. A pleasant interlude previous to our entering
the theatre was when Messrs Partridge, Hodgkinson and Mermagen joined some
other boys in a game of cricket on the green. David had a good bowl and, as ever,

was very much on his toes in the field. Only give him, as on this occasion, a soft ball to throw at the bowler and cricket is all it should be.

The Compton Arms Hotel was very comfortable and all that we could want and the ale good. For some time we were in bad odour with the management owing to the fact that Cuthbert Partridge, of whom we are not frightened, and another showed a somewhat eccentric disposition to enter the hotel by a first floor window, rather than the ground floor door. We did not ourselves inspect the annex but we are assured by a very good authority that the straw was all that could be desired - as straw. Pat Mermagen discharged the duties of paper boy effectively and with a quiet confidence in his capabilities which we hope will carry him far.

Look in the scorebook where you will find all meritorious performances set down, including Stanger's excellent century at Winchester. Other performances may well be allowed to sink into oblivion. There was, however, we regret to state, one performance so far out of keeping with the tradition of the Pilgrims that after mature consideration, we find ourselves very reluctantly compelled to recall it. What, after all, is the good of a diary which tell us only of those things which we wish to remember?

We would take you back to Lymington. The Pilgrims have lost nine wickets and cannot win: 25 minutes remain for play - No 11 is going to the wicket: a few valuable minutes pass. No 11 runs really quite fast to avoid the bowling which Stanger, that master of all trundles, deals with most effectively - at last however No 11 receives a ball from a supposedly leg break bowler, which pitches outside the off stump and at which the batsman plays his forward stroke, as he feels that it is not, at this juncture, correct to employ his other one (ie the cow shot).

The following conversation then takes place: Wicket-keeper: "Bad luck, you played on." No 11: "No I didn't, it was an air shot." Wicket-keeper: "How was it?" Umpire (theirs): "Not out!" Rain falls and the match is drawn. Scene: Five minutes later: The Pavilion - Stanger: "Of course, you were clean bowled." No 11: "What did you think EJ?" Umpire (ours): "You were bowled, and stumped as well, if the wicket-keeper had not been too surprised to appeal for that too." Umpire (theirs): "I didn't know what they were appealing for: I couldn't see because you were in the way."

Report by G M Cornish.

1931

Played 5: Won 5.

Friday June 19 and Saturday June 20 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 6 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 177 (D Evans 4-75); Sherborne School 171 (D E Carey 60; A W Hopcraft 4-21)

Tuesday July 28 and Wednesday July 29 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Won by 8 wickets

Old Wykehamists 110 (C J M Snowden 4-26) and 248 (J A Darwall-Smith 70, R G Tindall 61, I A Robertson 54); Sherborne Pilgrims 276 (D E Carey 143, D A Hodgkinson 59) and 85-2 (R Eglington 58*)
Thursday July 30 v Hampshire Hogs at Southampton - Won by 9 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 151 (A W Hopcraft 5-42); Sherborne Pilgrims 152-1 (R Eglington 87, D A Hodgkinson 61*)
Friday July 31 and Saturday August 1 v Dorset Rangers at Cranborne St Giles - Won by an innings and 143 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 294 (D E Carey 105, D A Hodgkinson 67); Dorset Rangers 45 and 106 (A W Hopcraft 7-19)
Monday August 3 and Tuesday August 4 v Bournemouth at Bournemouth - Won by 7 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 61 (S Fenley 6-8, J Johnstone 5-23) and 217 (D A Hodgkinson 95); Bournemouth 145 (A A E Morgan 50; A W Hopcraft 5-15) and 126 (C J M Snowden 5-49)

The first match of the tour, played on the Upper against the Old Wykehamists, resulted in a win for the Pilgrims by eight wickets - after a most enjoyable two-day match. Before passing on, mention must be made of a very fine innings of 143 by David Carey, ably supported by Hodg and Pat Mermagen in the first innings and of a sparkling 58 by Sam in the second innings. The Upper was looking its very best; it was indeed a privilege to play on it once again, and a real credit to all concerned with its upkeep. Our most grateful thanks are due to Mr Ross, who very kindly put up the visitors at Lyon House and also entertained the Pilgrims to a most excellent dinner on the first evening. It was not till the early hours that the strains of a super jazz band, organised chiefly by our guests, with the able support of Sam and Bill Morgan, enabled our already exhausted host to snatch a few hours of sleep.

Before leaving Sherborne on Wednesday evening on our way to Blandford for dinner, we paid a parting visit to Tom's noble establishment, where we took leave of our guests and of such inmates as Ben and Bobby. It was only later on in the tour that we were let into the secret, that, as far as he could recollect, this is the only public house in the British Isles where the public are honoured with a photo of our Captain - Stanger-Leathes!

After dinner at the Crown Hotel, Blandford the majority of the party set off for the Compton Arms in the New Forest, which was to be our headquarters for the rest of the tour. An incident, which only Cuthbert and the writer had the good fortune to see, shortly after leaving Blandford, must be recorded. The two Davids (Hodg and Carey) had hurried off in Hodg's super Citroen, in order to arrive that night at their destination and John Tallent and Pat Mermagen, an inseparable pair, in John's "Baby", had decided to harass them. Hodg waved them on, at the same time drawing in dangerously near to the kerb, but the "Baby" merely drew level, and there remained at whatever pace the disconcerted Hodg set. In this precarious formation they remained - round corners and through villages, on the narrowest of roads; John and Pat paying no attention to the curses of the two Davids, beyond occasionally raising their hats!

Cuthbert and the writer, driving quietly behind, were so convulsed that I greatly feared we too would end in disaster, as the others must surely do. The consternation in the Citroen was getting so unbearable that they forgot to stop and the calmness with which the "Baby" continued its undoubtedly dangerous course, left my driver almost too weak to continue: but, fortunately, an oncoming car put an end to our fears, and we were merely left wondering whether the mixture of Sherborne and Blandford Ale had been too much for the occupants of the "Baby"!

We all eventually arrived safely at the Compton Arms by midnight, the last arrivals being our Captain, Bill Morgan, and Sam - whom it appeared had had slight trouble with the management at the Crown. A long and varied tale by Sam, continuing into the early hours of the morning, failed to convince us that it was no fault of his! We rested assured, however, that all was well, with two such excellent and experienced peacemakers as we knew Stanger and Sam to be.

Thursday morning found us on the road to Southampton, where we played the Hampshire Hogs in a one-day match on the County Ground. The weather looked bad, but the rain fortunately held off to enable Stanger to lose the toss again, and we took the field on a dead wet wicket, but managed to get our opponents out for 151 before tea. Rain then curtailed play for about an hour leaving us in all about $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours to make the necessary runs. Sam and Hodg, however, gave a delightful exhibition of free hitting and it was evident that the necessary runs would easily be knocked off. Sam's 85 included 45 runs in four overs, off one bowler, who had that morning taken $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to make the identical number himself.

On Friday we played the Dorset Rangers in a two-day match at Cranborne St Giles, the beautiful private ground of Lord Shaftesbury. Our captain succeeded in winning the toss for the first time and we compiled 294 in the day thanks chiefly to another very fine innings of 105 by David Carey and 59 by Hodg on a very difficult slow wicket. That evening, after dinner, we enjoyed a hectic game of soccer on the ground in front of the pub where Pat and John showed their natural abilities as three-quarters, and on retiring to bed we saw their artistic abilities, displayed in our bedroom with paper streamers which had best be left to the imagination of the reader. We had to admit, however, that it was a very creditable effort on their part - originated, no doubt, by Phil Devitt. On Saturday we managed to dismiss our opponents for the meagre totals of 45 and 106 - thus winning by an innings and 143 runs - the fielding throughout was of the highest possible standard and it was evident that Sam in his last match before returning to town on the Monday had made quite sure of keeping all our Tossie by bringing off three splendid catches in the slips.

Our thanks are due to the vicar who made all possible arrangements to entertain us; providing all the "Nut Brown" that was required each day for lunch, and we are sorry to say for tea also in the case of Sam, who was found with a cup of tea on top of the table, and a bottle of "Nut Brown" underneath! The match over, we decided to spend the evening in "Southers" as Southampton now came to be called in a language that Patters, Hoggers and Phillers invented between them, where we amused ourselves

with Greyhound Racing in the Stadium - Cuthbert and Phil showing us how we could make easy money by judging the right dog: it appears that the largest dog with the largest tail is bound to win! Others spent the evening in the wonderful ice rink nearby, where they had the pleasure of seeing a demonstration by the ever energetic Sam.

Sunday saw the rain pouring down, and after a lazy morning, we all decided to spend the afternoon on the ice. Those of us who had never figured before were not so eager as the rest - but we were forced into it, much to the amusement and sometimes annoyance of others on the rink. A truly glorious sport for the novice, with a thrilling sensation, which is only too often brought to a sudden and dramatic ending, when one's feet seem to accelerate so suddenly that the whole equilibrium is lost, and the ice is enhanced with more than friendly feelings. We returned somewhat bruised and exhausted to the refuge of the Compton Arms. Thoroughly weary, we retired to the more restful private sitting room, but our day's exertions were not over yet, for Cuthbert now proceeded to put us through some really gut-rending exercises. One exercise, where you lie on your back, with a poker or stick between your upstretched arms and your head, and then "merely sit up straight", as Cuthbert would say, even our captain thought he could do in his old age, but it proved to be more difficult than it looked!

The next day, (owing to Cuthbert's exhaustive tests), we were rattled out in our two day match against Bournemouth for the meagre and far from creditable total of 61. This proved to be a bit of a shock to all concerned, but our opponents only managed to put together 145 that same afternoon, thus leaving us 84 behind on the day. Undismayed, however, we decided to go to the dirt track racing in Southers, but only arriving in time to see the last few races, we rejoiced to find that the ice rink had a gala night on, where we spent a grand evening watching and joining in the competitions, but unfortunately failing to bring off any prizes, although Pat did his best to persuade the judge that he had won his race, and accordingly deserved a prize.

Tuesday, the last day of the tour, found us bidding farewell to our proprietor, and in some cases making apologies for things that in his eyes, and occasionally in ours, should have been left undone. That morning we compiled 217, thanks chiefly to a very steady innings by Hodg, who was unlucky in missing his century by five runs, and useful knocks by John and Francis Turnbull; we left our opponents 133 to win, which they failed to do by six runs with only five minutes to go. All credit to Bill Morgan who, playing for Bournemouth proved in both innings to be the main stay of their batting, playing steadily throughout; we wished at times, especially towards the end of their second innings, that he had played for us! Snowden bowled magnificently all through this innings, and Stanger supported him admirably the other end; the tension rose higher and higher as the time flew on, and when eventually Stanger caught and bowled the last man from a really hard return, a huge cheer went up from the whole side. A fitting end to a glorious week's cricket, which could not be bettered beyond the fact that some sides played were rather weak.

We must again thank Max for the faultless arrangements made throughout, and add

our regret that he was unable to come with us; we hope that the responsibility of being a housemaster will be less grievous next year, and that once again he will honour the Pilgrims by coming with them on tour.

1932

Played 5: Lost 3, Drawn 2.

Friday June 24 and Saturday June 25 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 140 runs
Sherborne School 329-7 dec (R V Cook 83, T Fenwick 73, P L Candler 50; A W Hopcraft 5-90); Sherborne Pilgrims 189 (D Evans 4-32)

Monday July 25 and Tuesday July 26 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 246 (R Eglington 97; A Davies 5-93); Dorset Rangers 126 (N R Seddon 6-38) and 153-8

Wednesday July 27 and Thursday July 28 v Hampshire Hogs at Southampton - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 199 (D A Hodgkinson 56; A E L Hill 4-23); Hampshire Hogs 38-4 - Rain

Friday July 29 and Saturday July 30 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 84 runs

Old Wykehamists 105 (J A Tallent 6-22, A W Hopcraft 4-47) and 261 (A S N Young 91, D Townsend 55, J A Darwall-Smith 54); Sherborne Pilgrims 196 (D A Hodgkinson 66; C E Awdry 5-34) and 86 (P C Badham 4-28)

Monday August 1 and Tuesday August 2 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Lost by 209 runs

Charterhouse Friars 116 (C J M Snowden 4-50) and 244 (J C Connell 85; N R Seddon 5-66); Sherborne Pilgrims 73 (R C Robertson-Glasgow 6-36, C Middleton 4-23) and 78 (Robertson-Glasgow 6-39)

"Monty" in one of his most famous speeches declared that "onions built you up physically, but pulled you down socially." The very reverse, probably, is true of rain on a cricket tour. Certainly off the field it was a very good party, and on the field, as a Sherborne master once wrote in a report, we "did our best, but might have done better". That curt summary hardly gives a fair impression of a magnificent week's frolic.

Stanger, our skipper, established an immediate predominance (which he of course maintained by his cheerful and inspiring captaincy) by owning "easily the biggest car on tour - MEKW", actually a small 3-4 seater of a very mature age! The rest of the team turned up throughout Saturday and Sunday in sundry machines - altogether there were seven vehicles - and by the beginning of Evening Chapel were nearly all assembled - Stanger just made the pew nearest the door and took the seat of a boy of about 4ft 8ins who was quite unable to persuade our captain that it was really his, and who had to beat therefore a hasty retreat. Such a man is our skipper!

Among others present were Sam Eglington and Bill Morgan who throughout the tour showed that though schooldays were left behind they were still young in spirit by

wearing "college boaters" with Pilgrims bands. As Sam so rightly said "youth must be served". Then David Hodg (who turned up on the preceding Friday so as not to miss any of it) and Wilfred Hopcraft were to be seen chatting - that at any rate is always true of the latter! JAT, LMC, A Becher and CJMS were there too. Brian Sharpe put in an appearance later in the evening, but thought that he was so wet that he could do without luggage for the night. He was, however, persuaded to accept the captain's kind offer of his OS pyjamas for that night. Phil Devitt was too busy teaching the young to put in an appearance before Tuesday - all of which is only to show the personnel of the team, all of whom were in excellent spirits.

And it rained not only by day, but by night. The Upper was far too wet on Monday morning for play which, despite what Topsy might call the "rather Catholic opposition" of the Rev Hayward, was postponed till 3.15pm when the Dorset Rangers prepared to separate Sam and David Hodg: which thing they did, only after considerable trouble and 92 runs had been scored. The Pilgrims were eventually dismissed for 246 (Sam being very unlucky not to complete his century. He got 97 of them) but were just beaten by the clock from forcing a win, having dismissed the Rangers for 126 and eight of them again for 153.

Two hours later, the team were in Blandford and it was there that Stanger produced the real "bon mot" of the tour - a "real one out of the bag". On being asked by the waitress what he would have he replied "roast hunker please". She looked bewildered: so did the team. He afterwards explained that that was a northern term meaning "haunch" or "tail". Needless to say the team were delighted. John Tallent was immediately voted our "hunker chief". And so to the Compton Arms where the Dean gave us a delightful welcome and produced many jars of his very good ale.

Next morning the whole team were in a state of excitement. We were told that we were being joined by another OS at Southampton. We waited impatiently for his arrival. He came from Hong Kong, the captain said. At last a car swung through the gates of the County Ground, driven by a short bespectacled man, thin on top, but of very reasonable proportions lower down - G.A. Stewart, "our King and Emperor". For the rest of the week we did continual obeisance to him! Few Old Boy teams have the fortune to have royalty amongst them. May it not be the last time!

Throughout Wednesday we batted for a few minutes at a time. DAH made an invaluable 56 after hitting a six off his first ball. The rest failed early on - all out for 199. By the end of the day, however, four of the Hogs were out for 38, and the Pilgrims looked in a good position. Torrential rain throughout the night and Thursday morning made an abandonment inevitable, and after JAT and PED had entertained us to a few duets, we decided that the Bournemouth Ice Rink would probably be a good place for a wet afternoon. And so it proved. The experts (Stanger and Sam) said the ice was poor - very rough and difficult. The writer can fully endorse their opinions but managed to avoid expulsion from the rink, as a certain tightness in the boot made more than two minutes at a time impossible.

On Friday everything was definitely moist but fine enough for play by the time the

skipper had lost the toss and got the team changed - which they did to the strains of many an old School song. The Wykehamist order looked strong enough, but some great bowling by Wilf Hopcraft and John Tallent caused their dismissal for 105. After a very good stand between Bill Morgan and David Hodg who raised the score from 11 to 116 the Pilgrims did nothing very much until Wilf made a sparkling 34 on the following morning. By lunchtime, the Pilgrims chances looked very rosy. Sam was heard to arrange a golf match for the evening. A magnificent stand however of 137 for the seventh wicket (see scorebook) completely altered the game and the Pilgrims were left 171 to win. We made 86 (don't see scorebook!). Nevertheless it was a grand match.

On the way back to the Compton Arms on Friday, our speed king (BWBS) broke down. This, let it be quickly added, was not the first time. He had already entirely disregarded the lights in Southampton on the previous day and had consequently (as we thought, and he thought a little inconsequently) hit another car hard on the bumper. That is however another story and we will leave it for the insurance people. This time he drew up and waited for help. JAT and LMC happened to pass by. There he was standing on the kerb, tools in hand waiting hopefully. "Can we help?" "Oh well", says Brian, "I don't think there's much wrong, but perhaps you could give me your opinion." Half an hour later John Tallent emerged, successfully disguised as a "grease gun", with Brian looking immaculate as ever still giving his opinion from the pavement. As was generally agreed, Brian has a great way about him!

After dinner Sam staged the opening game of rugger on the Compton Ground. It was a glorious evening, but by the time dinner was over, the light was exceedingly dim. Nothing daunted, Sam proceeded to arrange flood lighting with all the available headlights. The ball consisted of our 12 napkins rolled tightly: EJ refereed. A terrific game ensued and it was definitely poor luck on the originator and promoter when in notching a magnificent three-pointer he gave his ankle a nasty turn. A great cinema performance arranged by Phil Devitt, who really is a devil with his camera, allowed us to cool down before bed. And so to Liphook in stages, or short, sharp bursts!

The Sunday afternoon was spent with croquet and tennis. JAT and PED indulged in a post-prandial swoon and looked very much the worse for it. There are some who say that golf is a game. The writer would be inclined to doubt it after his first round in the morning when DAH and BWBS played RE and LMC. He would deny the statement altogether after the round in the evening, when a single between RE and LMC was staged behind a foursome (CFS-L, DAH, JAT and BWBS). Sam promised to provide the clubs. He did, and brought up a smart bag of sticks (and balls in the pocket) which he said belonged to Wilf. It was generally agreed that Wilf must be a golfer. Those who were on the course that evening decided unanimously that the writer was not.

Two hours later we came back to dinner, clubs intact but with very few balls. Some began to celebrate, some to drown their sorrows. Suddenly the captain was summoned. He returned with a haggard face and hoarsely asked who had used a golf bag with trimmings. The writer, confused and worried, confessed. He was told that a purple-faced Colonel was stampeding round the lounge denouncing the

younger generation in general and in particular the "young cub who had pinched his bag". Dinner over, a Pilgrim whose shaky gait was caused by fear and not by the wine steward, tendered his apologies to the aforementioned Colonel. Let it be said at once that the latter was charming. "I don't mind a fellow borrowing my clubs, but I think it's going a bit far when he not only borrows my balls, but loses them." There was no more to be said. It is perhaps significant that throughout the proceedings Sam was unaccountably missing!

The barometrical situation was definitely less complex for the last two days of the tour, when the Pilgrims were the guests of the Friars. The sun was seen quite occasionally and we were treated with perfect hospitality, for which our thanks are due. The cricket was disappointing, and except for a great effort by John Tallent in the final innings, our batting broke down badly.

Future tours will be the poorer without Wilf Hopcraft, who's off to tend his sheep in some distant wilderness. During the three years he has been on tour he has been the mainstay of the Pilgrims attack and has taken no fewer than 52 wickets for 16 runs apiece. May he quickly return. Meanwhile it makes it ever more necessary for the "Team Manager" to come again on tour. For two years Max has cheated us of his company and it was unanimously agreed that he "be compelled by hook, crook or any other means" to put in an appearance next year, and enjoy the arrangements for which the Pilgrims are ever grateful to him.

Report by L M Carey.

1933

Played 5: Won 1, Lost 3, Drawn 1.

Friday June 23 and Saturday June 24 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 141 (D Evans 77; J T A Wilson 7-37) and 74-5 dec; Sherborne School 113 (P J Smith 50*; D Evans 5-36, F M Turnbull 4-46) and 99-5
Monday July 31 and Tuesday August 1 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Lost by 76 runs
Old Wykehamists 344-6 dec (J Graham 75, R G Tindall 64, A M Lee 53*) and 171-5 dec (A J N Young 76, J A Darwall-Smith 65); Sherborne Pilgrims 222 (R C Eglington 61; A C M Savage 4-64) and 217 (Savage 4-38, Darwall-Smith 4-76)
Wednesday August 2 and Thursday August 3 v Dorset Rangers at Cranborne St Giles - Won by 5 wickets
Dorset Rangers 85 (D Evans 4-31) and 100 (P J Smith 5-19, Evans 4-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 124 (W Harrison 7-55) and 63-5 (G M Marshall-Harvey 4-31)
Friday August 4 and Saturday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at Southampton - Lost by 10 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 278 (P J Smith 83; G. Meakin 8-54) and 171 (A C Mutter 4-65); Hampshire Hogs 339 (A Mcleod 156*; Smith 4-72) and 113-0 (A M Lee 77*)
Monday August 7 and Tuesday August 8 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Lost

by 9 wickets

Charterhouse Friars 375-9 dec (R G Dyson 108) and 63-1; Sherborne Pilgrims 149 (G H Dyson 4-41) and 288 (D A Hodgkinson 67, R C Eglington 60, D Evans 56; G H Dyson 5-98)

We started the tour, as usual, with a game at Sherborne, a game which was perhaps the most pleasant of the whole tour against the Old Wykehamists. Any success in the field in this game, as in most of the games played, was not overwhelming, but it is not the purpose of this chronicle to describe our doings on, so much as off, the field of play. The OWs are a most likeable crowd - almost as likeable as ourselves - and it was only natural that a meeting between two such teams should be enjoyable.

There was a party the first evening in Tom Bowley's admirable house which most of our side and a fair sprinkling of our visitors attended. Something was in the air that evening for Sam Eglington voluntarily gave us an exhibition which all our eloquence was unable to persuade him to repeat during the rest of the tour. Brass ashtrays, it may be noted for future guidance, make admirable substitutes for castanets in the dancing of the rumba, and Sam showed us he was no novice at the art. We returned to bed happy enough, but it was rumoured the next day that some had not found it as easy as others, and a fair amount of fatalities to some useful household crockery was the unhappy and expensive result.

Next evening saw us on our way to the "Commers" and dining, as usual, at Blandford. This time we were pursued by two members of the recent opposition, who were presumably loathe to see the last of us. J Arthur Tallent, alas, had preferred to accompany some destructive Cambridge team on their operations across the herring pond this year, but possibly it was really just as well for our constitutions that he did. For an evening's back chat between him and the skipper fairly reduced us to hysterics and we should, I think, have been permanently incapacitated had this continued throughout the tour. Wilf Hopcraft, too, had deserted us to grow things in Kenya, and we were also bereft of Brian Sharpe, Pat Mermagen and Phil Devitt.

We were reinforced by the welcome reappearance of Max, and by Bob Eglington and Jack Rawlins. I remember, as a small boy, being completely overwhelmed by the latter's sartorial excellence, and he had returned from his sojourn in the East no less overwhelming. Until he left us on Saturday he remained, both on the field and off, the perfect and envied example of what a Pilgrim should really look like.

We arrived at the "Commers" some time during the night and proceeded immediately to get on the wrong side of the Dean. I do not think it was entirely our fault, nor do I know whether he has since improved. But the contrast between his ability to handle us, and that shown by Mr Felton at Liphook was immense. For the Dean to suggest our retiring to bed meant, inevitably, another round and another half-hour's delay. Mr Felton had only to come into the room, talk to us for a few minutes, and then suggest "a spot of shut-eye" and we obediently and quietly trooped off. Perhaps the trouble with the "Commers" was that there was nothing much to amuse us and that the management were surprisingly unhelpful in this respect. Li Carey suggested that the

place was only meant for those who desired a rest cure and for "honeymugger" couples. But it is such a pleasant and such a central spot that it seems a pity the management are not more accommodating.

On Saturday evening we left Southampton for the Anchor at Liphook, and on our way some of us demonstrated that our skill at darts was no less than our skill at cricket - and that it was, in fact, perhaps greater. Sunday at the Anchor, and a day of rest - from cricket, but not from various other athletic pursuits, and the team scattered in all directions to play golf, tennis and croquet. I had never played serious croquet before and had thought that, except for experts, no game could last more than 15 minutes. I was mistaken: one game lasted a good two hours, and I cannot imagine a game which calls for more of the so-called unsporting instincts. For the whole purpose appears to be to baulk one's opponents rather than to achieve anything oneself. The golfers appeared to have their own clubs this year, and there was no irate Colonel staying in the hotel.

Sudden death approached many of us next day - certainly myself driving with Bob Eglington. It was Bank Holiday and traffic was flowing freely out from London. This was to be expected but we did not anticipate the charabancs would be driving abreast. Fortunately we were in a small car. The Carthusians entertained us nobly, and the party broke up on Tuesday evening after a most successful tour.

It was very pleasant to have Max with us again, and we have a lot to thank him for. The organisation of these tours must involve a very considerable amount of work. It was pleasant, too, to see the skipper strike something like form again, and if we were not too successful it was our fault for not responding to his firm leadership and example. EJ also deserves our thanks, for his umpiring and for his cheerful and ever-ready advice. And, finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to the powers that control the weather for not repeating the dose of rain they gave us the previous year.

Report by NRS.

1934

Played 5: Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 2.

Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 172 runs
Sherborne School 351-6 dec (W J Eldridge 107, C Bell 81); Sherborne Pilgrims 179
(R V Cook 98; B H D Robinson 4-69)

Monday July 30 and Tuesday July 31 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by an
innings and 114 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 375-8 dec (J D Watney 88*, A A E Morgan 86, H F W Fox 50);
Dorset Rangers 111 (C J M Snowden 8-38) and 150

Wednesday August 1 and Thursday August 2 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester -
Drawn

Old Wykehamists 260 (A M Lee 74, D O Wilson 58; C J M Snowden 6-58) and 184-6

dec (P J Smith 4-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 276 (D A Hodgkinson 60, D Evans 59, P J Smith 57; J A Darwall-Smith 5-66) and 135-6 (Hodgkinson 50)
Friday August 3 and Saturday August 4 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by 78 runs (on first innings)
Sherborne Pilgrims 224 (D A Hodgkinson 86; F G Irving 5-46); Hampshire Hogs 146 (C J M Snowden 7-58 ; B H D Robinson 4-16)
Monday August 6 and Tuesday August 7 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 146 and 261-6 (J A Tallent 85*); Charterhouse Friars 340 (J A Darwall-Smith 97, J H Dyson 51; C J M Snowden 4-112, D Evans 4-126)

The tour started at Sherborne on Monday July 30 with a two day match against the Dorset Rangers. The author, owing to certain magisterial duties elsewhere, was unable to arrive until the afternoon of the second day. The scorebook must therefore tell the tale. Suffice it to say that on arrival, the field being deserted, he hopefully popped his head into the 1st XI room in the pavilion to witness a noble sight. Our skipper, Stanger, that "hard grey man of the north", was standing, pipe in mouth and changing after the match, removing thoughtfully what little armour he ever deigned to wear. Evidently we had opened with a win! And so it proved - by an innings and 114 runs.

Once more we assembled at Tom's, whence all successful tours make their final departure from Sherborne. Having sipped his excellent ale, we repaired to the Crown at Blandford for dinner. All went smoothly until green peas were served, when the northerner's curious little habits with his knife scarcely met with the approval of an uneducated headwaiter. Eventually we arrived at The Lyndhurst, Max's latest venture as an abode for his side. He proved to have made an excellent choice (as always). We were most comfortable and the food was first class.

Wednesday and Thursday saw us at Winchester v Old Wykehamists, a draw being the result. David Hodgkinson had two good innings and John Snowden bowled with effect. On the first evening the more sedate members played bridge, whilst the younger generation paid a visit to our former host at the Compton Arms. He was in quite affable mood and the old story of the fox's mask drew a smile from that ape-like visage. It was on this evening that Brian Sharpe's car developed a curious "knocking" which continued at intervals throughout the tour, whenever certain members escorted him by night.

Thursday evening was memorable for the arrival of "red-head". Owing to the Bank Holiday weekend, our dashing manager made an extra bar in the lounge and produced "red-head" to run it. Competition was great with the "north" getting away to a flying start. After dinner certain of the more energetic played a sort of hand soccer with a bowls "wood" (to use the correct phrase!).

Friday's game against the Hogs was spoilt by rain and we returned to Lyndhurst for tea. The weather cleared and the Headmaster, who to the delight of all had joined us for the match, Cuthbert, Stanger and the author set out for Brockenhurst Manor Golf

Club. It was calculated en route that certainly not less than 60 stone was being carried by the unfortunate vehicle! There then took place a very memorable match. All went quietly until the first short hole. Here Stanger, whose honour it happened to be, produced the most amazing club ever seen. Obviously northern in make and shape, it resembled some ancient weapon of the Picts (or Scots) and called itself a wry-necked mashie. Though temporarily embarrassed by the hilarious laughter it worked - our skipper hit a screamer and never failed to produce a winner throughout the round with this particular club.

One other hole is worthy of record. A narrow fairway with trees on either side saw Stanger slice into a large oak and, of course, bounce out into the centre of the fairway. Unnerved by this, his partner, the unhappy author of this tale, pulled into the rough a few yards off the tee. After a prolonged search the ball was recovered and being unplayable was duly dropped behind. On turning round no ball was to be seen - it had fallen neatly into his own bag slung across his shoulder! The skipper, a little shaken, then proceeded to slash his second into a bunker. But, alas, when our "chief" found his drive it was not his ball for Stanger had played the wrong ball! Still undaunted, he plodded on, put his own ball on the green and got a birdie four. From that time he never looked back and won a great match for his side.

On Saturday the weather cleared and we had a good one day match with the Hogs. David Hodgkinson and John Snowden again carried off the honours. In the evening the younger members paid a visit to Bournemouth and there renewed acquaintance with the one and only Winnie. Sunday gave us another grand day's golf at Brockenhurst, Stanger playing really well and carrying all before him. Late in the day we went on towards Liphook and on arrival at the Anchor were delighted to find Sam Eglington and his wife returning from their honeymoon, and also Bob Eglington. Not unnaturally a hilarious meal followed with some golf croquet afterwards.

Monday saw us at Charterhouse and once again we were defeated by the very quick wicket, being all out for 146. David H and Bernard Robinson alone made runs. A pleasant evening was spent in the School after an excellent dinner. But Max's beauty sleep was somewhat ruined by a sort of clothes line that ran along the top of the cubicles and made a curious, penetrating noise when firmly grasped and suddenly let go against the wall.

Tuesday morning saw more rain but it gradually cleared and some wild golf was played with a slip machine as the hole. In the afternoon play was possible and we managed to stave off defeat. The second innings was chiefly remarkable for the somewhat fortunate innings of the author. During his first three overs it is definitely true to state that every conceivable part of his body was hit, his bat and wicket alone escaping any contact with the ball.

This game ended another grand tour. A few fortunates dined with the Eglington family and there had the privilege of witnessing the skipper's final miracle - the production after dinner of a wry-necked cigar! Our thanks are due to Max for his excellent organisation. Everything went smoothly from start to finish and the only pity was that

he could not be persuaded to play himself. His scoring, however, was as immaculate as ever and his arithmetic equally dubious, and on more than one occasion play had to be stopped because of an odd high-pitched laugh issuing from the scoreboard.

Secondly, without our skipper we should be like lost sheep. He is exactly the right man in the right place and one cannot say more. To remember him literally crying his eyes out with laughter was one of the best things of the tour. EJ must also be mentioned for all his valiant work and noble attempts to keep the Pilgrims batting as long as possible. The master in charge of games at Winchester will not easily forget EJ's remarks on the subject of his ground!

Finally, may I say again how delighted we all were to have the Headmaster with us, if only for one match. His last words were "Gentlemen, this is a friendly gesture, not an athletic contribution". To see him bowl immediately refutes the latter part of the sentence, and as to the former, we all hope he will come again next year.

Report by J A Tallent.

1935

Played 6: Won 3, Lost 3.

Friday June 21 and Saturday June 22 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 46 runs
Sherborne School 176 (T A R Scott 5-35, O Clarke 4-49); Sherborne Pilgrims 130
Monday July 29 and Tuesday July 30 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 249 (R Eglington 72; H F W Fox 55) and 204 (C Bell 52; H E Scott 4-47, A C M Savage 4-57); Old Wykehamists 252 (E B Leigh 76) and 204-2 (Leigh 121, K B Scott 75*)
Wednesday July 31 v Shroton at Shroton - Won by 10 wickets
Shroton 32 (J A Tallent 5-10, B W B Sharpe 5-21); Sherborne Pilgrims 33-0
Thursday August 1 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 11 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (G J Pettit 6-52); Downside Wanderers 167 (J A Tallent 5-59)
Friday August 2 and Saturday August 3 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Lost by an innings and 34 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 69 (G Meakin 4-3) and 214 (R J Brown 69, H F W Fox 57);
Hampshire Hogs 317-6 dec (W N Roe 124, P F Kendle 75; C J M Snowden 5-98)
Monday August 5 and Tuesday August 6 v Bulford Garrison at Bulford - Won by 124 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 213 (R J Brown 52; Lt Stone 5-49, C R Bosanquet 4-40) and 270-9 dec (W R Waller 84, D A Hodgkinson 78; Stone 4-40); Bulford Garrison 186 (Hodgkinson 4-32) and 173 (Lt Sinclair 60; J A Tallent 4-57)

"Why don't you play the game, you fool? Play for your side's sake." "Side?" queried the big boy; "I have no side to play for; I don't play football or cricket." "Oh yes you have," said Chapman, "and that side's called 'the Gentlemen of England'." Rousing cheers. Well, we were all gentlemen there, thank God - but that I'm afraid was the only

qualification of some of us for inclusion in the 1935 tour.

"The old order changeth". For ten years Max has toiled like the proverbial Trojan, but with infinitely greater success, at making all the arrangements for this week of clean-limbed frolic - a labour which has always been appreciated most warmly by all those who have been on tour. That he has now to hand over the rather thankless job to DAH (whom God may preserve and favour in this work!) imposes on the writer the responsible task of recording in this far-flung book now recently returned from "Cathay" by NRS (whom Allah may I hope some day return to us) the gratitude of the Pilgrims for everything that he has done in making this week one of such carefree rapture. Our thanks to you, Max.

For the last ten tours - or is it nine? - BWBS has graced the week with his quiet gambols (more of that anon). Now work calls him to some distant post of Empire, which is indeed a drain upon the Alma Mater. No longer on the list, I know that he'll be missed.

We started on Monday. By 11.00am twelve people had turned up to play - Shirburnians always have been keen - and even so there were three notable absentees. Two of them were there before the match was over: DAH arriving - changed? - by tea time on Tuesday, followed shortly, and more noticeably, by JAT, his usual haggard self from Stowe. The third, alas, was never filled. For the past five years Tyneside losses have been Pilgrims gains. "The iron grey skipper of the North" was scraping too many ships' keels - I'm being technical - and prayed to be excused. The absence of our playing President cast a shadow which even the thought of the increased prosperity of the North failed to relieve.

The weather was superb: the Upper wonderful. Skipper Sam won the toss, and took first knock. [For cricket notes proper, the scorebook should be implicitly relied upon - passim.] It was a grand game, but the defeat was heavy. There are various ways of consoling oneself for athletic disasters, and the Pilgrims have always had a happy knack of choosing the same one... It was a good party, and nets on the following morning a wise corrective.

An early lunch at the Plume, and we were on our way to Shroton. For the simple joys of cricket, go to the village ground. Those of us who got there first delighted ourselves watching the excursions of the rest as they drove through the hay to the parking space, near the tea marquee. After a busy half-hour of farm work, in which some managed the cattle, and some their deposits, Sam won the toss and thought wisely that after the journey we had better find our feet - a not inconsiderable task - fielding rather than batting. On one side lay the hay field, and on the other the mountain, and the sun was hot.

The Headmaster retired to third man at one end. He was very insistent about this, and soon we found the reason why: for twice he discovered the ball, and threw down the wickets. All we could see from the other end was an arm upraised in threatening manner. Yet he denied local knowledge. It was all "very crafty", thought the village

idiot sitting in one corner of the tea tent, and he said so.

The attack was devastating. Wickets fell and soon we were left 33 to win. "He swiped them, he hit them, he walloped them all over the field". "Ow many did he get?" "Fower" - being a conversation between two spectators which sums up the play and the atmosphere better than further descriptions of mine.

And though the triumph of that game was very great, our selection committee thought - indeed with some reason - that with as copper a sky as we were being blessed with, an accurate fast bowler was a necessity for the match at Downside on the morrow. JAT is always indispensable, and again he came to the rescue. He knew the man we wanted. He was, moreover, an OS of some seniority. He was in the neighbourhood - John wasn't quite sure where, but he would find him. "Oh yes, he was fast! Came like lightning off the pitch. Quite untiring, and his pace and swerve quite devastating." What could be better! Wilfred Archer must be found. He was at camp with the Stour Scouts near Blandford. He could easily get across to Downside, and there were lots of boots that would fit him.

For the next hour or so, we rattled over the limestone ridges of North Dorset, stopping every now and again to put our ears to the ground, or our hands to the wheel. And not only did we find them, but persuaded AGA that the old School had need of him. He gallantly consented to come.

We met next morning (Thursday). The boots didn't look too comfortable even in the pavilion. We were up against it, as they had only to get 179 on a very fast ground. But we were comforted by John's words the night before. "You can hardly see them", and indeed we were put to some difficulty, even fielding. RSL behind the stumps, however, was a master at taking the overhead full pitch, and it was an exciting finish... Thanks John!

PED and HFWF joined us that day, RSL having departed. We spent a warm night in Salisbury - at least some of us thought so, but JACG assured us that "out there you would wrap yourself up in your mosquito net and still be shivering". It's never any use arguing with these tea planters!

And so to Winchester next day, where we found that Max had booked us rooms in a dry but charming house, equipped with putting greens and playing cards, and moreover those of the fairer sex willing to indulge in a mild flutter of an evening. The house of course quickly became a gambling hell. With nabobs like Jim Grant and Brian Sharpe about, there isn't much chance for us innocent islanders. On Saturday evening, we were trying once again to forget the events of the day - on the whole with remarkable success. The skipper, suddenly mindful of his added financial responsibilities, then showed us a glimpse of the London Exchange. A merry gamble which we all enjoyed, except perhaps BWBS. We didn't talk much about that next day, and Sam cut off quickly in the morning to cover 60 miles in about half an hour for a ferry.

We could ill afford to lose our skipper, and a busy morning was spent on the wives to persuade more Pilgrims to join us for the Bulford game. Much wearied by that, we sought the cool shade of the New Forest for a picnic, revisiting former haunts, and renewing acquaintances, chief of whom was, of course, the Dean, more prosperous than ever. He seemed to have spent his time since we were there last year throwing out spacious wings in every direction. Perhaps, if occasion ever again demanded, he could meet our requests for a private room and a piano!

It had been a very hot day, and discarding the suggestion that to celebrate EJ's jubilee year he should be flood lit in the garden for the evening, a quiet game of cards was enjoyed by all. JACG gave a masterly display, without ever once remembering what trumps were. JAT was very hot too - a temperature which he had every reason to regret, for by Monday morning he had so stiff a neck that bowling was impossible and batting very painful. This further loss to our cricketing strength was made less severe by Bill Waller's 84 and DAH's 78, and RJB, the most consistent run getter on the tour, 52.

The most genial hospitality of the Gunners Mess, including a visit to the Tattoo on Monday evening, and even hotter and more brilliant weather than ever - for all of which we were truly grateful - failed to stop us pushing home an advantage gained in the first innings. "The clock that hangs upon the wall beats out the hour to go", and with no little regret, the 1935 tour ended.

Report by L M Carey.

1936

Played 3: Won 1, Drawn 2.

Saturday June 20 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 213 (J M Hutton 53; J T A Wilson 5-86); Sherborne Pilgrims 119-9 (J M Hutton 4-40, A L A Tasker 4-51)
Wednesday July 29 and Thursday July 30 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn
Old Wykehamists 212 (J A Darwall-Smith 82) and 129-9 dec (Darwall-Smith 55; J M Hutton 5-39); Sherborne Pilgrims 116 (F G Irving 4-36) and 110-9 (D A Hodgkinson 52; Irving 5-22)
Saturday August 1 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by 56 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 152 (H C McDonell 5-49); Hampshire Hogs 96 (C B G Hunter 56; D Evans 5-35)

It was found impossible to raise a side for more matches, and the tour was therefore reduced to four days at Winchester, spent happily at the Norman Mede Hotel. Three of the days were occupied with playing cricket: the other had to be "got through" somehow while it rained. The Pilgrims divided themselves among various cinemas in Winchester and Southampton; sampled the free beer at St Cross; played squash; visited the OTC camps at Tidworth, and prayed for a fine day for the Saturday - which

mercifully they had.

Report by D A Hodgkinson.

1937

Played 5: Won 1, Lost 1, Drawn 3.

Saturday June 19 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 57 runs

Sherborne School 188 (M S Glennie 56; L H Bean 4-40); Sherborne Pilgrims 131

Friday July 23 and Saturday July 24 v The Frogs at Newlands Manor, Lymington - Drawn

The Frogs 172 (R F B O'Callaghan 50; D Evans 4-60) and 156-1 dec (M T Turnbull 83*, R L Prain 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 224 (R C Eglington 61; A R Cronin 4-53) and 94-8

Monday July 26 and Tuesday July 27 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Drawn

Old Wykehamists 242 (R C White 83) and 125 (H G Awdry 57*; C J M Snowden 5-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 367-9 dec (J D Watney 96, R Eglington 85)

Wednesday July 28 and Thursday July 29 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 10 wickets

Downside Wanderers 92 (D Evans 6-25, C J M Snowden 4-31) and 232 (R L Clutton 97*; Snowden 4-36); Sherborne Pilgrims 299 (R Eglington 135*, J A Tallent 53; Clutton 4-76) and 26-0

Friday July 30 and Saturday July 31 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 370 (R Eglington 92, J A Tallent 59); Hampshire Hogs 119 (D Evans 4-32) and 269-8 (F G Irving 60, G L Marx 52; Evans 4-58)

1938

Played 7: Won 6, Drawn 1.

Saturday June 18 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 186 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 225-9 dec (H J C Bashford 5-53); Sherborne School 39 (D Evans 7-18, R C Eglington 4-20)

Sunday July 10 v Esher at Esher - Won by 200 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 306-8 dec (R C Eglington 59, M S Glennie 51, C W A Murray 51*; H R Crouch 4-91); Esher 106 (D Evans 6-32)

Friday July 22 and Saturday July 23 v The Frogs at Newlands Manor, Lymington - Won by 6 wickets

The Frogs 300-7 dec (A R Cronin 95; D Evans 4-114) and 92 (Evans 7-44); Sherborne Pilgrims 217 (R Eglington 51; W G Stewart 5-53) and 178-6

Monday July 25 and Tuesday July 26 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 214 (R R C Walker 5-65) and 280-2 dec (M S Glennie 148*, W J Eldridge 80); Somerset Stragglers 272 (J C P Madden-Gaskell 103; B H D Robinson 4-58, D Evans 4-122) and 115-5 (Evans 5-41)

Wednesday July 27 and Thursday July 28 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won

by 8 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 276-7 dec (D Evans 61, J A Tallent 51; A J C Evans 6-92) and 30-2; Downside Wanderers 96 (D Evans 5-32) and 207 (J C Cooper 53; Evans 5-73)

Friday July 29 and Saturday July 30 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by an innings and 93 runs

Hampshire Hogs 139 (D Evans 6-45) and 97 (Evans 9-39); Sherborne Pilgrims 329-9 dec (A L A Tasker 141, H C Partridge 73; F G Irving 6-52)

Monday August 1 v Bulford Garrison at Bulford - Won by 31 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 275-9 dec (P E Devitt 104, L Sherley-Price 67*; Pte Shrimpton 4-63); Bulford Garrison 244 (H F Fox 62, Lt Archdale 50; R R C Walker 4-69)

1939

Played 5: Won 2, Drawn 3.

Saturday June 17 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 265-5 dec (W M Elderton 81, J D Watney 79*); Sherborne School 226-5 (D P T Deshon 93)

Sunday July 16 v Esher at Esher - Won by 1 wicket

Esher 183 (H F Stevens 57; B H D Robinson 4-43); Sherborne Pilgrims 184-9 (I A Waters 4-51)

Friday July 28 and Saturday July 29 v The Frogs at Newlands Manor, Lymington - Won by 3 wickets

The Frogs 148 and 79 (J A Tallent 5-18); Sherborne Pilgrims 187-8 dec and 42-7 (M H Lee 4-22)

Monday July 31 and Tuesday August 1 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn

Somerset Stragglers 295 (D P T Deshon 151; B H D Robinson 5-61, D Evans 4-122)

and 128-4 (R H Griffiths 54); Sherborne Pilgrims 98 (F W Stevinson 6-41, T V Hollingworth 5-33) and 326-9 dec (J A Tallent 78, P E Devitt 62; Hollingworth 4-96)

Wednesday August 2 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn

Hampshire Hogs 4-1 - Rain

1946

Played 3: Won 1, Drawn 2.

Saturday July 27 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne School 90 (M R G Earls-Davis 4-42); Sherborne Pilgrims 85-7

Monday July 29 and Tuesday July 30 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 269 (M R G Earls-Davis 61; A T M Jones 4-85) and 193-3 dec;

Somerset Stragglers 250 (A T M Jones 91; H J C Bashford 5-65) and 176-7 (B J de Sarem 67*; Earls-Davis 5-71)

Wednesday July 31 and Thursday August 1 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by an innings and 4 runs

Downside Wanderers 76 (H J C Bashford 6-31) and 146 (M R G Earls-Davis 6-36);

Sherborne Pilgrims 226 (D I T Wilson 52; L D Carton-Kelly 4-66)

The Pilgrims tour was revived and proved to be a great success in every way. It was well supported, and particularly satisfactory that both pre-war Pilgrims and also those recently elected from among the war-time generation were well represented among the seventeen players who took part. The tour was run by a Committee consisting of R Eglinton, J A Tallent and M S Glennie. The sides fielded were all good ones, with plenty of batting right down the order. In addition, H J C Bashford and M R G Earls-Davis bowled splendidly. Downside Wanderers were beaten by an innings and the matches with the School and the Somerset Stragglers were left drawn.

1947

Played 7: Won 3, Lost 1, Drawn 3.

Sunday July 6 v Esher at Esher - Won by 7 wickets

Esher 161 (R A A Smith 58, B R M Hayles 55; M R G Earls-Davis 6-60); Sherborne Pilgrims 162-3 (J D Watney 87)

Saturday July 26 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 134 runs

Sherborne School 246-8 dec (D S Sheppard 130*); Sherborne Pilgrims 112

Monday July 28 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn

Somerset Stragglers 228-9 dec (A J P Ling 80, J R Watson 69; D T Evans 4-54);

Sherborne Pilgrims 198-7 (R F S Chignell 81*; J H Cameron 4-67)

Tuesday July 29 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 9 wickets

Dorset Rangers 132 (R A G Duff 4-19); Sherborne Pilgrims 133-1 (A T Whitehead 67*, M R Ricketts 55*)

Wednesday July 30 and Thursday July 31 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 10 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 348-6 dec (M S Glennie 118, R F S Chignell 72, W J Eldridge 55) and 35-0; Downside Wanderers 171 (M J B Innes 90) and 211 (R A G Duff 8-76)

Friday August 1 and Saturday August 2 v Old Wykehamists at Sherborne - Drawn

Old Wykehamists 276 (I D K Fleming 122, H Ashton 52; J S W Lush 5-61, H J C Bashford 4-78) and 183-5 dec (Fleming 87, D R Childs 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 235 (R F S Chignell 103, M S Glennie 61; J C Doran 4-40) and 140-4 (W J Eldridge 85*)

Monday August 4 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 230-6 dec (R F S Chignell 106); Hampshire Hogs 228-7 (A L Waldron 87*; P H Wakely 4-41)

The fixture list was increased to almost its pre-war length. The cricket was well supported and favoured by wonderful weather; the season was a great success. Twenty-seven members played and it was particularly good to have one or two of the School XI in the teams. P H F Mermagen took part for the first time for many years, and F King and M M Walford, two of the honorary members, gave most welcome support. It was just a pity that on the eve of the tour two or three members were claimed for county cricket, and numbers once or twice dwindled to a bare eleven, with no reserves.

The sides were always good ones, though for at least three of the matches on tour the absence of a recognised pace bowler was a handicap. In the opening match the School played excellently and we were decisively defeated. This was perhaps before the side had found its feet, for afterwards we were always sufficiently strong for the opposition. The Dorset Rangers and Downside Wanderers were well beaten by nine and ten wickets respectively and the drawn games with the Somerset Stragglers, the Old Wykehamists and the Hampshire Hogs were all extremely even ones and contained much good cricket.

The Hogs match provided an exciting finish to the tour. With two balls of the last over to go, the Hogs required three runs to win. No runs were scored and with his last ball P H Wakely clean bowled the batsman. After the game against the School the batting was generally adequate. R F S Chignell was outstandingly successful. In six innings he scored 398 runs with an average of 79.6 and his century against the Old Wykehamists was a great effort. He was well supported by M S Glennie and W J Eldridge. The brunt of the bowling was most nobly borne by the slow bowlers, R A G Duff and J S W Lush.

1948

Played 7: Won 3, Drawn 4.

Saturday June 19 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 207-7 dec (W M Elderton 90); Sherborne School 121-5 (J N Arkell 4-18)

Sunday July 4 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 40-3 - Rain

Saturday July 31 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 8 wickets

Downside Wanderers 125 (M R G Earls-Davis 5-36); Sherborne Pilgrims 126-2 (H J C Bashford 71*)

Monday August 2 and Tuesday August 3 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by an innings and 21 runs

Somerset Stragglers 97 (R F S Chignell 6-22) and 141 (Chignell 5-29); Sherborne Pilgrims 259 (A T Whitehead 98, H E H Newman 52; C S Watson 5-72, R Luff 4-69)

Wednesday August 4 v Dorset Rangers at Dorchester - Won by 50 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 272-5 dec (R F S Chignell 95*, W J Eldridge 67, M R G Earls-Davis 62); Dorset Rangers 222 (J A E Hirst 92*, E J Freeman 56; Earls-Davis 5-56)

Thursday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Drawn

Hampshire Hogs 23-0 - Rain

Friday August 6 and Saturday August 7 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn

Old Wykehamists 137 (D C P R Jowett 4-36) and 67 (M R G Earls-Davis 4-20); Sherborne Pilgrims 131-8 dec (R N Chignell 50) and 46-6 (J G A Varley 4-18)

1949

Played 7: Won 1, Lost 1, Drawn 5.

Saturday June 18 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 195 (A E Day 52); Sherborne School 129-5
 Sunday July 3 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 110 runs
 Esher 273-7 dec (B J A Lowe 98); Sherborne Pilgrims 163 (R N Chignell 51; H F
 Pearse 5-56)
 Saturday July 30 v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 111 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 186 (L D Carton-Kelly 6-78); Downside Wanderers 75 (R C
 Eglington 5-31)
 Monday August 1 and Tuesday August 2 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 301-8 dec (R Eglington 102, R F S Chignell 85, H E H Newman
 52; R Downing 4-34); Somerset Stragglers 189 (P P Paulett 53; R A G Duff 6-52) and
 194-1 (J R Watson 116*)
 Wednesday August 3 and Thursday August 4 v J S W Lush's XI at Sherborne - Drawn
 J S W Lush's XI 243-7 dec (R T Procter 74) and 165 (H J C Bashford 5-37); Sherborne
 Pilgrims 239-9 dec and 166-8 (R F S Chignell 63)
 Friday August 5 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 257-9 dec (R F S Chignell 89); Dorset Rangers 175-9
 Saturday August 6 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 219-5 dec (W S Blackshaw 86*, H E H Newman 78); Hampshire
 Hogs 172-9 (F G Irving 61; H J C Bashford 4-58)

1950

Played 9: Won 5, Lost 1, Drawn 3.

Saturday June 10 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
 Sherborne School 242-7 dec (F M Anderton 73, D I Gillespie 71); Sherborne Pilgrims
 217-7 (M S Glennie 78)
 Sunday July 9 v Esher at Esher - Won by 8 wickets
 Esher 194 (R A G Duff 4-58); Sherborne Pilgrims 198-2 (A T Whitehead 81*, P S D
 Griffin 58)
 Saturday August 5 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Drawn
 Canford Cygnets 253 (P D R Smith 82, I P Campbell 63; P H Wakely 6-60); Sherborne
 Pilgrims 212-7 (R F S Chignell 93)
 Sunday August 6 v Yeovil at Yeovil - Drawn
 Yeovil 201-8 dec (R Wright 80); Sherborne Pilgrims 128-8 (Wright 5-30)
 Monday August 7 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 55 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 234-6 dec (R N Chignell 78, A T Whitehead 54); Somerset
 Stragglers 179 (J Luff 62; P H Wakely 5-43)
 Tuesday August 8 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 73 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 246-7 dec (R F S Chignell 110, H E H Newman 50); Dorset
 Rangers 173 (E J Freeman 54, D R Sloan 51; P H Wakely 5-60)
 Wednesday August 9 and Thursday August 10 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough -
 Won by 109 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 223-9 dec (R F S Chignell 67; R W O Venables 4-74) and 218-7
 dec (M R G Earls-Davis 72*; A P D Ballance 4-32); Marlborough Blues 184 (J D L

Dickson 65, C J Denham-Davis 65) and 148 (P H Wakely 6-31)
Friday August 11 and Saturday August 12 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Won by 95 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 269-5 dec (R F S Chignell 77, J R Norris 75) and 105-7 dec (A L Awdry 5-38); Old Wykehamists 138 and 141
Sunday August 13 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 45 runs
Old Tonbridgians 191 (L N Reynolds 51; F M Anderton 5-90, P H Wakely 4-59);
Sherborne Pilgrims 146 (R F S Chignell 57)

1950 may well go down as one of the most successful years that Pilgrims cricket has ever enjoyed. The fixture list was the longest, and certainly the strongest, since the War; the week was favoured by extremely good weather in a wet summer; and the side played better and better and sailed on a wave of victories until the final defeat at Tonbridge in a doggedly fought match. Twenty-seven members played during the season, and the support of what might be termed the "ever-ready nucleus" was as reliable as ever. The match against the School, in glorious weather at Commemoration, played its part in the Quatercentenary celebrations. We turned out a sound and well balanced side against whom the School played very good cricket and a draw was a fair result for the 460 odd runs that were scored. It was encouraging to beat Esher by so large a margin after the defeat of 1949.

On tour, draws were played against the Canford Cygnets and Yeovil, both new fixtures. In the latter game we were at one time in grave danger of defeat. Then from the Monday to the Saturday the side moved from strength to strength. Aided by a captain who won the toss on four consecutive occasions, we were able to assume and hold the initiative throughout the week and notched successive victories over the Somerset Stragglers, Dorset Rangers, Marlborough Blues and Old Wykehamists, the latter two both two-day games. On no day during this week was the side bowled out; in all six innings a declaration was made, on five occasions with the score past 200; and no innings by the opposition reached 200. The final defeat at Tonbridge was no anti-climax, for it was a good game of cricket all through. At lunchtime, with the Old Tonbridgians score at 120-7, we appeared to be in a strong position. After lunch the game gradually slipped, and with the wicket visibly crumbling the task of scoring over 150 was obviously going to be hard.

It was good to see how, as they played more together, the side became essentially a team. Herein lay the main strength. It was in their out cricket, in the way that they supported a very competent attack, that the side generally outplayed their opponents. P H Wakely was the spearhead, and on tour claimed 37 wickets; in Pilgrims cricket he has never been seen to bowl better. The batting, even if it did at times appear rather suspect, failed seriously only twice; at Yeovil, and later, in awkward conditions at Tonbridge. R F S Chignell was the chief run-getter, and he was well supported by several others, of whom A T Whitehead (twice), R N Chignell, M R G Earls-Davis, J R Norris and H E H Newman all made scores of 50 or more. F M Anderton played two very useful innings at Marlborough and his debut in Pilgrims cricket was in every way a worthy one, for he also bowled his off spinners both usefully and accurately.

The thanks of all who played are in great measure due to Mr Hey, and to Mrs Hey, his mother, for their generosity in again offering us the hospitality of The Green. Only those Pilgrims who have stayed there in a Pilgrims week can know how much they both do for us, and how, in their own inimitable ways, they make it appear that they enjoy having us. It gave great pleasure to all when Sam Hey agreed to captain the side against the Canford Cygnets, and many were acutely disappointed that he didn't carry out his threat of having a bowl, or that he did not receive one of those very hard chances, the missing of which he so good-humouredly, yet so insistently, accuses offending Pilgrims each evening.

1951

Played 10: Won 1, Lost 3, Drawn 4, Abandoned 2.

Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 175-8 dec (K A O'Connor 53*) and 209-5 dec (D I Gillespie 77);
Sherborne Pilgrims 177-7 dec and 128-7
Sunday July 8 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 137 runs
Esher 333-9 dec (R D Jupp 167, B N S Kidson 81); Sherborne Pilgrims 196 (W S Blackshaw 83, G Morgan 6-58)
Saturday August 4 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Won by 8 wickets
Canford Cygnets 92 (J H Pennock 58; P H Wakely 5-23, B H Lock 4-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 96-2 (Lock 51*)
Sunday August 5 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Abandoned
Monday August 6 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 95-1 (B E Collingwood 56*) - Rain
Tuesday August 7 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 25 runs
Dorset Rangers 131; Sherborne Pilgrims 106
Wednesday August 8 and Thursday August 9 v Marlborough Blues at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 248-8 dec (R F S Chignell 75, W S Blackshaw 73) and 142-9 dec; Marlborough Blues 241 (G E S Woodhouse 58; P H Wakely 6-35) and 142-7 (M R G Earls-Davis 5-39)
Friday August 10 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Cliftonians 234-7 dec (A R Mutter 80, N Gibbs 62); Sherborne Pilgrims 164-8
Saturday August 11 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Abandoned
Sunday August 12 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 60 runs
Old Tonbridgians 216-7 dec (C H Knott 100*); Sherborne Pilgrims 156 (Knott 6-62)

This was certainly a less successful year for Pilgrims cricket than 1950. Partly this was due to the weather, partly to the inability of successive captains to win the toss, but mainly because for the first time since the War the side found runs difficult to get. Only once, in the first innings against the Marlborough Blues, did the batting seem secure; for the rest the side always found it difficult to score runs against time on soft wickets. It was a great disappointment to all that rain caused the first match against

Sherborne Town to be abandoned without a ball being bowled. It is hoped that this game, on the Terrace, may become a regular annual fixture.

1952

Played 10: Won 4, Lost 1, Drawn 5.

Saturday June 14 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 9 wickets

Sherborne School 110 (R C Eglington 4-33); Sherborne Pilgrims 112-1 (R Eglington 53*)

Sunday July 6 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Esher 264 (H R Crouch 102; R A G Duff 5-100); Sherborne Pilgrims 194-9 (R M Clapp 57; H R Crouch 4-40, G Morgan 4-50)

Saturday August 2 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 214 (M W Pailthorpe 78; J H Pennock 5-74); Canford Cygnets 215-4 (J A Rowlett 107*)

Sunday August 3 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn

Sherborne Town 216-5 dec (D Evans 115*); Sherborne Pilgrims 141-7 (R N Chignell 69*; R E White 4-43)

Monday August 4 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 252-5 dec (R N Chignell 106, A T Whitehead 68); Somerset Stragglers 196-7 (J Luff 71*)

Tuesday August 5 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 145 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 262-5 dec (D P T Deshon 125); Dorset Rangers 117 (D Bird 4-27)

Wednesday August 6 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 252-8 dec (D P T Deshon 88, R F S Chignell 50*); Marlborough Blues 129-6 (J N Abell 69*)

Friday August 8 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Won by 8 wickets

Old Cliftonians 92 (D C P R Jowett 4-43); Sherborne Pilgrims 93-2 (M S Glennie 55*)

Saturday August 9 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Won by 4 wickets

Hampshire Hogs 120-9 dec (D C P R Jowett 6-49); Sherborne Pilgrims 121-6

Sunday August 10 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 233-7 dec (D P T Deshon 97); Old Tonbridgians 150-8

1953

Played 9: Won 4, Lost 2, Drawn 3.

Sunday June 7 v Esher at Esher - Won by 2 wickets

Esher 251-6 dec (P G Wreford 122, W J Downey 61; R M Skinner 4-74); Sherborne Pilgrims 255-8 (R F S Chignell 73, A T Whitehead 66)

Saturday July 4 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 134 (R Preston 6-38); Sherborne School 137-4

Saturday August 1 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn

Canford Cygnets 212-6 dec (G V Surtees 83, A M Seward 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 151-9 (W R H Woods 5-46)

Sunday August 2 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
 Sherborne Town 156-9 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 68-6 (R E White 5-6)
 Monday August 3 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
 Somerset Stragglers 230-9 dec (J R Watson 61, C S Watson 53*, P C F Childs 50);
 Sherborne Pilgrims 231-5 (R N Chignell 101, K A O'Connor 53*)
 Tuesday August 4 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 247-7 dec (R N Chignell 138; R C Hayward 5-41); Dorset Rangers
 189-6 (G White 57, D M K Tindall 50)
 Thursday August 6 and Friday August 7 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Won by 7
 wickets
 Old Wykehamists 129 (F M Anderton 4-49) and 166; Sherborne Pilgrims 262-5 dec
 (K A O'Connor 91, R F S Chignell 68*, M W Pailthorpe 53) and 34-3
 Saturday August 8 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Lost by 17 runs
 Hampshire Hogs 180 (C G A Paris 51; F M Anderton 5-55); Sherborne Pilgrims 163 (K
 A O'Connor 56; K C Came 4-42)
 Sunday August 9 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 14 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 246-8 dec (R F S Chignell 82); Old Tonbridgians 232 (R F Crang
 81)

In a year of unkind weather, Pilgrims cricket was mercifully treated and no match was
 spoilt by rain. Of nine matches played, only those against the School and the
 Hampshire Hogs were lost. The latter was an excellent game which was lost by only
 seventeen runs after we had seemed at one time in a good position to win. Esher,
 after a declaration, were beaten by two wickets on the stroke of time; the Somerset
 Stragglers were beaten by five wickets; the Old Wykehamists were soundly defeated
 in a two-day match, and finally we recorded our first victory over the Old Tonbridgians
 in a most exciting finish.

Of individual performances, perhaps the most notable were R N Chignell's two
 successive centuries; the successful debut of K A O'Connor, who scored runs
 consistently and, among the bowlers, the accuracy of P H Wakely and F M Anderton,
 around both of whom the attack was built. Milestones reached were the 50th
 appearance of P E Devitt and R Eglington in Pilgrims matches, P H Wakely's 100
 wickets and R F S Chignell's 2,000 runs. Chignell is the first Pilgrims batsman to
 reach this total.

1954

Played 12: Won 7, Lost 2, Drawn 3.

Sunday June 6 v Esher at Esher - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (M S Glennie 61; R J Woollatt 5-56, G Morgan 4-78); Esher
 173-7 (P G Wreford 57; B D C Shields 4-24)
 Saturday July 3 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 48 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 194-5 dec (M S Glennie 63); Sherborne School 146 (A J R
 Waterfield 5-41, P H Wakely 4-36)
 Friday July 30 v Old Cliftonians at Ashted - Lost by 8 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 120; Cliftonians 121-2
 Saturday July 31 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 122 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 237-6 dec (D I Gillespie 59); Canford Cygnets 115
 Sunday August 1 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
 Sherborne Pilgrims 183 (C R Dawnay 55; D B Ball 8-72); Sherborne Town 135-8
 Monday August 2 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 81 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 197-8 dec (P M Lewis 91*); Somerset Stragglers 116
 Tuesday August 3 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 162 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 254-5 dec (D I Gillespie 92, M W Pailthorpe 57*); Dorset Rangers
 92 (P H Wakely 5-22)
 Wednesday August 4 v Devon Dumplings at Sherborne - Won by 142 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 223-5 dec (D I Gillespie 110); Devon Dumplings 81 (D C P R
 Jowett 6-28)
 Thursday August 5 v Wiltshire Queries at Bemerton - Lost by 54 runs
 Wiltshire Queries 224 (C A Cutforth 111; P H Wakely 4-34); Sherborne Pilgrims 170
 (D S Milford 4-57)
 Friday August 6 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Won by 8 wickets
 Hampshire Hogs 102 (P H Wakely 4-33, H J C Bashford 4-48); Sherborne Pilgrims
 104-2
 Saturday August 7 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn
 Old Wykehamists 219-8 dec (D R Guard 84, A P Doggart 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 98-
 5
 Sunday August 8 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 39 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 196-6 dec (B H Lock 60; L N Reynolds 4-39); Old Tonbridgians
 157 (D S Kemp 56; R M Skinner 6-37)

This was a successful and enjoyable year for Pilgrims cricket. The fixture list contained two new matches and throughout the summer we lost two games: to the Old Cliftonians and the Wiltshire Queries. An encouraging feature of the tour was the number of young members who played throughout and provided the backbone of the side. Against Esher we had an exciting draw, and we managed to beat the School quite easily in the Commem match. We lost by eight wickets to the Cliftonians at Ashted, having been put in to bat on what, it is alleged, was an unpleasant wicket! Several present members of the School played here, and we are grateful to them for their support. This fixture is experimental in nature, as it is doubtful if we can raise a strong enough side in London on the day before the tour begins at Sherborne.

On the tour we were extremely successful at Sherborne, batting first each time and gaining big victories over the Canford Cygnets, Somerset Stragglers, Dorset Rangers and Devon Dumplings. We played a drawn game with the Town on the Sunday afternoon and this was marred by rain which settled in after tea. Our batting was always very strong and our bowling was adequate for most situations. In our first-ever fixture with the Wiltshire Queries we were defeated. Bad fielding helped them to reach 224 and, as we were unable to maintain a high enough rate of scoring, we first found ourselves struggling and were finally rattled out. On the Friday we had a pleasing win against the Hogs. Plenty of rain had fallen, and when we began after lunch they took first innings and were out for 102. Luckily the pitch eased when we

went in and we won without trouble.

The Old Wykehamists turned out a side with several illustrious names and, although at one time we seemed to be in danger, we drew the match quite comfortably amid - and aided by - showers of heavy rain. As usual we had a grand day at Tonbridge. We set them 197 to win, and they went well for a time; however, with the score at 110, things started to go amiss and, still trying gamely for the runs, they were out some 40 short. We are ever grateful to Tonbridge for the hospitality shown us on our visits.

The batting was strong throughout the week with P M Lewis, C R Dawnay, D I Gillespie, B D C Shields, K A O'Connor and A D Pickering the chief run-getters. R F S Chignell and H F G Carey - who came from Natal to join the tour - played good innings in the later matches. P H Wakely was the main strength of the bowling, especially as he was relieved of most of the batting he might have hoped to do! He was well supported by Gillespie, Pickering and H J C Bashford. Among the fielders P J Topliss was always outstanding and R F S Chignell held a remarkable catch in the slips!

1955

Played 12: Won 6, Lost 3, Drawn 3.

Sunday June 5 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 1 wicket

Sherborne Pilgrims 170 (R M Skinner 72); Esher 171-9 (A C Hewett 52; P H Wakely 5-56)

Saturday July 2 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne School 165-8 dec (P D Cowell 69); Sherborne Pilgrims 133-6

Saturday July 30 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Won by 8 wickets

Canford Cygnets 133 (J M Carter 7-38); Sherborne Pilgrims 135-2 (P M Lewis 62, M R G Earls-Davis 60)

Sunday July 31 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Won by 5 wickets

Sherborne Town 156-8 dec (H H Mainprice 4-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 157-5

Monday August 1 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets

Somerset Stragglers 127 (W A Gluck 59; J S W Lush 6-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 131-4

Tuesday August 2 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 8 wickets

Dorset Rangers 167 (P H Wakely 5-44, J S W Lush 4-52); Sherborne Pilgrims 170-2 (P M Lewis 66)

Wednesday August 3 v Wiltshire Queries at Bemerton - Lost by 68 runs

Wiltshire Queries 197-7 dec (F B White 59, D S Milford 54, A M Barker 50; J S W Lush 4-50); Sherborne Pilgrims 129 (C R Dawnay 77; R E F Moloney 6-44)

Thursday August 4 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Won by 4 wickets

Charterhouse Friars 218 (P J H Lowe 117; J S W Lush 7-108); Sherborne Pilgrims 219-6 (J R Tozer 78, R F S Chignell 60)

Friday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Won by 5 wickets

Hampshire Hogs 146 (P M Lewis 71; J S W Lush 6-50, R F S Chignell 4-55);

Sherborne Pilgrims 147-5 (P J Topliss 62)

Saturday August 6 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 226-9 dec (C R Dawnay 77, B D C Shields 64); Old Wykehamists 206-8 (D R McCarthy 61)
Sunday August 7 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 266-3 dec (B H Lock 100*, J R Tozer 92); Old Tonbridgians 233-8 (J A Baiss 98, P B K Gracey 65)
Tuesday August 9 v Oundle Rovers at Cranleigh - Lost by 149 runs
Oundle Rovers 315-5 dec (R M Beresford 115, P Hardy 105*); Sherborne Pilgrims 166 (J M Mills 4-28)

Pilgrims cricket this year was played throughout in uninterrupted sunshine, and although our record did not quite equal the weather in excellence, at least we can say that we had a year as enjoyable as any. In general our trouble was lack of bowling, and when we came to the later part of the tour the strain of prolonged spells began to have its effect even on the most stalwart of "trundlers". In spite of this, a record of six wins out of twelve matches, with three draws, was not a bad one. We had a great match with Esher, in which their last pair knocked off twelve vital runs. At Commem the usual object was achieved, and the players continued in the field until the hour appointed for close of play, to the buzz of garden party conversation from the pickets.

At the beginning of the tour we assembled at Canford and decided to field - daring policy which paid off fully that day, as the Cygnets succumbed to J M Carter and the match was won with ease. From that moment on, however, we seldom won the toss, and we were sent out to field six days in succession! The Town batted slowly but made a generous declaration, and we won the match for the first time after being behind the clock at one point. The Stragglers and Rangers were defeated with comparative ease, mainly due to J S W Lush who bowled unchanged for the major part of the two innings. Against the Queries we crashed yet again, when our batting, save for C R Dawnay, showed few signs of competence.

In one of our new fixtures, the Friars at Charterhouse, we managed to win a splendid game with a few minutes to spare, after J R Tozer and R F S Chignell had each played a fine innings; we also beat the Hogs comfortably. P J Topliss played a good innings in this match, and Lush's bowling on both these days was again our main hope in attack. We had a curious match with the Wykehamists, as each side seemed to have victory in its grasp, only to throw it away: owing to a good start by C R Dawnay and B D C Shields we were able to declare, and then wickets fell steadily until we had half of them out: our fielding practically expired at this point, and had they forced the pace earlier they would have won. As it was, they came quite close to doing so.

At Tonbridge we compiled the largest total of the week, mainly owing to B H Lock and J R Tozer, but our bowling was by this time enfeebled, and in the absence of J S W Lush it was all we could do to contain our opponents until close of play. The Oundle Rovers match was a disappointing one for us, as we had particularly wanted to do well in this new fixture. But our bowling was handled severely, and our batting failed for only the second time this summer.

On most occasions the batting had presented a solid front, but it must be

remembered that it was not until we reached Salisbury that the lower batsmen in the order were actually brought to the crease. The most successful were J R Tozer, P M Lewis, C R Dawnay, B D C Shields and P J Topliss, while R F S Chignell played a good innings or two. In bowling J S W Lush stood high above the rest: he thinks about each ball and never allows the batsman to settle down. He was well supported throughout the week by P H Wakely and R F S Chignell, while J M Carter and H H Mainprice were successful at the beginning of the tour. In the field, P M Lewis and B D C Shields were the best. Some days our catching was good, as at Canford, but other days it was execrable, as at Winchester, and our bowling was not really strong enough to stand ill-fortune when it came.

1956

Played 12: Won 3, Lost 4, Drawn 4, Abandoned 1.

Sunday June 10 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 45 runs
Esher 137 (J M S Broadley 7-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 92 (G Morgan 8-41)
Saturday June 23 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Sherborne School 138 (D I Gillespie 4-10); Sherborne Pilgrims 139-7 (M Maley 4-64)
Saturday August 4 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 212-7 dec (J R Tozer 79); Canford Cygnets 135-9
Sunday August 5 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Town 97; Sherborne Pilgrims 71-2 - Rain
Monday August 6 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 9 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 93; Sherborne Pilgrims 94-1
Tuesday August 7 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 74; Dorset Rangers 78-8 (C J A Robbie 6-17)
Wednesday August 8 v Wiltshire Queries at Bemerton - Won by 21 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 155 (B H Lock 63, R E F Moloney 6-50); Wiltshire Queries 134 (P Reid 51; S P Tindall 5-54)
Thursday August 9 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 231-7 dec (J R Tozer 105; R M Hollis 4-64); Charterhouse Friars 183-9 (B N S Gemmell 92; J M Carter 4-36)
Friday August 10 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Abandoned
Saturday August 11 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn
Old Wykehamists 190-5 dec (D R Guard 71, B L Reed 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 143-5 (B H Lock 69)
Sunday August 12 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 137 (M J Bickmore 5-32); Old Tonbridgians 138-4 (D S Kemp 67*)
Monday August 13 v Oundle Rovers at Cranleigh - Lost by 37 runs
Oundle Rovers 172-5 dec (P Hardy 57*); Sherborne Pilgrims 135 (Hardy 5-47)

This was not one of the greatest years that Pilgrims cricket has enjoyed, and even the casual observer might guess from the records that on several occasions we disappointed ourselves. A shortage of bowlers was the chief trouble, and on the tour itself two of our main hopes were not, in fact, members. Without them we should

indeed have been in trouble; we are extremely grateful to all those who came to our aid at various times, when the side was short. Against Esher we were let down by our batting, and that in a side whose No 11 has been known to score 50 against Yorkshire!

At Commem we beat the School in a close match, where the balance was finally tipped in our favour by the batting of P D Cowell and D I T Wilson. The first two matches of the tour might well have been won, and on the Monday we beat the Stragglers quite easily. During our opening partnership in this match the statisticians counted some 12 chances before the stand was broken! Next day, however, we were not so lucky, and the Rangers had us out for 74. Our batting had been very feeble, but C J A Robbie replied by getting the Rangers 38-6 before Frank King, who had played for us earlier in the week, eventually steadied the Rangers' ship which had looked like being submerged for a score more paltry than our own!

We won the Queries match for the first time ever, and reached Winchester in the evening to play the Friars the next day. Winchester College very kindly lent us their ground, and we declared at 231-7. The Friars, at one time appearing to have the match within their grasp, eventually reached 183-9, their No 11 having to fend off the last two deliveries of a dramatic day. Next year we have arranged to make this fixture a two-day match. Unfortunately the game at St Cross was abandoned without a ball being bowled, and against the Old Wykehamists we could not begin until after lunch. They batted first, and after a slow start we never really looked like getting the runs.

At Tonbridge we were entertained as well as ever; too well, possibly, as our batting collapsed after lunch! All out for 137, on an easy wicket, it was as much as we could do to keep the game alive until the evening. Rain fell heavily in the night, and when we arrived at Cranleigh it was evident that we should be lucky to play at all. However, by 2.30 a start was made: our bowling received scant mercy, but we found ourselves unable to emulate our opponents when it came to our turn to bat. After a slow start, we found the task beyond us, and collapsed after our middle batting had got out going for the runs.

Among the batsmen, B H Lock, J R Tozer and J D F Tucker met with the most success, while C R J Eglington and R F S Chignell played good innings at the end of the week. The bowling effort fell mainly on C J A Robbie, S P Tindall, J M Carter, M F S Prince and B H Lock. Hard as they tried, however, the attack generally lacked penetration, and it is to be hoped that next year we shall find a Pilgrim bowler of real venom to accompany us.

1957

Played 10: Won 4, Lost 2, Drawn 3, Abandoned 1.

Sunday June 9 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 17 runs

Esher 200-7 dec (P G Wreford 75); Sherborne Pilgrims 183 (J Renwick 54; G Morgan 5-57)

Saturday June 29 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 103 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 226-9 dec (C R Dawnay 76; C W Yeldham 5-58); Sherborne School 123 (G M Hughes-Games 4-40, A D Pickering 4-42)

Saturday August 3 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Won by 139 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 264-7 dec (J R Norris 70; P M C Hare 4-76); Canford Cygnets 125 (J M Carter 5-30)

Sunday August 4 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Won by 2 wickets

Sherborne Town 218-7 dec (M R G Earls-Davis 104, M W Pailthorpe 50*); Sherborne Pilgrims 219-8

Monday August 5 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 73 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 209-4 dec (J R Norris 100, B D C Shields 67); Somerset Stragglers 136 (J A D Curtis 5-30)

Tuesday August 6 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 5 runs

Dorset Rangers 207 (H M Harbottle 89; J M Carter 4-57); Sherborne Pilgrims 202 (C R Dawnay 67; M J W Tingey 5-71, W H F Mayo 5-84)

Wednesday August 7 and Thursday August 8 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 141 (E O Jackson 6-52, G R W Carter 4-42) and 246-6 dec (W M Elderton 58, M C Brookes 50, H F G Carey 50); Charterhouse Friars 261 and 43-4

Friday August 9 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Abandoned

Saturday August 10 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn

Old Wykehamists 198-4 (I Maclure 89, D E D Campbell 54) - Rain

Sunday August 11 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 171-6 dec (J M S Broadley 56*); Old Tonbridgians 128-6

Pilgrims cricket on this summer's tour seemed as variable as the weather. At the start of the week, we won the first three matches, in which Canford and the Stragglers succumbed in fair fight, while the Town went down with flying colours after a very generous declaration. The course of this match was turned, incidentally, by a very friendly over from the manager of the Pilgrims who was representing the opposition! Against the Rangers we crashed yet again, going for the runs. This was a disappointment as at one moment we had been in front of the clock: the sudden collapse may have been partly due to the aftermath of one of our members' birthday party, which left several of us in rather doubtful fettle. Thus the four days at Sherborne were complete.

And so to Winchester, where our two days with the Friars proved most agreeable. The first day we were dismissed cheaply by fast leg breaks, but when our opponents tried to crush us by an innings we managed to save the game by much improved batting. The Hogs match, as is almost usual nowadays, was rained off completely, and the Wykehamists, who were lucky enough to win the toss, had a little batting before rain brought the proceedings of yet another day to an early close. At Tonbridge the game had again to be abandoned when it was, if anything, slightly in our favour.

It was heartening to see some good performances by members of this year's XI in

Curtis, Brookes and Whitehurst, and we hope that they will be able to play again in the future. In spite of a circular early in the summer, the raising of sides, particularly in mid-week, proved a difficulty. It is barely credible that a club of our prestige should actually have to take the field one man short on one occasion. Members are again urged to give match managers all the support they can.

This year's tour has differed from those of former years in one respect - that Ted Freeman has been unable to umpire for us. He has toured with the Club in early August for many years, and his help and advice will be greatly missed by us all. At least, however, he will still be able to come to the Upper when we are there, and we hope he knows how much pleasure it will give us to see him.

We inflicted a crushing defeat on the School at Commem. Batting first, we scored at a fast rate, thanks largely to a splendid innings by Christopher Dawnay, and declared at 226-9. Against bowling that was no more than reasonably steady, the School put up a most inept display of batting and the match was over at an indecently early hour when they were all out for 123.

1958

Played 10: Won 3, Lost 4, Drawn 3.

Sunday June 8 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 31 runs

Esher 217-7 dec (P G Wreford 102); Sherborne Pilgrims 186 (J M S Broadley 69, C R J Eglinton 57; A T W Blair 5-67, G Morgan 4-62)

Saturday June 21 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne School 173-9 dec (M C Brookes 55; M Maley 4-45, S P Tindall 4-47); Sherborne Pilgrims 122-6 (J D F Tucker 50*)

Saturday August 2 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 59 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 187-4 dec (J B Blackshaw 100*); Canford Cygnets 128 (J A D Curtis 4-22, D C P R Jowett 4-37)

Sunday August 3 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 175-9 dec (C R Dawnay 88; D C P R Jowett 4-40); Sherborne Town 43-1 - Rain

Monday August 4 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Lost by 19 runs

Somerset Stragglers 164 (P Harvey 62; D C P R Jowett 4-44, J A D Curtis 4-46); Sherborne Pilgrims 145 (J Luff 6-52)

Tuesday August 5 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets

Dorset Rangers 133-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 134-5 (P M Lewis 73*)

Wednesday August 6 and Thursday August 7 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Drawn

Charterhouse Friars 309-4 dec (E O Jackson 105, T R Jakobson 73, M E I A Wells 61) and 128-4 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 203 (J B Blackshaw 53; M D Livock 4-53) and 162-8 (C R Dawnay 70; Jakobson 5-19)

Friday August 8 v Hampshire Hogs at St Cross - Won by 16 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 178-7 dec; Hampshire Hogs 162 (B H Lock 5-55)

Saturday August 9 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 78 runs

Old Wykehamists 183; Sherborne Pilgrims 105 (R P S MacNutt 7-33)
Sunday August 10 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 41 runs
Old Tonbridgians 205 (M Maley 5-74); Sherborne Pilgrims 164 (M C Brookes 50; A B E Hudson 5-77, S J B Langdale 4-57)

As far as the manager was concerned, cricket this year gave more cause for optimism than had been the case for several years. Difficulties in raising sides vanished, and the problem was generally whom to leave out. Even so, it should be borne in mind that we are still lamentably short of bowlers who can keep an end going with any economy, and it is a moot point where we should have been without Mark Maley, who bowled 160 overs, nearly four times as many as any other person, bowler, batsman or captain.

The Esher match proved the greatest fun, and although we lost by 30 runs through a batting collapse we were quickly revived by a mammoth party in the pavilion: for this we are much indebted to the Eglington family. Commem. was indecisive, but the four matches at Sherborne brought us two wins. John Blackshaw scored a good hundred on the first day and this, coupled with David Jowett, was too much for the Cygnets. Next, Chris Dawnay made short work of the Town bowling, but unfortunately the match was abandoned just after tea. The Stragglers gained a long awaited victory, partly through our feeble batting, but the Rangers match, which we were lucky to play with so much rain about, was won with very little time to spare after fine innings by Peter Lewis and Hugh Carey.

The match with the Friars underlined our shortage of bowling as we were only able to dismiss eight Carthusians in the two days, but we managed to draw the match with two wickets left; the next day we beat the Hogs by a narrow margin, largely due to the bowling of Lock, whose only match on the tour this was. Against the Wykehamists and Tonbridgians we were not quite so lucky, as in both cases we lost the toss and were let down by our batting when aiming at moderate totals.

1959

Played 11: Won 3, Lost 5, Drawn 2, Tied 1.

Sunday May 24 v Bradfield Waifs at Bordon - Lost by 60 runs
Bradfield Waifs 131 (P H Wakely 4-31); Sherborne Pilgrims 71 (R S Kingsford 4-13)
Sunday June 7 v Esher at Esher - Won by 40 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 201 (C R J Eglington 82; J A Fulford 5-41, A J W Davis 4-41);
Esher 161 (D J W Bridge 6-31)
Saturday June 27 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 122 (M C Brookes 64); Sherborne School 125-4 (S C Nicholas 52*)
Saturday August 1 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 219-9 dec (J R Norris 85, J C Alan Smith 56*; R D French 4-56);
Canford Cygnets 163-7

Sunday August 2 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Tied
 Sherborne Pilgrims 183-9 dec (D C P R Jowett 52; D B Ball 4-55); Sherborne Town 183 (M Maley 4-57)
 Monday August 3 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
 Somerset Stragglers 188-8 dec (G P Gent 6-40); Sherborne Pilgrims 190-8 (R M Morgan 59)
 Tuesday August 4 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 7 wickets
 Sherborne Pilgrims 137; Dorset Rangers 141-3 (N R Rose 51*)
 Wednesday August 5 and Thursday August 6 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Lost by an innings and 51 runs
 Sherborne Pilgrims 151 (T R Jakobson 5-52, A T C Allom 4-54) and 202 (B H Lock 59; J J Ullman 6-46); Charterhouse Friars 404-7 dec (Jakobson 123, Allom 114)
 Friday August 7 v Hampshire Hogs at Northington - Lost by 45 runs
 Hampshire Hogs 240-7 dec (I Maclure 77*, P R le Cras 65, D E Blake 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 195 (R W Beeney 74; F G Irving 6-59)
 Saturday August 8 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Won by 5 wickets
 Old Wykehamists 220 (I McNutt 83, I Maclure 63; K M L Porter 5-56, P H Wakely 4-82); Sherborne Pilgrims 223-5 (H R J Walker 95)
 Sunday August 9 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
 Old Tonbridgians 254-5 dec (R F Crang 65, S J B Langdale 58*); Sherborne Pilgrims 219-6 (B H Lock 74*, A T Whitehead 52)

The season started earlier than usual on May 24 with a match against the Bradfield Waifs on the ground of the Officers' Club at Bordon. Peter Deshon captained the Pilgrims, who lost a low-scoring match by 60 runs. Peter Wakely, John Carter and Mike Skinner got the opposition out for 131, but only Simon Tindall, batting in the unusually lofty spheres of number nine, achieved double figures when it came to our turn. At Esher we recorded our first win. Charles Eglington's 82 was the backbone of our innings and Derek Bridge with 6-31 demolished Esher.

Commem was a disaster, and saw the first defeat of the Club by the School for six years. On a good wicket only Mark Brookes shaped at all, the remaining "class" batsmen being airy-fairy in the extreme, and, in spite of the bowling efforts of Wakely, Paul Barber and Tindall, it was quite obvious that we had nothing like enough runs on the board. In fact, at one time it was doubtful if the match would last until tea. Eventually it did - just.

This year's August cricket came in for its full share of the exceptional weather, and we assembled on a bright Saturday at Canford. Before lunch the game went disastrously for us, and at one moment we were 19-5, but we were rescued by John Norris and Jamie Alan Smith, and eventually declared at 219-9. Any hopes we may have had, however, of getting them out were lost in a shower which extended the tea interval to 40 minutes, and although seven bowlers, including the captain, were tried, no result could be obtained.

The match on the Terrace is still a matter of dispute: the scorers made our score 183, and the Town's last wicket fell at this score amid considerable excitement.

However, after the players had left the field, on a recount the Town claimed a win by one wicket (or one run), but we prefer a tie! The Stragglers batted slowly but surely, leaving us two hours. After a good start by Evans and Morgan we made great efforts, and we got the runs with five balls to spare in an exciting finish. Against the Rangers we disappointed ourselves as we failed to make anything like enough runs; two run-outs and several other wickets thrown away gave our bowlers no chance, and the match was over with an hour to go.

Against the Charterhouse Friars we chose to bat first on what proved to be a very lively wicket, and it seemed that 150 might prove a good score. But the wicket eased, our bowling lacked penetration, and our opponents compiled a vast total. We batted better in the second innings, but, in spite of prolonged resistance by Lock, never looked like saving the game against a very strong side. Our match with the Hogs might have been drawn, but we continued to go for a win after the departure of Deshon and Beeney and an unusually long tea interval had left us little hope of victory.

It was a refreshing experience to dismiss all our opponents in the match with the Old Wykehamists, Porter and Wakely both bowling very steadily; nevertheless, the task of scoring the necessary runs in two and half hours looked formidable; but Walker batted brilliantly and we coasted home. At Tonbridge we made a late start after rain, and found that our team, full of batting but without a bowler of any pace or a wicket-keeper, was not well equipped to dismiss an equally strong batting side. When our turn came we might have gone for the runs if any of the quicker scorers had stayed long enough, but eventually we had to fight a rearguard action.

1960

Played 11: Won 5, Lost 2, Drawn 4.

Sunday May 22 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Won by 132 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 212-5 dec (B D C Shields 76*, K M L Porter 53); Bradfield Waifs 80 (S P Tindall 5-20, A D Pickering 4-32)

Sunday June 5 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Esher 196-7 dec (A C Hewett 57, P G Wreford 56); Sherborne Pilgrims 168-8 (F M Anderton 76; G Morgan 5-65)

Saturday June 25 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 227-3 dec (M S Glennie 61, G P Gent 54*); Sherborne School 134-8 (P H Wakely 4-51)

Saturday July 30 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 79 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 135 (N I Bradshaw 5-25); Canford Cygnets 56 (D C P R Jowett 4-13, R F S Chignell 4-19)

Sunday July 31 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Lost by 4 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 142-9 dec (R Rham 4-20, D B Ball 4-41); Sherborne Town 146-6

Monday August 1 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 39 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 151-6 dec; Somerset Stragglers 112 (C W Yeldham 6-46, G P

Gent 4-41)

Tuesday August 2 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 78 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 180-9 dec (R F S Chignell 70; W H F Mayo 4-56, W J Pinney 4-59);

Dorset Rangers 102 (C W Yeldham 5-43)

Wednesday August 3 and Thursday August 4 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 191 (B H Lock 74; J P Gabriel 5-43) and 154-8 dec (Gabriel 4-46); Charterhouse Friars 120 (D K Geddes 5-40) and 190-6 (J M Baker 54)

Friday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by 2 wickets

Hampshire Hogs 186-9 dec (I Maclure 79*; C W Yeldham 4-46); Sherborne Pilgrims 187-8 (A R Brown 51)

Saturday August 6 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn

Old Wykehamists 41-2 - Rain

Sunday August 7 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 31 runs

Old Tonbridgians 167-5 dec (S J B Langdale 56*); Sherborne Pilgrims 136 (A B E Hudson 5-84, M H Foster 4-31)

The early matches of the season were blessed with fine weather. The first game was on May 22 against the Bradfield Waifs. We made rather a slow start, but followed this with brighter cricket after lunch with Porter (53), Shields (76*), Deshon (24) and Beeney (25*) all going well so that we were able to declare at 212-5. Against Tindall, who was bowling really well and turning it a lot, the opposition folded up and gave us an easy win. The game against Esher was played on a scorching hot day and ended in a draw. Set to get 197 in three hours, we made a very good start thanks to Anderton (76) and Shields (41), although the scoring rate was never fast. The middle batsmen certainly went for the runs, but nobody was able to stay long enough and we had reached 168-8 at the close.

At Commem we were determined to make up for the beating we took from the School last year. Glennie (61), Lock (39), Gent (54*) and Norris (48) fairly laid about the bowling, with the result that we declared early in the afternoon at 227-3. At the start of the School innings wickets fell quickly against the bowling of Wakely and Porter, but the later batsmen played with sense and determination and we were not quite able to finish them off in time.

We assembled for the tour at Sherborne and three wins and a loss was satisfactory enough, but even so our fast bowling was very thin, and our higher order batsmen disappointing. Against the Cygnets and the Stragglers we had enough runs, as it turned out, after each time looking as if we might be all out for about 100. The Town beat us in an exciting match, in which our bowlers could not control the game supported as they were by peculiarly inept fielding, and watched by one of our more fiercely critical members! Against the Rangers the spinners managed to peg the batsmen down, and this gave us our third win in four games.

At Winchester the Friars game began for once on a wet wicket, to which they at least were not accustomed. We batted first, and before long the ball began to turn quite sharply. In the face of this our later batsmen collapsed and we did well to get to 191,

particularly as the Friars could only reach 120, even when the wicket had eased. In our second innings we did not get runs quickly enough, and left ourselves with only 160 minutes to get them out. Thus the Friars ended 35 short with six wickets down in a finish which did not do justice to the play that had preceded it. The Hogs match went well, except for the after-lunch period when they went from 87-6 to 186-9 declared. However, our batting proved equal to this, and after being 106-5 we got home with five minutes to spare.

The Old Wykehamists match was rained off almost completely, and on Sunday, being thin in bowling, we put in the Old Tonbridgians to bat. By lunch they were 140-3 and when play was restarted after heavy rain went to 167-5 before declaring. We then batted badly against their spinners, and although the later batsmen used vigorous methods to get us within sight of winning the game, we eventually lost while attempting to hurry when we might have coasted home.

1961

Played 10: Won 1, Lost 4, Drawn 5.

Sunday May 14 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 136 (E J W Thomas 5-23); Bradfield Waifs 137-5 (J Davison 97*)
Sunday June 11 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 125 runs
Esher 241-7 dec (J A Fulford 117); Sherborne Pilgrims 116 (G Morgan 5-94)
Saturday June 24 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 194-6 dec (B H Lock 82); Sherborne School 140-9 (J M S Kennedy 65; J J Barber 4-28)
Saturday August 5 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn
Canford Cygnets 209-7 dec (J Surtees 62; N P H R Chamberlin 5-56); Sherborne Pilgrims 209-9
Monday August 7 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 182-6 dec (F M Anderton 77*; B. Hobson 4-61); Somerset Stragglers 121-9 (B H Lock 6-45)
Tuesday August 8 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Pilgrims 164 (W H F Mayo 4-41); Dorset Rangers 130-9 (D J F Hardwicke 56; J M S Kennedy 4-21)
Wednesday August 9 and Thursday August 10 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Drawn
Charterhouse Friars 190 (C H Collingwood 6-62) and 188-6 dec (J J Carless 77; N P H R Chamberlin 4-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (E O Jackson 5-75, T R Jakobson 4-46) and 44-1
Friday August 11 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by 3 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 129 (J M S Kennedy 6-37); Sherborne Pilgrims 133-7
Saturday August 12 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 96 (J C Patrick 5-19); Old Wykehamists 97-2 (V A L Powell 57*)
Sunday August 13 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 161 (R W Beeney 53); Old Tonbridgians 162-3 (R F Crang 51)

We would appear to have had a poor season in 1961 but, although only one match was won, there was some good cricket with several close finishes. The main cause of our downfall on too many occasions was bad fielding. The stopping and throwing were good but the catching was terrible. On the tour alone 37 catches were dropped!

The season opened in May against the Waifs. After an opening partnership of 69 by Anderton and Porter our batting fell to pieces and, although we had three of the Waifs out for 20, a good innings by Davison saw them home by six wickets. The game against Esher was also lost after a good start when we had four of them out for 44. A vital catch was then dropped and they were eventually able to declare at 241-7. A veil is best drawn over our innings. The match at Commem against the School was a good one: splendid batting by Lock and Rowe helped us to 196-6 but during the School's innings our bowling seemed to be making little headway and, when the extra fifteen minutes were optimistically taken, they still had five wickets left. In the next few moments, however, four of these went, and the last pair were defending desperately at the end.

Eleven Pilgrims arrived at Canford in time for an 11.30 start - a remarkable beginning to the tour. On this occasion, however, punctuality was wasted as rain held up play until after lunch. Then a most exciting game took place with our batting second. Set to get 210 in 125 minutes, seven were still wanted when the last over started and two had to be scored off the last ball. Going like a bullet for a second run to third man, Nichols was run out by a foot and the match ended with the scores level. The victim still maintains that third man was hiding behind that tree!

The two matches at Sherborne were frustrating as on both days the opposition last pair were together when stumps were drawn, missed chances having cost valuable time. Anderton and Lock batted well, and Lock and Kennedy were the best bowlers in these games.

On Wednesday we travelled to Winchester for the two day game against the Charterhouse Friars which got away to a late start, the groundsman having failed to prepare a wicket. A slow outfield and good bowling by Collingwood restricted the Friars to 190 in their first innings and, thanks to attractive batting by Lock, Beeney and Chignell and a last wicket stand of 32 by Collingwood and Michael Wingfield Digby, we got to within twelve of their score. Hard hitting by Carless put the Friars in a position to declare their second innings, leaving us to score 201 in 150 minutes. We had made a good start, with Chignell going great guns, when rain brought play to an end. The first, and only, victory came in the match against the Hogs. Kennedy bowled very accurately, Chamberlin held four catches in the gully and with J R H Mermagen batting sensibly we won by four wickets.

Unfortunately this triumph was followed by disaster. In spite of a stubborn innings by Nichols, we proved no match for the Old Wykehamists who, with an allegedly weak side, coasted home with ease. The tour ended with a good game at Tonbridge which we lost four minutes from time. Beeney, Lock and Hill rescued the batting, but a greasy ball made bowling difficult and the Old Tonbridgians had seven wickets in

hand at the finish.

1962

Played 12: Won 4, Lost 1, Drawn 5, Abandoned 2.

Sunday May 20 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Won by 5 wickets
Bradfield Waifs 230 (K B H Stevens 93; A D Pickering 4-30, C W Yeldham 4-52);
Sherborne Pilgrims 231-5 (A J T Brown 104)

After a slow start the Waifs were 180-2 at lunch but collapsed after the interval against steady off breaks from Pickering and Yeldham. The highlight of our innings was a hard hit century from Brown which enabled the runs to come in two and a quarter hours.

Sunday June 10 v Esher at Esher - Won by 30 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 132 (D J Bayfield 5-23, G A Cottrell 4-40); Esher 102 (Bayfield 60)

A low scoring game of fluctuating fortunes. We made a steady start but 103-3 turned into 132 all out as a result of the lunch interval, excellent Esher fielding and indifferent batting. Esher made a terrible start and 15-5 soon became 46-9. We then had to endure one of those ghastly last wicket stands when you know you must win but just can't get that vital wicket. Bayfield batted very sensibly and scored 55 of the 56 for the last wicket, the other run being an extra. There was great relief when Anderton finally tempted him to give a catch.

Saturday June 30 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 204-4 dec (A J Whiteway 69, T W Marshall 60*); Sherborne Pilgrims 144-6 (J R Norris 69*)

The School started cautiously with 80 coming in the 95 minutes before lunch, but for the loss of only one wicket. Whiteway and Marshall pressed ahead after the interval and this led to a generous declaration. Our innings was in trouble at 18-4, but Norris and Kennedy got their heads down, and with the bowling lacking penetration the match ended in a tame draw.

Saturday July 14 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Abandoned

A new fixture arranged by Bill Morgan and bad luck that rain prevented any play.

Saturday August 4 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
Canford Cygnets 133 (J M S Kennedy 5-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 134-4

This was a slow Upper pudding, and accurate bowling by Kennedy and Collingwood made the Cygnets struggle to reach 133 in 200 minutes. We were well set at 45-3: Chignell and Eglington then put on 76 in an hour and victory was achieved with 15

minutes to spare.

Sunday August 5 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 172; Sherborne Town 160-9

We got off to a cracking start with 72 for the first wicket in 42 minutes, but the scoring slowed to a trickle as the wickets started to fall. The Town were never up with the clock, and in spite of a good effort from the bowlers it was poor catching which prevented a win.

Monday August 6 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Abandoned

Tuesday August 7 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 184-4 dec (F M Anderton 83, R M Morgan 79); Dorset Rangers 71-3

After an early lunch the Rangers won the toss and to our surprise elected to field. Anderton and Morgan put on 160 for the first wicket in 110 minutes in spite of a very slow outfield. The declaration left the Rangers two and a quarter hours, but after an hour heavy rain was the winner.

Wednesday August 8 and Thursday August 9 v Charterhouse Friars at Winchester - Won by 9 wickets
Charterhouse Friars 178 (C N H Cain 52; F M Anderton 4-36) and 158; Sherborne Pilgrims 304-9 dec (B H Lock 120, Anderton 60) and 33-1

The Friars won the toss and, after an opening stand of 43, wickets fell at regular intervals to steady bowling. We were faltering at 58-3 (the Friars had been 59-3) but Lock and Anderton dug in and put on a valuable 68. At the close we were 202-4 with Lock on 90. We batted on for 70 minutes on the second morning with Lock completing an excellent century and Tucker scoring 47 in even time. The declaration left the Friars 126 behind with five hours' batting. They were 40-0 at lunch but then wickets started to fall and only Bayfield offered any resistance. The Friars were eventually all out with 75 minutes left. It started to rain as soon as we went out to get the 33 runs required, but the Friars sportingly bowled and fielded through six wet overs.

Friday August 10 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 185-7 dec; Hampshire Hogs 169-5 (P R le Cras 73; F M Anderton 4-84)

We won the toss and made good progress on a slow wicket until two lbws and a run out altered the picture: 80-5 was a sobering thought at lunch. Sensible batting by the lower order retrieved the position and the declaration left the Hogs 160 minutes' batting. A heavy shower at the start of their innings made bowling difficult and the Hogs openers put on 104 in 113 minutes. Steady bowling by Anderton and Gould slowed the scoring rate, but had the Hogs started chasing the runs earlier they must

have won.

Saturday August 11 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 209-9 dec (B D C Shields 65, F M Anderton 51); Old Wykehamists 212-3 (R P S Macnutt 87, R Chester 55)

Anderton and Shields played attractive innings, but with our shortage of bowling we needed more than 209 in three and a quarter hours batting. The Wykehamists batted extremely well, hitting the bowling to all parts of the field. If one or two hard chances had been accepted the flow of runs might have been stemmed: this was not to be, the runs came in two hours and our only defeat of the season.

Sunday August 12 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Old Tonbridgians 318-5 dec (J R Thompson 177, P J C Canney 90); Sherborne Pilgrims 243-9 (R W Beeney 81)

Our bowling was murdered by the attacking stroke play of Thompson and Canney who put on 221 for the third wicket in 91 minutes. Although several catches were dropped, the ground fielding was good. We were left three and a quarter hours, but made a poor start being 46-3, and then 82-4. Beeney and Maley came to the rescue with a stand of 80, whilst Parker played sensibly and held up the tail. Geddes faced the last three balls with great confidence.

1963

Played 13: Won 2, Lost 5, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1.

It was a splendid achievement to beat the might of Hampstead in the first of what is hoped will become a permanent fixture, and it was even more remarkable that at closing time the team was able to render an impressive version of The Carmen for the benefit of the members of the Hampstead Club. Many congratulations to Bill Morgan on organising both these feats! When one has said that, however, one has said most of what was good about Pilgrims cricket in 1963.

Results were poor and, too often, the batting was feeble, the bowling inaccurate and, worst of all, the fielding embarrassingly awful. One player was heard to remark that any time he was out of form he would travel many miles to play against the Pilgrims. This simply will not do. We have a strong and an attractive fixture list to justify and a considerable reputation to maintain. Several players in this year's teams should ask themselves if they are satisfied that they always gave six hours of concentrated effort on the field before stepping out to enjoy themselves in the traditional manner.

There are nevertheless some extenuating circumstances. For one reason or another, several of the better players were not available and, at the moment, the club is definitely short of top class bowlers. This puts a premium on the batting and the fielding and, while the batting was at times equal to the strain, the blinding catches which struggling bowlers need so badly were seldom forthcoming, and many too

many easy ones were put down. In spite of this a lot of fun, as always, was had and there were several good finishes. For all this our thanks go once again to a large number of people.

Sunday May 19 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Won by 25 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 218-8 dec (A D Pickering 53); Bradfield Waifs 193 (C B R Fetherstonhaugh 80)

A slow start was put right after lunch with Beeney and Pickering adding 87 in 40 minutes. The Waifs were left 170 minutes to get the runs and at 135-2 they looked like succeeding: the last seven wickets, however, fell in less than an hour and we won with 17 minutes to spare.

Sunday June 9 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 115 (G Morgan 4-28); Esher 116-3

We were put in but, after an opening stand of 31, the batting was weak. Esher lost two early wickets and then untidy bowling and poor fielding enabled them to win by the tea interval.

Saturday June 29 v The School at Sherborne - Abandoned

Saturday July 13 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Won by 6 wickets
Hampstead 157-8 dec (D K Geddes 6-50); Sherborne Pilgrims 158-4 (A R Brown 92*)

In the 75 minutes before lunch Hampstead scored 48 without loss, but after the interval things started to happen. Richard Gould bowled Rankine and Tony Evans took a blinding slip catch to help Geddes to one of his well deserved six wickets. We were left with 150 minutes and attacked from the start: Brown batted superbly and with good support the last 61 runs came in 35 minutes. This was undoubtedly the best performance of the season.

Saturday August 3 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn
Canford Cygnets 182-8 dec (J M Elliott 60; F M Anderton 5-71); Sherborne Pilgrims 162-7

A match we should have won! Bad fielding allowed the Cygnets to declare at 182-8 on a slow wicket. At 110-2 we were poised for victory but five wickets went down in ten minutes and the chance had gone.

Sunday August 4 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 152 (R G Smith 6-55); Sherborne Town 140-9 (F M Anderton 6-65)

Apart from Beeney and Alan Smith our batting was undistinguished on a slow, wet wicket. The Town were initially behind the clock but, with help from us seemed set for

a win at 129-5 with 15 minutes left. The run out of Beard and two wickets for Geddes changed the picture and at the end it was the Town who were desperately hanging on.

Monday August 5 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Lost by 14 runs
Somerset Stragglers 199 (F M Anderton 5-75, G P Gent 4-66); Sherborne Pilgrims 185 (D M Summerscale 99)

Another match we should have won! The Stragglers were allowed to "take" too many runs: too many Pilgrim wickets were thrown away. Summerscale was the exception - he batted with great skill and determination and was unlucky to miss a well deserved century.

Tuesday August 6 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 214-6 dec (R M Nichols 75); Dorset Rangers 202-8 (M Hardwicke 60)

Apart from a slow period after lunch we batted well and were able to make a generous declaration. The Rangers made a good start but then got bogged down, and were only able to get so close as a result of us attempting to buy wickets.

Wednesday August 7 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 232-7 dec; Old Cliftonians 149-3 (H W H Alpass 77)

We were put in on a slow wicket but batted well with everyone playing their part. Although Alpass was missed early on our bowling and fielding was keen. A heavy drizzle set in after the tea interval and we finally had to call it off with just under an hour left.

Thursday August 8 v Wiltshire Queries at Fovant - Lost by 77 runs
Wiltshire Queries 235-5 dec (G P Gent 78, B Gauntlett 72); Sherborne Pilgrims 158 (A D Brearley 63)

This was a revived fixture played on a private ground in a fine setting under the Regimental badges on the Wiltshire downs. From our point of view, however, it was a day to be forgotten. Never can such abysmal ground fielding and catching have been seen from the Pilgrims and, with a few notable exceptions, the bowling and batting were also deplorable.

Friday August 9 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 177 (C R J Eglington 85*; P T C Croker 4-27); Hampshire Hogs 182-5 (J R S Maclure 83*; F M Anderton 4-71)

The feebleness of our batting before lunch (67-7), on a good wicket against unimpressive bowling, was exasperating. After lunch the tail wagged and Eglington showed how easy it really was, but it was clear we had not made enough. The Hogs struggled for two hours against rather better bowling and fielding than the previous

day: but then came Maclure to play a gem of an attacking innings, finishing the match with a majestic six over long-off.

Saturday August 10 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn
Old Wykehamists 192-4 dec (B L Reed 59*, R Chester 55); Sherborne Pilgrims 91-5

At least eight dropped catches and, Gould excepted, some moderate bowling allowed the Wykehamists to run up a reasonable score. Heavy showers in the afternoon upset play and, although we were at one stage well placed to get the runs, it was the rain that finally won.

Sunday August 11 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 107 (R M K Gracey 4-11, S J B Langdale 4-14); Old Tonbridgians 111-4

This was another poor batting performance on a fast wicket and failed to give the Tonbridgians a reasonable target. Their catching was an object lesson to all Pilgrims. They were 56-4, with Collingwood and Maley sharing the wickets, but our bowlers were tiring and the remaining runs were hit off with indecent haste.

1964

Played 14: Won 4, Lost 2, Drawn 7, Abandoned 1.

In 1963 Pilgrims cricket plumbed the depths; in 1964 there was a welcome revival. The results were much better, more purposeful and entertaining cricket was played and the tour was both successful and enjoyable. We are still short of penetrating bowlers and our catching let us down at times, but there was no shortage of batsmen prepared to attack and we usually bowled our overs at a faster rate than our opponents so that there were some splendid finishes. Congratulations therefore, to all who took part and especially to the Hon Secretary who once again put in an enormous amount of work before, during and after the season to raise good sides and to cope with all the administration. Against Tonbridge he produced a team whose average age was only twenty-two - surely one of the youngest ever Pilgrims sides to take the field.

Sunday June 7 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 130 (P R D Gould 52; W J Downey 5-67); Esher 131-5 (J M Parker 68)

We were put in on a slow wet wicket and, after a cautious start, too many batsmen got out to hard wicket shots. Gould batted well for two hours but received little support. The wicket was easier in the afternoon and Esher won just before heavy rain.

Sunday June 14 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Abandoned

Sunday June 21 v Radley Rangers at Lincoln College, Oxford - Drawn
Radley Rangers 214-9 dec (A R Duff 64, S J B Langdale 51; H R J Walker 4-28);
Sherborne Pilgrims 143-9 (Duff 4-41)

The Rangers were put in and an accurate opening spell from Geddes had them struggling at 30-3. Duff and Langdale, after some initial luck, batted well and added 94. Unfortunately we missed several catches after lunch and could not finish off the tail. Our batting never got going and only Morgan struck the ball with any authority.

Saturday June 27 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 218-5 dec (R C Constant 91); Sherborne Pilgrims 179-9 (J R Norris 64, D M Summerscale 54; A D M Gray 6-62)

Led by Constant the School gave a good batting display and set us a fair target. An early collapse to 41-4 was followed by a stand of 103 from Norris and Summerscale; when the latter was out wickets fell quickly and the last pair had to hold out for two overs.

Saturday July 11 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Won by 3 wickets
Hampstead 184 (D Fothergill 78; D K Geddes 6-58); Sherborne Pilgrims 185-7 (R N Laurie 4-40)

We repeated our success of last year and, in an exciting game, won with three minutes to spare by three wickets. Rain followed by a light drizzle prevented a punctual start, but, having won the toss, Hampstead went in to bat at 12.20 and, thereafter, the sun shone. Keith Geddes again bowled magnificently repeating his success of last year (6-50) with an analysis of 6-58, and we were left just over two and a half hours to score 185. We started badly, losing the first two wickets for 19 runs the second of which, James Tucker, being bowled off his stomach first ball. An excellent stand developed between Hamish Porter and Hugh Walker when they put on 41 for the fourth wicket in 35 minutes, and this was followed by another stand of 51 for the sixth wicket between Jamie Alan Smith and Alan Legg in 39 minutes. We were finally left to get 19 runs in twelve minutes and this was accomplished by the Morgans, father and son, with three minutes to spare. Altogether this was a most successful and enjoyable day finishing, as before, with the singing of the Carmen. Hampstead are now getting to know this "song of success", and we are thinking of having it printed on the score card next year!

Saturday August 1 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 256-6 dec (C R J Eglington 109, K M L Porter 56); Canford Cygnets 178-3 (P R White 92*, C E J Caffarate 57)

This turned out to be a dull draw on an excellent batting wicket. We scored freely in 53 overs but the Cygnets, with two overs more, treated all ten Pilgrims bowlers with too much respect. An opening stand of 116 was sound but took too long in the circumstances.

Sunday August 2 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Won by 12 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 200-8 dec (N B Saunders 4-53); Sherborne Town 188 (P R D Gould 5-44)

We made our 200 in 140 minutes helped by a brisk opening stand of 48 in 25 minutes from Evans and Alan Smith, sound batting from Gould, and a quick 53 in 25 minutes for the ninth wicket from Gent (27*) and Eglington. The Town were left with 125 minutes: Smith and Legg had 81 up for the first wicket but were both run out; we dropped two catches and the Town continued to go for the runs, coaxed along by keeping the spinners on. Gould took two wickets in the penultimate over, and Gent the final wicket with the third ball of the last over to round off a most enjoyable game.

Monday August 3 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 179-7 dec (G Gregory 51*; P R D Gould 4-46); Sherborne Pilgrims 181-5 (G P Gent 55)

On a very hot day the Stragglers batted defensively against steady bowling but poor ground fielding. Gould bowled 25 overs unchanged and was as relieved as the rest of the side when the declaration came after 66 overs. We made a shaky start (59-4) but Gent batted well, and Chignell played a fine innings, although he found running between the wickets hard work! Beeney started with a snicked two, a six on to Young's, a mishit four to the tennis courts, a quick single to pinch the bowling, and won the match with a series of well placed golf shots.

Tuesday August 4 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 111 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 227-5 dec (P R D Gould 78, F V Harris 54*); Dorset Rangers 116 (Harris 5-34, Gould 4-30)

We batted well but with no great urgency. Luckily this did not matter and the Rangers fell to accurate spin bowling and we had time to spare.

Wednesday August 5 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Drawn
Old Cliftonians 207-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 199-9 (F V Harris 54, R F S Chignell 50*)

The Cliftonians won the toss and batted first on a slow wicket on the Close. They should have been in trouble but our bowlers were not accurate and the lunch score was 102-3. Gould and Kennedy bowled steadily and we were well on top at 140-7 but two missed chances proved expensive, Linnell and Martin King scoring 67 together before the declaration. Our batting faltered at the start but Harris and Rod Chignell (27) put on 72 for the third wicket. Wickets then fell at frequent intervals but Dick Chignell kept the run rate going and it was only lack of support that prevented him from carrying the day.

Thursday August 6 v Wiltshire Queries at Fovant - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 104 (N Fraser 4-31, M Hobbs 4-33); Wiltshire Queries 105-3

We were put in to bat on a heavily watered wicket, and compared to the excellent wickets at Sherborne this one appeared very difficult. Careful application was not forthcoming and it was a poor batting performance. The Queries were 9-2 but ideas that we might redeem our reputations were in vain.

Friday August 7 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 209-8 dec (P R le Cras 91); Sherborne Pilgrims 177-8 (R J Severn 4-64)

This was a good batting wicket and the Hogs made 140-2 in the 105 minutes before lunch. Le Cras was missed three times early on but settled down to play well. When he was out to Kennedy (in a good spell of 11 overs for 17 runs) the Hogs collapsed from 188-2 to 209-8. We were left with two and a half hours and started well, but too many singles were missed and the middle order showed no urgency, possibly because of the lack of a clock on the ground. We suffered a minor collapse from 105-4 to 138-8 but had little difficulty in playing out the last 25 minutes.

Saturday August 8 v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 212 (F V Harris 57); Old Wykehamists 200-9 (R L Burchnall 77, R M S Allan 52; C H Collingwood 5-57)

Against steady bowling and on a quick outfield we made a sound start and were 109 1 in the 105 minutes before lunch. After the interval runs had to come quicker, even at the expense of wickets. We overdid the latter and should really have made thirty more in ten minutes less. Nevertheless, the Wykehamists were set a target of 213 in 140 minutes. Geddes bowled well before tea but the Wykehamists recovered from 13-2 with a stand of 97 for the third wicket. Collingwood bowled his "mixed bag" and runs came and wickets fell. With 25 minutes left they wanted 50 and with four wickets remaining looked like winning. Ten minutes later they wanted 37 but the last pair were together. They had several narrow escapes, including a hard chance, but sadly we could not get that elusive last wicket.

Sunday August 9 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Old Tonbridgians 258-4 dec (N Heroys 101*, S J B Langdale 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 199-6 (D C Watney 54)

We won the toss and asked the Tonbridgians to bat on a slightly damp wicket. Geddes bowled steadily, but they had a very strong batting side and scored freely, declaring after 170 minutes and leaving us the same time. Watney and Eglington put on 79 for the first wicket in 48 minutes, whilst Walker hit well before being out to a fine catch on the boundary. Parker batted steadily and in a brief innings Porter hit a huge six which was estimated to have carried 100 yards. With 35 minutes left the match was evenly poised with the Pilgrims wanting 60 with four wickets in hand. Unfortunately rain denied us the chance of an interesting finish.

Played 16: Won 5, Lost 5, Drawn 4, Abandoned 2.

Sunday May 16 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 213 (B D C Shields 100; T C B Lewis 5-48); Bradfield Waifs 214-4
(P J Workman 63)

Shields batted extremely well and received good support from Newman, but an extended interval for lunch and rain altered the picture. In going for quick runs we lost our last seven wickets for only 37 runs. The Waifs were left with a stiff target but our bowling was below standard and some of the fielding was distinctly idle. The Waifs could not be contained and they won with four minutes left.

Sunday June 6 v Esher at Esher - Won by 5 wickets
Esher 200-9 dec (R M Skinner 4-63); Sherborne Pilgrims 202-5 (P R D Gould 73*, A R Brown 55)

Esher made a quiet start on a hard and fast wicket, but with the score at 31 Skinner struck with three wickets in an over. The batting was sedate after this and lunch was taken at 78-4. After a hospitable interval Esher lost a quick wicket but then Dean and Timperley showed us how to do it by putting on 63 in 38 minutes. The last few wickets refused to fall and eventually Esher declared after 195 minutes' batting. Although this left us only 135 minutes it was a fair declaration as Esher were very short of bowling. Brown and Constant had 58 on the board for the first wicket in even time, but wickets started to fall and when Alan Smith joined Gould 104 were wanted in 61 minutes. With some intelligent striking and good running the Esher attack was demolished, and the stand was worth 101 in 48 minutes when Alan Smith in trying to put the winning hit into the road missed a straight one.

Saturday June 19 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 141 runs
Sherborne School 204-6 dec (P N C Rowe 84); Sherborne Pilgrims 63

The day started badly when the School won the toss and had first use of an easy paced wicket. Our bowling was wayward in direction and Rowe was able to score at his leisure. Our batting was a series of disasters and we can only mention the keenness of the School fielding and congratulate them on ending the long run of draws in this match.

Sunday June 27 v Radley Rangers at Lincoln College, Oxford - Drawn
Radley Rangers 233-6 dec (A D F Gardiner 89, F T A Hole 87; J J Barber 4-93);
Sherborne Pilgrims 230-9 (R M Morgan 73; J C Lewis 4-41)

A game of many fluctuations with a most exciting finish. The Rangers innings was held together with a stand of 159 for the second wicket by Hole and Gardiner. They both gave several hard chances but took advantage of this and played attacking strokes. Barber and Kennedy bowled very steadily for 85 minutes after lunch and deserved more wickets than they got. We wanted 95 an hour and Morgan and Harris laid the foundations with 62 for the second wicket. We were always just behind the

clock until Parker and Carwardine produced 27 runs in seven minutes. This left 23 to get in 20 minutes with five wickets left. It was a question of "getting them in singles" but the pavilion clock had been out of order all day and Parker, not realising the simplicity of the task, was out to a good catch and Carwardine and Kennedy followed in quick succession. Geddes was run out and Barber marched to the wicket for the last over with the score 219-9. Had he been given any instructions? No, this was not a Test Match! He missed the first ball by several feet and hit the second over the bowler's head for six. With a mixed assortment of strokes ten came from the last over and we were left four runs short of victory.

Saturday July 3 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Drawn

Hampstead 301-4 dec (N Alwyn 122, G Goonesena 69*, M Sproule 68); Sherborne Pilgrims 182-7 (A R Brown 60, F V Harris 50*; C J Calvert 4-37)

Hampstead produced an extremely strong side and, on winning the toss, batted first scoring 176-2 in 102 minutes before lunch. Our first success came at 36, but the second wicket put on 140 of which Alwyn scored 122 including five sixes and sixteen fours. The wicket was at the extreme end of the square resulting in a very short boundary on one side. Nevertheless, this was a fine innings, although he gave a difficult chance at four and was also missed at 35 and 97. Sproule played a solid innings but perhaps the most attractive knock came from Goonesena whose 69 in an hour produced some magnificent strokes. Hampstead declared at 3.30 having batted for 169 minutes, leaving us a run rate of just over 100 an hour. In 49 minutes' batting before tea Brown and Whiteway put on 46 without being parted, and the first wicket did not fall until 96. Brown, having been missed off the first ball of the innings, scored an excellent 60 and Whiteway and Harris continued steadily, the latter being unbeaten at the end with 50. We were never up with the clock and, in the event, did well to gain a draw.

Saturday July 10 v Old Wykehamists at Warnford - Won by 9 wickets

Old Wykehamists 94 (P H Wakely 6-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 95-1

We won the toss and elected to field but this was an awkward decision as the side was not complete for half an hour. (When will people realise that 11.30 start means just what it says and that the traffic on a Saturday is no longer an excuse for being late?) The Wykehamist batting was unusually weak and in playing across the line they fell victim to Wakely's steady bowling; he bowled throughout the innings except for a change of ends. This enabled Gavin to hurl down three very fast and inaccurate overs which got him two wickets. After lunch (63-4) Wakely and Harris shared the bowling and on such an unpredictable wicket the Wykehamists were soon out. Whiteway and Constant opened steadily, and Harris continued in the same vein. The winning run came just before tea and it started raining soon afterwards.

Friday July 30 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 116-7 dec (C R J Eglington 51*); Old Sedberghians 110-9

This was Sedbergh's first visit to Sherborne and it produced a miserable wet day but

an amusing game of cricket in the mud. Dorset were playing Berkshire on the Upper so the match took place on the Terrace. We won the toss and after a late start had plodded to 52-6 at 3.15 when it rained hard. The ground was really unfit for any further play, but the Sedberghians had been washed out at Clifton the day before and so were very keen to play. The match restarted at 4.45 in hazardous conditions and we had no trouble in scoring 64 in 55 minutes. The Sedberghians had 100 minutes batting and made a confident start but at 42 1 wickets started to fall in the chase for runs. What could have been an exciting last over was denied by the umpire's watch.

Saturday July 31 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 183-7 dec; Canford Cygnets 83-5 - Rain

We won the toss and batted on a slow wicket. 50-1 was a healthy start but 78-4 at lunch disclosed a liking for hard wicket shots. The runs came more freely after lunch with Brearley and A.L. James (28) putting on 60 in 50 minutes, although the scoring rate could have been much higher with some better running. The Cygnets made a steady start but just before tea Geddes got three quick wickets. After the interval we did everything except take a wicket. When a violent storm brought play to an end an hour before time the Cygnets were hanging on with five wickets left.

Sunday August 1 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Abandoned

Monday August 2 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Abandoned

Tuesday August 3 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 169 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 230-3 dec (T W Marshall 97, R C Constant 96); Dorset Rangers 61

Constant and Marshall batted fluently after some hesitation in the opening overs. The Rangers bowling was never more than steady on a "fish-paste" wicket and was poorly supported in the field. The openers put on 178 in 130 minutes. Kennedy and Porter bowled with plenty of life and at tea (44-6) the Rangers innings was in ruins. Good fielding brought two run-outs and the game was over by 5.30. (Porter started with seven maidens, conceded three runs in the next, finishing with a further maiden: analysis 9-8-3-3. The scorebook carries Dick Chignell's comment "This was not a great spell of bowling" to which the bowler could only reply "Good enough for the occasion".) This was a poor match after two blank days. A six-a-side contest was arranged which proved amusing for spectators and exhausting for participants.

Wednesday August 4 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Won by 43 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 186; Old Cliftonians 143 (J A D Curtis 4-40)

We were put in to bat on a wicket still damp from overnight rain. The score of 89-6 at lunch was a fair reflection of the morning's play. Some good batting from Alan Brown (24) and Carwardine was not well supported. Carwardine was out soon after lunch and when Alan Smith (29) joined Curtis the score was 115-8 and we were in trouble. The wicket was getting easier but this must not detract from their excellent batting

which put on 63 in 45 minutes. Curtis played the fast bowling very well with singles into the covers and lofted drives, and was helped by Alan Smith's good running. The Cliftonians were left 165 minutes but, although the wicket rolled out easily, their batting was not of a very high standard and only Millar offered any resistance. The innings closed ten minutes before time.

Thursday August 5 v Wiltshire Queries at Fovant - Lost by 49 runs
Wiltshire Queries 130 (D K Geddes 4-43); Sherborne Pilgrims 81 (P E F Moloney 5-34, A L Matthews 5-42)

Once again we were sorted out by a side that made better use of the conditions. The sporting character of the wicket did not produce the respect and application that was required and the penalty was paid. The Queries innings was in danger of ending quickly with the score at 68-6 but a stand of 56 frustrated us and even with the last four wickets falling for only six runs, 130 was the total we faced. Our innings was a succession of poor shots and hard luck stories and only Gent (25) got his head down and played the bowling on its merits.

Friday August 6 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Won by 98 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 205 (W F Hughes 50; T M Verity 4-36); Hampshire Hogs 107 (P R D Gould 5-21)

We won the toss and batted on the best wicket of the tour so far. Alan Brown (17) and Hughes had 53 up for the first wicket in 45 minutes and after lunch Parker (21) and Gould put on 52 for the fourth wicket. 170-4 with Gould in fine form gave hopes of a large total, but after he left wickets fell rather foolishly in the chase for runs and the Hogs were set 74 an hour. Their innings did not get off to a good start and Kennedy bowled with hostility. In his third over he took two wickets, the second of which was with nearly an unplayable delivery. He continued to subdue the Hogs and enabled Gould's spin to find the chinks in some uncertain batting.

Saturday August 7 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 145 (N Heroys 4-62); Bluemantles 147-3 (Heroys 68*)

We won the toss and batted on a perfect wicket. The first over from Heroys was sensational. Only two balls pitched but they were straight yorkers and hit the stumps. Two more wickets fell quickly and after 20 disastrous minutes the score was 18-4. Walker (28) and Cannon-Brookes stemmed the collapse, and with Beeney getting 36 in 25 minutes the score was a more healthy 128-6 at lunch. The innings folded up after the interval and we were left with the simple fact that the first four and last four wickets were responsible for only 35 runs. The Bluemantles had plenty of time to get the runs and, although the third wicket fell at 59, Heroys was equal to the situation and saw his side home with a polished innings. Porter and Gavin bowled steadily but our total was not nearly enough on such a good wicket.

Sunday August 8 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 113 runs
Old Tonbridgians 225-9 dec (S J B Langdale 82*; M Maley 5-41); Sherborne Pilgrims

112 (D R Aers 5-37, R M K Gracey 4-48)

The Tonbridgians won the toss and made a sound but rather subdued start on a wicket that was slow for the Head. Gavin and Porter bowled well and restricted the score to 75-3 in 80 minutes before lunch. Porter (2-70) had a 19 over spell and was unlucky not to claim more wickets. He frequently beat the bat and no one was happy facing him. Maley bowled tidily and proved too accurate for the Tonbridge tail. Langdale once again was the backbone of their innings but he started slowly and, if an easy chance had been accepted when he was 26, the innings must have closed for well under 200. Apart from this chance our fielding was very keen and Newman held a hot one at first slip. Our innings was a disappointing performance. On a wicket that was starting to take spin, Gracey and Aers bowled too subtly for some timid batting. Whiteway played well and Gavin enlightened the last moments with four classical boundaries. He made it look so easy but, to his credit, had to admit he was not so good at stopping the straight ones.

1966

Played 15: Won 1, Lost 3, Drawn 8, Abandoned 3.

Sunday May 15 v Bradfield Waifs at Minley Manor - Lost by 26 runs
Bradfield Waifs 177-8 dec (R S H Brewer 50*); Sherborne Pilgrims 151 (P P Short 6-57, T C B Lewis 4-57)

After an encouraging start in each innings we threw away our advantage. The Waifs were put in on a damp wicket and lost wickets at regular intervals. Just after lunch the scoreboard read 112-7, but it was a hot and sultry afternoon, and Brewer found no difficulty in presenting a straight bat and in the end some attacking strokes. Bill Hughes (28) and Constant (25) gave us a fine start of 52 but some poor batting quickly changed this into 58-4. Alan Smith (19) and Watney (25) put on 34 with little trouble but then the slide started again. Short was possibly flattered by his figures but his nagging accuracy paid dividends so early in the season.

Sunday June 5 v Esher at Esher - Drawn
Esher 192-6 dec (C S Smith 52); Sherborne Pilgrims 192-9 (R C Constant 50)

The Esher innings was one of slow but steady progress. Our bowling was accurate and well supported in the field but presented few difficulties on an easy wicket. Hughes and Constant gave us another good start with 74 in 43 minutes, but defensive bowling by Esher did not help our cause. With 25 minutes to go Kennedy joined Alan Smith with the score 136-8 and a draw the very best we could hope for. What followed was a perfect example of how intelligent aggression and good running can unsettle the bowlers. The last over started with Alan Smith batting and 16 required for victory. The first three balls produced eight runs and then a magnificent six into the far corner of the tennis courts put the odds well in our favour. The fifth ball was stopped by a close fielder and then on the last ball of the match Alan Smith

was run out going for the second and decisive run.

Saturday June 18 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
Sherborne School 149 (W F Hughes 5-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 150-3 (R C Constant 81*)

The School innings never got going and it needed a last wicket stand of 49 by Haworth and Rogers to provide a respectable total. Alan Brown must be congratulated on taking four catches in the gully off Hughes' bowling. His first catch was all a mistake as he was supposed to be at short third and not in the gully! Our innings was dominated by a stand of 109 for the second wicket between Constant and Brown. It was pleasing to erase the memory of our disaster last year and also to record our first win at Commem since 1957.

Sunday June 26 v Radley Rangers at Lincoln College, Oxford - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 196 (A R Duff 4-39); Radley Rangers 200-6 (F T A Hole 55)

Hughes and Andrew Brown (18) gave us a good start with an opening partnership of 47, but when the latter was out to a straight full toss our fortunes declined rapidly. Hughes was next to go at 65 and at 73 we lost three wickets. Alan Smith then joined Legg and with a sensible stand put on 84 runs in an hour. Our tail-enders could not carry on this revival and Radley were left with 195 minutes' batting. Hole was nearly out to the first ball of the innings but after this he scored freely. Alan Smith confused numbers two and three with slow bananas but our bowling resources proved to be limited and it was impossible to contain a strong batting side.

Saturday July 23 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Lost by 10 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 92 (P G Cunningham 5-13); Hampstead 93-0

Alas, we lost our unbeaten record at Hampstead, but it was not so much the fact that they were beaten that was disappointing, but that we were beaten by ten wickets, the match being over by 3.45pm. It was unfortunate that six Pilgrims cried off during the previous fortnight, five of them during the last six days and it was the bowlers who withdrew, with the result that our attack posed few problems to the Hampstead batsmen. We won the toss, and as events turned out, took the wrong decision to bat. The wicket was damp underneath and a hot sun soon caused the ball to come through at varying heights and after a good start all the batsmen were soon in trouble. Alan Brown and Bill Hughes put on 38 for the first wicket in even time but wickets fell quickly as the sun got to work and although Porter and Legg batted well we were 90-7 at lunch and were all out for 92 soon afterwards. The last five wickets fell for 12 runs, Johnson bowling leg-breaks and Cunningham off-breaks causing particular trouble. Cunningham finished with an analysis of 5-13 and obtained a great deal of lift and spin from the wicket.

When Hampstead batted the wicket rolled out perfectly and played easier and easier. Goodfellow and Brodie attacked the depleted attack from the start and obtained the necessary 93 runs in an hour off 16 overs. In the event it is doubtful, even with a

stronger attack, whether we would have won since we had so few runs against which to bowl. It would have been interesting to see how Hampstead would have fared if they had batted first, but cricket is a game of "ifs" and we were comprehensively defeated. In view of the early finish Hampstead batted on for an hour and made another 130 runs and, as a measure of how easy the wicket had become, we scored 188 in an hour's batting. Alan Brown entertained the spectators with a display of controlled hitting scoring 100 in 55 minutes, including two enormous straight sixes off the back foot which will long be remembered.

Friday July 29 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Sedberghians 255-6 dec (J G Rogers 66; I Gavin-Brown 4-63); Sherborne Pilgrims 211-6

We had a weak side and if Sedbergh had realised their great superiority they must have beaten us. Rogers batted 155 minutes for his 66 runs and held an innings together when it was not wanted. We tried not to get him out, but when he was eventually dismissed 75 runs were added in half an hour. All our batsmen made a few runs but no one really got down to demolishing the bowling, and the required run rate was always just out of our reach.

Saturday July 30 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 205-5 dec (C.R.J. Eglington 54*); Canford Cygnets 197-7 (R T G Pollard 54)

Conditions were similar to the day before, with an excellent wicket, a heavy shower in the afternoon and a strong wind to dry the ground. Our innings gathered momentum as it progressed, helped by a stand of 85 from the Eglingtons and the news from Wembley, and the declaration gave Canford equal time. Their early batting could hardly be described as sparkling and it was not until the last 20 minutes that any real effort was made to force the pace. A double change of bowling and the arrival of Dagleish produced a glut of runs. Two sixes landed in the Abbey Schools and 45 runs were added in 15 minutes. Geddes was recalled for the last over and stopped the rot with an immaculate wicket maiden.

Sunday July 31 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Town 30-2 - Rain

3.27pm was the start of a wet and depressing week.

Monday August 1 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 104-8 - Rain

As we left the field for lunch it started to rain. There were some bright intervals in the afternoon but the wicket was so wet that we had to abandon the match at tea. The Stragglers did not play well in the morning and if a win had not appeared so close we must have called proceedings off much earlier.

Tuesday August 2 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 141-2 (A D Brearley 60*) - Rain

This was a good toss to win. It was obviously going to rain and we did not fancy a wetting. It started at 12.45 but the Rangers were adamant about going on. After half an hour it was impossible to hold the ball and the Yeovil cinema had the pleasure of our company after lunch.

Wednesday August 3 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Drawn
Old Cliftonians 131 (D J Turner 4-40); Sherborne Pilgrims 131-8 (C M Bascombe 4-50)

After the heavy rain of the previous three days the Close was very wet and we only played because it was the last match of the season. Conditions at the start were reasonable but a fine drizzle started just before lunch and we ended the day in steady rain. The Clifton innings consisted of one stand between Dixon and Mills. They came together at 34-3 but when Mills was out at 105, Dixon followed in the next over and the tail presented few problems. We were left 195 minutes to get 132, a task that did not appear to be too difficult. This quiet confidence was shaken when the score slumped to 19-4 after 50 minutes. Rowe and Gent (27) then put on 40 hard-earned runs for the fifth wicket against accurate bowling. The last 75 minutes were wet and interesting. 73 were wanted and they came slowly in one's and two's until with a final burst we got 27 in the last three overs; sadly, this was one short of victory. We should have attacked a bit earlier but Bascombe and Ham kept a steady length in spite of the greasy ball. They bowled unchanged with 29 overs apiece.

Thursday August 4 v Wiltshire Queries at Fovant - Abandoned

Friday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at Winchester - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 211-6 dec (P R D Gould 108); Hampshire Hogs 164-8 (A T C Allom 51; Gould 7-54)

The all-round play of Gould was the feature of this match but he did not receive the required support from the rest of the side for us to force a result. He came in at 4-1, stayed for 130 minutes and was fifth out at 187. In the remaining 20 minutes only 24 were added. Although the Hogs batting was patchy, with Gould claiming the first six wickets, Allom stopped any sort of rout. In 40 entertaining minutes he dispatched the ball to most corners of the ground and four sixes were among his scoring strokes. He was out with an hour to go but we could not dislodge the tailenders.

Saturday August 6 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

Sunday August 7 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Abandoned

Played 17: Won 4, Lost 6, Drawn 6, Abandoned 1.

The highlight of the season was our participation in the Cricketer Cup. We played some good cricket at Shrewsbury and it was a great pleasure to see a Pilgrims side play to its full potential. Charterhouse were too good for us but playing in better company, together with the competition for a place in the "Cup" side, must help to raise standards in the Club. After the terrible weather in May we only had the first match at Charterhouse rained off. Good weather and close finishes helped the Tour to be very enjoyable.

Saturday May 20 v Bradfield Waifs at Tisted - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 105-3 (J R Tozer 61*) - Rain

This match was played under "Cricketer Cup" rules and seven of our side for the first round were playing. In 30 overs before lunch Tozer and Gould batted carefully on a damp wicket. Unfortunately this was all the practice we were able to get as a heavy and prolonged thunderstorm flooded the ground after the interval.

Sunday June 4 - Cricketer Cup first round v Shrewsbury Saracens at Shrewsbury - Won by 48 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 252-8 (J R Tozer 101, P R D Gould 57, A R Brown 52; B M Smallwood 4-26); Shrewsbury Saracens 204 (J S Ker 62, A G Phillips 52; J M S Kennedy 4-38)

The ground had been under water five days before the match and Shrewsbury had no hesitation in putting us in. Tozer and A R Brown opened the innings and against some accurate seam bowling scored four runs in the first seven overs. However, the wicket presented few problems and, after playing himself in, Tozer hit the bowling to all parts of the ground. He was dropped at long-off at 30 but this was his only blemish in a superb display of batting. After 20 overs the score was 95-0. Brown was out in the 30th over and his share of the opening partnership of 146 was very valuable. The lunch score was 160-2 in 35 overs with Tozer 97 not out. He had scored eight runs in the last 25 minutes, having had little of the bowling. He completed his century immediately after lunch but was soon out. The next six overs were not so happy for us with only ten runs scored for the loss of three wickets. At 170 for 5 A J T Brown joined Gould and with sensible striking and good running they put on 66 in 12 overs. A fine drizzle was falling and made bowling difficult. The innings closed after 55 overs at 252-8.

The weather became worse for the start of the Shrewsbury innings and the wet outfield made the ball very slippery. In the fifth over F V Harris ran out their opening bat with a fine bit of fielding from cover. At tea the score was 33-1 after ten overs. J S Ker and M L Y Ainsworth batted steadily after the interval but in the 24th over Ainsworth was caught at the wicket off J.J. Barber, and in the next over Ker was missed at slip with his score 40. In the 31st over he was caught off Kennedy and the score was then 106-4. The conditions did not improve for the bowlers but only Phillips was prepared to attack. He was dropped at 23 in the 37th over with the score

133-4 but otherwise played a graceful innings with attacking drives. There was a chance that he might get the runs but when he was bowled by Kennedy at 179 in the 44th over the tail quickly folded up. This was an absorbing match which we deserved to win with more aggressive batting and better bowling and fielding in trying conditions.

Sunday June 11 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Esher 195-6 dec (A E Seager 80); Sherborne Pilgrims 159-8 (Seager 4-31)

Esher batted steadily for just over three hours without showing the urgency required in a one day game. Our bowling was treated with unusual respect until Seager started to hit out half an hour before the declaration. We lost two quick wickets and then struggled for runs. In attempting to get up with the clock we lost wickets rather stupidly, and it was left to Kennedy and Geddes to save the match and our reputation with a stand of 34 in the closing 20 minutes.

Saturday June 17 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets

Sherborne School 178-7 dec (R W O'Hanlon 74); Sherborne Pilgrims 180-6 (R C Constant 83)

After an uncertain start (67-4) O'Hanlon and Robertson put on 71 for the fifth wicket and the School were able to make a fair declaration. Constant and Rowe gave us a flying start with 109 in even time but when the former was out the task of scoring 58 in 43 minutes was made to look very difficult.

Sunday June 25 - Cricketer Cup second round v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse
- No result

Sherborne Pilgrims 18-4 - Rain

Only 40 minutes' play was possible before heavy rain caused the match to be declared void and a replay required.

Sunday July 2 v Radley Rangers at Lincoln College, Oxford - Lost by 1 wicket

Sherborne Pilgrims 136; Radley Rangers 140-9 (J M S Kennedy 5-60)

This was an interesting struggle with a close finish, but it was a match that we should have been very annoyed at losing. Radley did not appear to have a strong side although our batsmen got out with little difficulty. No one got stuck in and our total was depressing on a reasonable wicket. Radley met some hostile bowling from Kennedy and 31-4 was a good start for us. At 89-7 we seemed to be in control but the bowling became a little ragged, any luck deserted us and the tail wagged to good effect.

Sunday July 16 - Cricketer Cup second round replay v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 133; Charterhouse Friars 136-4

The replay took place under very different conditions, and the sun shone all day. After a most entertaining day's cricket we were beaten by six wickets, and the Friars went on to play the Repton Pilgrims in the semi-final.

We won the toss and batted first on a well-grassed wicket which still had some moisture left from overnight rain. We were soon in trouble and in the second over Constant was caught off bat and pad at short-leg. At 13 W F Hughes was caught in the slips off a ball that lifted sharply from a length and from which he was unable to remove his bat. Further misfortunes followed: at 21 Tozer was caught at mid-wicket from a mis-hook; and at 30 Harris was caught in the slips. The Friars' opening bowlers, Livock and Murray, bowled exceptionally well and were supported by splendid fielding and at the end of 20 overs we were 34-4. In the Cricketer Cup 20 overs is a significant milestone since, if through rain or other reasons it is impossible to finish a match, the side scoring more runs at the end of 20 overs wins.

A useful stand developed for the fifth wicket between Gould and Brown and during the next hour and a quarter these two put on 56 and were only parted on the last ball before lunch when Gould dragged a ball from Hooper into his stumps. They had, to a certain extent, retrieved the situation, but the overs were running out. Gould had taken 89 minutes for his 41 and, at the time he was out, was beginning to play really well. The speed of the wicket caused many mistakes, the chief of which was playing shots too soon. Brown, particularly, was having a great deal of trouble in timing his shots and this was obviously worrying him.

Lunch was taken with the score at 86-5 but, what was more serious, after 40 overs of the allotted 55 had been bowled. The hundred came up in 137 minutes but at 101 Pickering was out, and at 108 Brown left after a most valuable innings of 39 which, however, had taken 103 minutes. A stand then developed between Geddes and Kennedy, both of whom played some fine forcing shots, and the two were only parted when Kennedy was unfortunately run out by a magnificent return from Hooper at mid-wicket. The innings finally closed when Geddes (17) was finely caught one-handed at short mid-wicket from a powerful pull. Thus we were all out at a quarter to three after 52.4 overs for 133 scored in 173 minutes. The fielding of the Friars had been of a very high order with many runs being saved. The bowlers had given little away, and it was significant that no spinners were used. Livock, particularly, had bowled splendidly taking 2-14 in his allotted spell of 12 overs which included seven maidens.

Godson and Bidwell opened for the Friars against the bowling of Geddes and Barber, both of whom bowled accurately, and after 12 overs only 20 runs had been scored. Unhappily, Bidwell was badly dropped at slip when he had scored seven and the first wicket did not fall until the total was 39 when Godson (19) was finely run out by Harris from cover. At the end of 20 overs the Friars were 43-1. After a painstaking innings Bidwell was out to a magnificent catch in the gully by Hughes off Kennedy, who had taken over from Barber, and was making the ball rise awkwardly. Bidwell had taken 110 minutes over his 45 scored out of 89, but his innings had laid the foundation for the Friars' eventual victory. Kennedy continued to bowl well but

Hooper, Carless and Ullman accelerated the rate of scoring and, although Kennedy sent back Hooper (25) and Ullman, Carless (21*) and Allom saw the Friars home with some powerful driving. The Friars scored their runs in 44.2 overs and it was only a pity that we had not scored another 50 runs since the Friars might have been pushed.

Saturday July 29 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Lost by 154 runs
Hampstead 244-6 dec (R Oakley 84, P McMorland 83); Sherborne Pilgrims 90

This was, in many ways, a very disappointing game from our point of view since, after a splendid start, we let the game slip away and, finally, a dismal batting display handed victory to Hampstead on a plate. The usual problem of late withdrawals arose and, in the event, although the bowling strength was good, the batting was very thin. We won the toss and put Hampstead in on a green wicket. We quickly met with success, the two openers Houghton and Bakker, both good players, being sent back quickly. Geddes, getting movement through the air and off the pitch, bowled Bakker with a beauty which had him in two minds. Kennedy had Houghton lbw with one which kept low and Hampstead were 11-2.

Oakley, a fine player but a bad starter, did precisely what was planned for him - a bat-and-pad - but the short legs were slow to get to the chance offered. The next ball from Geddes beat him completely and he must have been very near lbw. McMorland also was lucky not to be out before he had scored, but, after this early uncertainty the two put on 167 for the third wicket, and this stand was fatal to us. Both Oakley and McMorland batted well, although they were beaten on a number of occasions and gave several chances and near misses. The bowling was, on the whole, good as was the ground fielding but in cricket of this kind it is fatal not to accept chances and, if these had been taken, four Hampstead players would have been back in the pavilion for less than 20 runs. Geddes, in particular, bowled very accurately and had the batsmen in trouble on a number of occasions. Kennedy also bowled well but tended to pitch short.

If the good start had been maintained Hampstead should have been out for well under 150. In the event, they declared shortly after 3.30 and we were set to get the runs at the rate of just under 80 an hour - a reasonable target.

When we went in, the light had started to deteriorate and this continued throughout the innings. It was, however, no excuse for abysmally bad batting, and the first three wickets all fell to catches resulting from careless strokes. Porter (27) played some fine shots including a magnificent hook for six, but was finally out to a shot played far too soon. Wickets started to fall with monotonous regularity as the light got worse and worse, but this did not excuse some very bad mistakes. The last wicket put on 23, but the end was inevitable, and at ten to six we were all out.

Friday August 4 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Sedberghians 238-3 dec (W H Shucksmith 100*); Sherborne Pilgrims 209-9 (C R J Eglington 72, R W J Hardie 68; T M Chapman 6-74)

Sedbergh were put in on a good batting wicket. After a cautious start they found little trouble with our bowling and the declaration was a welcome relief to the fielders. Our early batsmen may have been affected by the long stint in the field but disaster followed disaster and with 90 minutes left we were 70-7. Eglington and Hardie, in his first innings of the season, put on 135 for the eighth wicket in 83 minutes, but both were out just before the close leaving Geddes to play out the last four balls.

Saturday August 5 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Won by 4 wickets
Canford Cygnets 81 (P R D Gould 4-15); Sherborne Pilgrims 83-6

Canford won the toss and decided to bat on a damp wicket. This was their first mistake. Our batting was carefree until Hughes (28) and Gillespie (13) decided to get their heads down. The match ended at 5.20 and after our football demonstration we made a slow, and at times dignified, retreat to Sherborne.

Sunday August 6 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 144 (P R D Gould 54*; A F G Brimble 5-50); Sherborne Town 145-5 (Gould 4-41)

The antics of the previous evening did not help our cricket and after half an hour we were 45-6. Brearley and Gould restored the position but in doing so were unable to force the pace and the Town were not set a large enough total in the time available. Steady batting and the odd dropped catch saw them home with two minutes to spare.

Monday August 7 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 261-7 dec (P R D Gould 84, C R J Eglington 51); Somerset Stragglers 264-6 (D Dolman 70, B Hebditch 70, W J Maidlow 68; Gould 5-64)

We won the toss and had first use of an excellent wicket. The score was pushed along steadily and at lunch was 133-4 after 105 minutes. Our declaration after three hours' batting left the Stragglers equal time. We got a quick wicket, but our bowlers could not extract any life, and likely catches always seemed to fall in the open spaces. The Stragglers kept their scoring rate moving sensibly and a shower of rain with half an hour left gave them their chance. Fielding became tricky and the remaining runs came in a rush, the match being finished with five minutes left. Our declaration and some of our bowling changes may have been generous but who can complain at losing with over 500 runs in a day of decent weather.

Tuesday August 8 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Dorset Rangers 147 (P R D Gould 4-33); Sherborne Pilgrims 151-5

The benefit match atmosphere had disappeared overnight and we were back to the grim slog of the five day match. The Rangers won the toss and on a good wicket made 66-3 in 35 overs before lunch. Some scientific hitting produced 47 for the last two wickets. We batted carefully and won the match at 6.30 with half an hour to

spare.

Wednesday August 9 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 201-8 dec (A S Legg 55; A F Ham 4-62); Old Cliftonians 174-8 (I M M Barlow 59*; B D C Shields 5-76)

We won the toss and made 76-4 in 90 minutes before lunch. Steady but unspectacular. Legg played with calm authority and when quick runs were needed before the declaration Gould and Hardie (19*) found the gaps in the field. Clifton started slowly and after tea wanted 165 in 115 minutes. Shields bowled accurately but we were held up by King and Barlow, both of whom were dropped early on, and they put on 55 for the fifth wicket. In going for quick run Clifton lost wickets but had no difficulty in holding out for a draw. Our catching lost us this game.

Thursday August 10 v Wiltshire Queries at Fovant - Lost by 54 runs

Wiltshire Queries 171-7 dec (R Opperman 64; D K Geddes 4-43); Sherborne Pilgrims 117 (R H S Brewer 6-62)

The Queries won the toss and with it the match. Why do we never play well at Fovant? Our bowling was not good enough on a suspect pitch, and the batting lacked application on a very suspect pitch.

Saturday August 12 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 278-8 dec (N R H Parker 102*; B Thomas 5-51); Bluemantles 254-9 (R R Baraimian 120; C W Yeldham 4-69)

We won the toss and were given a great start by Hughes and Constant (23) who had 60 up for the first wicket in 34 minutes. This was too good to last and after Hughes was bowled by a half volley we quickly slithered to 129-6 at lunch. The interval and the spin bowling were to the liking of Parker and after the seventh wicket fell at 157 he was helped by Hardie in putting on 72 in 33 minutes and then by Geddes (26) in an unbroken stand of 49 in 20 minutes. The Bluemantles had bowled 76 overs in just over three hours and were left with exactly three hours batting. The recipe of seam one end and spin the other did nothing to unsettle them and Baraimian was severe on the loose ball. With 25 minutes to go the Bluemantles wanted 42 with five wickets left. This should have been simple but Baraimian was caught at short third going for an off drive and the third run out of the innings followed at once. We just could not snatch the last wicket, although a catch was dropped at slip in the last over. Our quick bowlers had 33 overs but we still managed to fit in 70 overs in three hours. First class cricket please note.

Sunday August 13 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn

Old Tonbridgians 249-8 dec (C H Tilling 55); Sherborne Pilgrims 205-6 (N R H Parker 83)

Tonbridge produced their usual depth of batting and our bowling was never accurate enough to be a real threat. Our innings got off to a bad start with W F Hughes caught

at the wicket in the fourth over and Constant taking 40 minutes to get off the mark. The tea score of 44-4 soon became 46-5. Parker was again in good form against the spinners and his 83 occupied 66 minutes. Stamp (29) played some attractive shots after an uncertain start, while Newman continued to defend skilfully.

1968

Played 15: Won 6, Lost 3, Drawn 4, Abandoned 2.

After a wet May and a heavy defeat at Repton we had a successful and enjoyable season. We batted badly against Esher and the Hogs and deserved to lose, but otherwise the cricket was of a better standard than in recent years. The experiment of a six day tour based on Sherborne proved to be popular. We were lucky with the weather as most parts of the country had continuous rain.

Saturday May 11 v Bradfield Waifs at Tisted - Abandoned

Sunday May 26 - Cricketer Cup first round v Repton Pilgrims at Repton - Lost on run rate
Repton Pilgrims 216-7; Sherborne Pilgrims 73-8

Heavy rain on the previous day had left the square extremely wet and the match eventually started at 1.30 being reduced from 55 to 50 overs. We won the toss and put Repton in. Gill (28) and Warner (25) made a steady start and put on 52 for the first wicket in 15 overs, but Carr was the only batsman who threatened to dominate the bowling. His innings produced some beautifully timed shots and when he was run out - W F Hughes with a good throw from third man to the bowler - we had seen by far the best batting of the match. Hutton would have been run out first ball if Gould's throw had not missed by two inches, but he settled down to play a useful part in keeping the score moving.

The bowlers' lack of practice was a major factor in not being able to restrict the flow of runs. One or two loose balls an over do not go unpunished against a side as good as Repton. We dropped several catches but the ground fielding was excellent with A J T Brown and H R J Walker prominent. Our innings was always hard work against some accurate seam bowling and in the latter stages bad light did not help. A steady drizzle turned to rain and we conceded the match in the 32nd over.

Looking back we should have tried to beat the Repton score of 73 2 in their first 20 overs and then hoped for rain. We had made 47-4 at this stage so an all out assault might have produced the extra runs. There is little doubt that the end of May is too early for the Pilgrims to give of their best, unless they are prepared to start playing in April.

Saturday June 15 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Won by 3 wickets
Hampstead 205-4 dec (J E A Mocatta 109*); Sherborne Pilgrims 209-7 (P M Lewis 56; P Clark 4-55)

We won the toss and put Hampstead in to bat. With the score at 19 Ferrier was dropped behind the wicket and he and Mocatta continued to bat steadily until, with the score at 84, Ferrier was run out from a quick return by Gould when he took a leisurely single. Lunch was taken at 124-1. Although one or two near chances were missed before lunch, our fielding and throwing after lunch reached a high standard and the Hampstead captain, David Peck, was magnificently caught on the square leg boundary by Lewis. Hampstead then tried to force the pace but their run rate was restricted by excellent field-placing and splendid fielding.

Hampstead declared at 3.23pm with Mocatta unbeaten on 109. We were left 153 minutes to score 206 runs - a generous declaration. Constant (25) and Hustwitt (19) began confidently and had scored 49 together in 43 minutes when Constant was caught and bowled for 25. Three runs later Hustwitt was out and then the partnership between Lewis and Walker began which turned the game. Playing magnificent shots they commenced to take the Hampstead attack apart and the hundred went up in 85 minutes. Mocatta, a leg-spinner, came on and was hit for 33 runs in three overs, his last over costing 19. The score went from 100 to 150 in a quarter of an hour, although Lewis was out at 144 caught behind the wicket. Walker was out at 151 and his 37 included two sixes and three fours. Gould had held himself back to number six (Sobers again?) and, in spite of three wickets falling for eight runs, was undefeated with 36. Thus, we were victorious by three wickets two minutes before time in what must have been the last over.

Sunday June 30 v Radley Rangers at Lincoln College, Oxford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 201; Radley Rangers 194-5 (R S Gardner 60)

We won the toss and made a poor start against some friendly bowling with 44-4 in the first hour. The later batting improved but just as someone looked to be set he played a wild shot. Radley's second wicket put on 104 but only Cooper, who hit Gould for 14 in three balls and was caught the next, really threatened us.

Saturday July 13 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Sherborne School 174-6 dec (R W O'Hanlon 70); Sherborne Pilgrims 176-5 (E M R Brown 61; E P J F Lyons 4-64)

The weather forecast was terrible but the day passed without any rain, thus helping to make the experiment of Commem at the end of term a definite success. The School won the toss but failed to use this advantage by unenterprising batting. They declared at the tea interval after 195 minutes at the wicket. After an early reverse, Rowe and Brown put on 71 for the second wicket and Walker (26) and Porter (21*) added the finishing touches.

Sunday July 21 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 57 runs
Esher 180 (P R D Gould 6-61); Sherborne Pilgrims 123 (A E Seager 8-56)

Esher won the toss and Croft made a neat 41 out of 57 for the first wicket in even

time. When he was out the scoring became pedestrian and we captured the last wicket after 195 minutes in the field. Our batting was most disappointing. Seager bowled intelligently but was presented with too many wickets. It needed some brave striking from Kennedy (29) to add respectability to our score.

Sunday July 28 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 65 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 280-4 dec (H R J Walker 167, W F Hughes 58*); Old Tonbridgians 215 (R F Crang 100; Hughes 7-59)

We won the toss and made a steady 118-3 before lunch. After the interval Walker and Hughes got into top gear putting on 155 in 66 minutes. The bowling was not as tight as usual but Walker's striking was magnificent. He gave one chance at 80 but then appeared to get his second wind. He scored six sixes and twenty-one fours in 165 minutes. Mention must be made of a seven - all run with five of the runs coming from three different overthrows. The Tonbridge innings fell into two phases. With 45 minutes left they were 202-3 with Crang going great guns having just been dropped twice. Hughes then held a hard caught and bowled and proceeded to wrap up the tail in the next three overs, helped by good catching and a high class run out. This was our first victory at Tonbridge since 1954. Compared to their usual store of riches they were not a strong side but this should not detract from some excellent individual efforts from the Pilgrims.

Friday August 2 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Sedberghians 251-8 dec (M T Bruce-Lockhart 75, B M B Hollinshead 67; D K Geddes 4-73, J M S Kennedy 4-84); Sherborne Pilgrims 220-8 (P T Warren 62*; S C Walford 6-74)

Sedbergh won the toss and on a good wicket Bruce-Lockhart and Hollinshead put on 152 for the first wicket in 115 minutes. The scoring slowed after lunch but Sedbergh were able to declare after 195 minutes' batting, leaving us three hours. Gillespie and Wingfield Digby produced a stirring start with 77 runs in 48 minutes before tea, but the pace could not last, and with an hour to go we were facing defeat with the score 148-7. Warren came to the rescue with some sensible batting.

Saturday August 3 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 1 wicket
Canford Cygnets 161 (J M S Kennedy 5-29); Sherborne Pilgrims 162-9 (H R J Walker 66; S R Moore 6-50)

Canford won the toss and after losing a wicket in the first over put on 50 for the second wicket. Kennedy kept a good length and after lunch was too accurate for the later batsmen. Gillespie (13) and Walker gave us a great start with an opening stand of 91 but the over confident approach of the middle order nearly lost us the match.

Sunday August 4 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Town 191-5 dec (K H House 85*); Sherborne Pilgrims 122-9

The Town won the toss and with sensible batting set us the stiff target of 192 in two

hours. Our innings never got going and we were saved by Proctor who kept his head for the last hour in the worsening light.

Monday August 5 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 202-6 dec (G R Beach 64); Sherborne Pilgrims 195-9 (E Wright 4-45, D Darbey 4-66)

The Stragglers won the toss and on a good Upper wicket never looked like being bowled out. Wingfield Digby sent down 25 accurate overs and helped slow the scoring. The declaration left us 165 minutes batting. We made a patchy start and at 77-5 were struggling. Kennedy batted sensibly but unfortunately was out at 190 with ten minutes left. Instead of getting the last dozen runs in singles and winning by three wickets we had to play out the last over for a draw. An interesting tactical problem which misfired.

Tuesday August 6 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 142 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 276-5 dec (P R D Gould 101*, N H Bates 53); Dorset Rangers 134 (G P Gent 4-23)

Kennedy won the toss which was about the best thing he did all day. Against a weak Rangers attack our batting prospered. Gould threatened to retire hurt before facing a ball but stayed to play a fine knock. Proctor helped him put on 92 in 37 minutes. An early run out unsettled the Rangers, and after Geddes had sorted out their batting strength, it was left to Gent to tease the tailenders into submission.

Wednesday August 7 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 4 wickets
Old Cliftonians 84 (P R D Gould 7-30); Sherborne Pilgrims 87-6

After five dry days at Sherborne we arrived at Clifton in a thin drizzle. They won the toss and rather surprisingly decided to bat. Gould bowled medium paced seamers unchanged and his analysis read 21-10-30-7. He received good support from Kennedy and was helped by above average fielding. Our batsmen were never in real trouble and a six or seven wicket margin of victory would not have been unreasonable on the day's play.

Saturday August 10 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

Saturday August 31 v Hampshire Hogs at Tisted - Lost by 82 runs
Hampshire Hogs 157-6 dec (R Wilson 58); Sherborne Pilgrims 75 (C H Healey 4-13)

A day we would like to forget. Several interruptions for rain did not help concentration but our efforts were generally well below par.

1969

Played 14: Won 6, Lost 4, Drawn 3, Abandoned 1.

We had an interesting season with the splendid weather of July and August making up for the damp May and our narrow defeat in the Cricketer Cup at Rugby. Our batting let us down badly at Commem and against the Town, and we deserved to lose both games. Our other defeat was at Radley and here we lost on the post after 540 runs had been scored at five an over. Our stay in Sherborne was a great success with excellent weather and good cricket.

Sunday May 11 v Bradfield Waifs at Tisted - Abandoned

Sunday May 25 - Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors at Rugby - Lost by 17 runs

Rugby Meteors 172-8 (J L Cuthbertson 95*); Sherborne Pilgrims 155-9

There was a lot of rain at Rugby on the Saturday and early Sunday morning and it needed all the skill and hard work of the ground staff for us to be able to start by 11.50. We won the toss and decided to field. Kennedy and Gould opened the attack and soon had Rugby in trouble. When Gould came off his figures were 8-4-5-2 and the score 24-4. N J Wingfield Digby had just replaced Kennedy, and after giving away 12 runs in his first two overs, he bowled steadily and only conceded 14 runs in his last ten. At lunch Rugby were 64-5 off 30 overs with Cuthbertson 35 not out. He had come in at the fall of the first wicket and played a watchful innings.

In the 36th over Rugby lost another wicket, 82-6, but Cuthbertson was still there and in the 40th over he reached his 50 with a four and six in successive balls off Pickering and followed this with another six in the same over. This was the turning point of the innings. After 40 overs the score was 105-6, and with the quicker bowlers nearing the end of their 12 over limit, Cuthbertson was ready to slay the attack for the remaining 15 overs. This he did with some beautiful strokes, the most effective being the lofted drive over the bowler's head. It was only his indecisive running between the wickets and good fielding which kept him from a well deserved century.

Our innings got off to a quiet start and at tea the score was 41-2 off 16 overs. The half hour after tea was critical. After 23 overs the score was 45-4, Harris and Gould being out in quick succession, and our strong position had evaporated. Walker and Pickering put on 26 for the fifth wicket but the Rugby bowlers were too accurate for fast scoring. R M Morgan (21) helped Pickering add 40 for the eighth wicket but the scoring rate was never quite good enough to make up the ground lost just after tea.

Sunday June 8 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Esher 210-7 dec (C R Segal 50*); Sherborne Pilgrims 188-9 (H R J Walker 63, A D Pickering 62)

Esher were put in to bat and accurate bowling by Skinner and Kennedy, supported by fine fielding, restricted the lunch score to 94-4. Esher declared after three hours' batting. We lost an early wicket but Parker (18) and Walker played sensibly for a

second wicket partnership of 38. Pickering then joined Walker in a stand of 93 in 48 minutes which gave us a chance of victory. When Walker was out with 43 minutes left and 79 runs wanted the earlier momentum was lost and we ended up fighting for a draw.

Sunday June 29 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 267-6 dec (H R J Walker 60, E M R Brown 50*; G N S Ridley 5-113); Radley Rangers 270-6 (C E Comins 78*, Ridley 66)

We won the toss and had first use of a perfect Radley wicket. With a fast outfield scoring was brisk all day. Richard Hughes and Walker put on 103 for the second wicket in an hour but a minor collapse brought the lunch score to 146-5. After the interval Brown and Morgan added 50 in 28 minutes and then Parker joined Brown in an undefeated partnership of 71 in 35 minutes. We declared at 3.15 after 170 minutes at the crease. Our attack was not accurate enough on such a good wicket and, after getting behind the clock at one point, Radley won with three minutes to spare. They had the same batting time as us but whereas our runs came off 60 overs they only required 47. A most enjoyable and interesting day's cricket.

Saturday July 12 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 22 runs
Sherborne School 151 (H R J Walker 4-33); Sherborne Pilgrims 129 (C B Martin 5-30, E P J F Lyons 5-34)

The School won the toss and with some steady batting set us a reasonable target. Rowe and Walker (29) put on 54 for the second wicket but the rest of our batsmen would probably rather forget about it.

Friday July 18 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Won by 87 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 205 (P R D Gould 70, T J Boog-Scott 50*; A K Bruce-Lockhart 4-24); Old Sedberghians 118 (N J Wingfield Digby 5-52)

We won the toss and with a good wicket and warm sunshine decided to bat. The lunch score of 85-6 was the result of poor batting rather than brilliant bowling. After lunch we were soon 86-7 but Boog-Scott joined Gould and in 71 entertaining minutes they put on 108. Sedbergh had 165 minutes' batting but steady bowling restricted the scoring and they were never up with the clock. We won in the last over.

Saturday July 19 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Won by 3 wickets
Canford Cygnets 148 (N J Wingfield Digby 7-62); Sherborne Pilgrims 149-7 (P T Warren 51)

Canford won the toss and at lunch were 93-4; Wingfield Digby bowled a good length and the batsmen failed to get on top. We had three hours to make the runs but our early batting was patchy. Warren and Andrew Wingfield Digby (28) put on 63 for the fifth wicket and saw us safely home.

Sunday July 20 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 110 (A F G Brimble 4-36); Sherborne Town 114-4 (D M Daniels 50)

This was our usual pathetic batting performance against the Town. The wicket had several cracks in it but, although Brimble bowled well, we surrendered too easily. The Town had little difficulty in occupying the crease and taking the runs as they were offered.

Monday July 21 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 197-8 dec (H W Gregor 81*); Sherborne Pilgrims 198-6 (J M Wingfield Digby 67, P N C Rowe 61)

Apollo 11 landing on the Moon and a riotous evening had left us in a rather weak state; losing the toss and fielding on a humid and overcast morning did not help matters. The Stragglers batting was unenterprising and it took some scientific heaves from Gregor to give them a respectable score. Gent and Wingfield Digby gave us a good start with 59 in 43 minutes before tea. Rowe continued the good work and when he was out we wanted 44 in as many minutes with eight wickets left. We did our best to make a nonsense of it and won in the last over.

Tuesday July 22 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 302-4 dec (H R J Walker 96, G P Gent 94, P N C Rowe 62); Dorset Rangers 196-8

We won the toss and on a beautiful day it was a question of how quickly we scored against a moderate Rangers attack. Rowe and Gent knocked up 94 for the first wicket in 73 minutes, and then Gent and Walker added 157 for the second wicket in 55 minutes. The first ten overs after lunch produced 98 runs. Such rapid scoring made the declaration difficult and we stopped at 3.15 after 165 minutes' batting leaving the Rangers half an hour longer. When they had reached 50-3 we missed two vital catches which cost us valuable time. We had plenty of runs to play with but were not clever enough to persuade the Rangers to have a go. We had batted well but, in the context of this game, probably too well.

Wednesday July 23 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Won by 120 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 252-5 dec (C S Carwardine 58*, P R D Gould 50*, P N C Rowe 50); Old Cliftonians 132 (P V Frampton 5-28)

Clifton won the toss but, seeing the totals of the previous day on the scoreboard, decided to put us in. Gent (22) and Rowe put on 66 for the first wicket and at lunch we were 132-3 scored in 100 minutes. Gould joined Carwardine soon after lunch at 140-5. They both survived early chances behind the wicket and making the most of their luck put on 112 in 65 minutes. Clifton had three hours' batting on an easy wicket but they played unconvincingly. Frampton's bowling and several good catches gave us a comfortable victory with three quarters of an hour to spare.

Sunday July 27 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 51 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (R J A Hughes 66; J G W Davies 4-52); Old Tonbridgians 127 (C S Fleetwood 74; P R D Gould 5-42)

We won the toss and on an excellent wicket Richard Hughes and Walker gave us a good start. The latter was well caught for 22 just as he showed signs of repeating last year's great innings. Parker quickly followed, attempting former glories, and Hughes was out for a most valuable 66 just before lunch. Gould failed to survive the last over and when, after the interval, two more quick wickets fell it was left to Kennedy to come to the rescue. With an OT batting side of no mean calibre, and plenty of time left, our total looked inadequate, but Gould thought otherwise. With the help of four good catches by Everett behind the wicket he destroyed the early Tonbridge batting and after 90 minutes the tea score was 52-6. A stand of 72 for the seventh wicket improved matters but then Yeldham and Kennedy, who had both bowled well, wound up the tail.

Saturday August 9 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 238-7 dec (D J D Mills 67*, R C Constant 64, P R D Gould 56);
Bluemantles 146-9 (R R Bairamian 57)

We won the toss and in 100 minutes before lunch made 99-3 thanks to a fine innings from Constant. Two wickets went cheaply after the interval and at 110-5 Gould and Mills embarked on a partnership of 93. The Bluemantles lost a wicket in the first over but we failed to dislodge Bairamian soon enough and our bowling never got on top.

Saturday August 30 v Hampshire Hogs at Tisted - Won by 6 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 152 (C W Yeldham 4-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 153-4 (A D W Robertson 54*)

The Hogs won the toss and, with a shortage of sleep after their Annual Ball, decided to bat. At 69-4 a prolonged lunch interval was taken. This appeared to revive the Hogs as Fuller (26) and Cox (15*) became very aggressive. Shields had sent down six overs for four runs but the next two overs produced 21 runs. Rowe gave us yet another good start, and when we looked like faltering Robertson produced some splendid batting, hitting three towering sixes.

1970

Played 16: Won 6, Lost 3, Drawn 6, Abandoned 1.

Sunday May 3 v Bradfield Waifs at Tisted - Abandoned

Saturday May 16 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Lost by 100 runs
Emmanuel College 212-9 dec (W A M Carey 55; S W Leathes 4-70); Sherborne Pilgrims 112 (D F Leeder 4-34)

Sunday May 17 v Fitzwilliam College at Cambridge - Won by 1 wicket
Fitzwilliam College 196-9 dec (A Garne 53; P R D Gould 7-70); Sherborne Pilgrims 197-9 (P N C Rowe 63)

Our first venture to Cambridge was an entertaining weekend with honours fairly even. A cold north wind made fielding, with two or three sweaters, rather hard work. On Saturday 14 Pilgrims turned up but, as exams were in progress and Emmanuel were short, all was well. Unfortunately, we "lent" them William Carey who after a slow start batted very sensibly. Geddes (2-41) and Leathes bowled steadily on a good wicket. Our batting never got going and some rusty shots were snapped up by a good fielding side.

Sunday was an interesting game. We won the toss and decided to field. Good bowling by Gould and Rowe (2-67) reduced Fitzwilliam to 41-5 before a stand of 76 for the next wicket altered the picture. At 122-7 we were in a good position but some scientific hitting from Tod and Shackleton set us a fair target. Our early batting, with the exception of Walker, was uninspiring and with 40 minutes to go we were 130-5. Warren then joined Rowe and they put on 53 quickly. With the scores level we lost three wickets but off the fifth ball of the last over scrambled a leg-bye for a narrow victory.

Sunday May 31 - Cricketer Cup first round v Bradfield Waifs at Bradfield - Lost by 38 runs
Bradfield Waifs 247-7 (W H C Morris 78, M D Mence 66); Sherborne Pilgrims 209 (J M S Kennedy 55; Mence 4-38)

We put the Waifs in, hoping for an early breakthrough on a slightly damp wicket. We were successful in keeping the runs down - after ten overs Kennedy had conceded 11 runs, Gould none, with two extras - but the wickets failed to materialise. When the opening partnership was broken in the 23rd over the score was 65 and the wicket playing well. The lunch score was 104-2 off 35 overs and the Waifs were in a strong position to have a go in the remaining 20 overs. Mence and Morris put on 112 for the third wicket in 19 overs and it was this partnership which really decided the result. The last seven overs produced another 56 runs and we were set a stiff target.

A good opening spell from Mence and Sills (2-33), with some good close catching, had us in real trouble at 27-4. Pickering, after some early escapes, batted very well but when he was out two more wickets fell quickly and we were 98-7 after 30 overs. At this point Kennedy joined Wingfield Digby. After a good look at the bowling the score started to creep up and then accelerated rapidly as Kennedy, with some fine driving, and Wingfield Digby, with neat deflections, took on everything bowled at them.

They had put on 93 in 20 overs when Kennedy, who had reached his 50 with a magnificent six over the sightscreen, was caught on the very edge of the boundary. If this had been a six we would have wanted 51 in three overs and four balls. Not impossible, but unlikely in the circumstances. This was a disappointing day as we did

not play to our full potential. The fielding was not as good as last year and the early batting let us down badly.

Sunday June 7 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 212-5 dec (H R J Walker 59*, J M S Broadley 52*; P C Ashton 4-53); Esher 206-7 (C S Smith 70, M Stallibrass 56)

We won the toss and after a steady morning's batting lunched at 92-3. Two quick wickets fell after a longish interval, but Broadley and Walker stopped any nonsense with an unbroken partnership of 107 in 72 minutes. Esher had 60 up for the first wicket, and with the score 200-3 were just about to win when four wickets fell for the addition of only five runs, and the match was drawn.

Sunday June 28 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn

Radley Rangers 227-7 dec (L Cooper 52); Sherborne Pilgrims 214-8 (H R J Walker 69)

The Rangers won the toss and made 101-3 before lunch. After the interval accurate bowling restricted the scoring and at 3.00 they were 142-6. A good stand by Cooper and Ross-Hurst then developed and 85 were added in 45 minutes before the declaration. We were left with 70 minutes less batting which was considered rather severe. Ridley bowled steadily but we had some friendly bowling at the other end, and Walker and Parker put on 94 in 33 minutes. Unfortunately a minor collapse ruined our chances at the last moment.

Saturday July 11 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 87 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 205-5 dec (P N C Rowe 96); Sherborne School 118 (H R J Walker 5-34)

We won the toss and were given a good start by Rowe and Watney, with Walker and Gent (20*) helping the score along. We declared after just under three hours batting leaving the School the same time. They made a poor start and Lough was the only batsman to play our spinners with ease. A last wicket stand of 40 by Wilson and Lyons (19) delayed the finish until five minutes from time.

Friday July 17 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 200 (J L Carey 56; M I Grierson 4-50); Old Sedberghians 147-8

We won the toss and after a slow start, 17-2 in 40 minutes, Carey and Walker put on 89 for the third wicket. When they were out our batting went quickly downhill and the final total was rather disappointing. Sedbergh started cautiously and with three and a half hours to get the runs got bogged down. We might have forced a win with earlier and more mixed bowling changes. Defensive batsmen on a good wicket need special treatment.

Saturday July 18 v Canford Cygnets at Sherborne - Won by 115 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 223-7 dec (P N C Rowe 60); Canford Cygnets 108 (E D Docwra

54*)

We won the toss and Rowe and Wingfield Digby put on 99 for the first wicket. After lunch everyone scored a few and we declared after three hours' batting. Canford made a poor start and were 34-3 at tea. All our six bowlers were in the wickets and only Docwra, who batted for over two hours, played them with any confidence.

Sunday July 19 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 174-4 dec; Sherborne Town 138-9 (N J Wingfield Digby 4-33, E P J F Lyons 4-46)

There had been some rain overnight so Bob White decided to put us in. This could have been an inspired decision but excellent batting ruined the plan. Rowe and J M Wingfield Digby (27) survived an awkward first hour and Gent, Gould (21) and Parker (27*) moved the total along on a none too easy wicket. The Town lost both openers quickly but a stand of 75 for the third wicket by Cowley and House (21) improved the position. They then lost quick wickets going for the runs but were not in any real danger of defeat.

Monday July 20 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 39 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 244-8 dec (P R D Gould 98; E Wright 4-69); Somerset Stragglers 205 (M Salisbury 57)

We won the toss and started at a gallop with a furious attack on the bowling from Proctor. This was too good to last, and when others tried to follow suit threw their wickets away. Just after 1.00 Frampton (29) joined Gould with the score 117-6. They set about repairing the damage and, after a cautious look at the bowling, played some excellent shots adding 123 in 85 minutes. The Stragglers target was 81 an hour. With 75 minutes left they had forced their way to a good position needing exactly 100 with seven wickets standing. This proved to be the turning point and helped by shrewd bowling changes the wickets started to fall, the last one with five minutes to go.

Tuesday July 21 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Dorset Rangers 142 (P R D Gould 5-34); Sherborne Pilgrims 143-5 (D Willy 4-32)

The Rangers won the toss and after 80 minutes were 53-6 thanks to good bowling by Gould and N J Wingfield Digby (2-49). Bolshaw and Gallop (29), helped by several missed chances, put on 71 for the next wicket but when this partnership was broken the tail folded up. We made a slow start against an accurate attack and at tea were 24-2 after 14 overs. Blackshaw got things going with some lusty drives, and when he was out Parker and T J Boog-Scott (17*) steered us home with ease.

Wednesday July 22 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 9 wickets
Old Cliftonians 181 (R P Rankine 69; D K Geddes 4-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 183-1 (P N C Rowe 104*, J M Wingfield Digby 58)

Clifton won the toss and made 84-3 by lunch. They were helped by a patient innings from Rankine, who batted in all for just under three hours. The lower order batsmen proved hard to dislodge on a good wicket and the last wicket eventually fell in the 70th over. We had two and a half hours batting and were given a splendid start by Rowe and Wingfield Digby. They paced their innings very well against a slow over rate and, but for an unfortunate run out, would probably have had an unbroken stand. We won in the 41st over with five minutes to spare.

Sunday July 26 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Old Tonbridgians 101-6 (P D Rylands 68*) - Rain

Overnight rain delayed the start and when Tonbridge won the toss and decided to bat they fared disastrously. At lunch they were 47-5, the wickets falling at 0, 0, 11, 14 and 33. Rylands hit out after the interval but a short interruption for rain was followed by a heavy storm and the match had to be abandoned.

Saturday August 8 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Bluemantles 153-7 (J M S Kennedy 4-43) - Rain

We lost the toss and were forced to start with a depleted side because of traffic delays. The Bluemantles lost their first three wickets for 33, but Toft played a sound, if dour, innings and at lunch the score was 98-3. The rumble of thunder and poor light made for a distracting afternoon. At half past three the wind changed direction and the rain came.

Saturday August 29 v Hampshire Hogs at Tisted - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 204 (R J A Hughes 64; B L Reed 4-44); Hampshire Hogs 205-6

We won the toss and batted on a good wicket. Hughes and Wingfield Digby had 108 up for the first wicket in 90 minutes and a large score looked to be on the cards. The lunch score of 119-3 was bad news but we still had plenty of batting. However, worse was to follow and a succession of quiet surrenders was pathetic. Reed, who was missed at five and 14, guided the Hogs batting so they were always up with the clock. Things would not go our way and, although they won on the stroke of time, it was with something in reserve.

1971

Played 17: Won 3, Lost 6, Drawn 7, Abandoned 1.

Saturday May 1 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 159 (A Lewis 7-46); Emmanuel College 163-7 (Matthews 52*)

This was a close fought game played on a beautiful wicket but, alas, we never had enough runs to bowl against. Hughes played well but the rest of our batting was rather brittle. Although we bowled and fielded keenly, the more experienced Emmanuel batsmen saw them home with time to spare.

Sunday May 2 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Won by 9 wickets
Magdalene College 168 (R R M Lytle 4-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 169-1 (P N C Rowe 95*, J M Wingfield Digby 51)

After a night of revelling it was fortunate for some that we did not start until noon though a disaster that we lost the toss and had to field. Kennedy, markedly slower than the previous day, and Gould opened the bowling, with Hardie claiming a ricked back. It was another good wicket and it required the skill of Lytle and some luck to dismiss Magdalene for 168. Their bowling was not of a very high standard and Rowe and Wingfield Digby put on 120 for the first wicket. Gould joined Rowe and the remaining runs were knocked off easily.

Sunday May 16 v Bradfield Waifs at Warnford - Lost by 80 runs
Bradfield Waifs 169-6 dec (P J Workman 72); Sherborne Pilgrims 89 (M D Mence 5-58)

The Waifs won the toss and on a cold May day batted competently without any fireworks. Our innings never got going and, although Mence bowled well, the main stumbling block was lack of practice.

Sunday May 30 - Cricketer Cup first round v Uppingham Rovers at Uppingham - No result
Sherborne Pilgrims 169-9 (P R D Gould 54*; T G Everatt 6-28); Uppingham Rovers 60-3 - Rain

We won the toss and made a slow start scoring 27 for the loss of one wicket in the first 20 overs. Wingfield Digby and Hughes put on 46 for the second wicket but with the score at 69 Everatt started a collapse. Rain caused an extended lunch interval of 100 minutes but on the resumption Everatt bowled steadily in the damp conditions. It was not until Kennedy joined Gould with the total 95-7 that our batting improved and they put on 45 together. Gould batted well, with excellent running between the wickets, and Kennedy was responsible for two towering sixes, the second of which deposited the ball in a thick hedge outside the ground. Uppingham made a brisk start and were 51-1 after 14 overs with Purves going well. He was out to the first ball of the 19th over, and two balls later another wicket fell (R W J Hardie 2-9). At this point the rain started in earnest and the match had to be abandoned. If we had bowled 20 overs the match would have been decided on run rate. Our rate was 3.07 so Uppingham required two runs in nine balls. We were saved from this delicate problem and a replay was arranged for the next Sunday at Sherborne.

Sunday June 6 - Cricketer Cup first round replay v Uppingham Rovers at Sherborne - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 192-9 (T G Everatt 4-33); Uppingham Rovers 194-7 (J M Watson 60, W D Leppington 52)

We won the toss and were given a flying start by Hughes and Wingfield Digby with 57

runs in the first 20 overs. Wingfield Digby was out in the 25th over after an excellent opening stand of 78 and Hughes followed soon after to a magnificent catch at cover. At lunch we were 92-3 after 35 overs, with only 11 runs coming in the last eight overs. This slower scoring rate continued after the interval, with occasional bursts of action, and at the end of our 55 overs we had scrambled to the disappointing total of 192-9.

Uppingham made a cautious reply and at tea were 38-1 after 15 overs. Four chances were put down in this period and after tea we paid for our errors when Watson and Leppington put on 71 for the second wicket. Leppington was out in the 32nd over with the score 100-2. Uppingham were now on top, but in the next 16 overs the match swung our way as we captured four wickets for 45 runs. 145-6 with seven overs left put the result very much in the balance, but three expensive overs wrecked our chances and Uppingham were home with two overs to spare.

Sunday June 27 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 1 wicket
Sherborne Pilgrims 158 (C E Comins 6-21); Radley Rangers 159-9 (J M S Kennedy 5-69)

On the usual good Radley wicket 500 runs looked likely for the day's play, but events proved otherwise. Richard Hughes was out to the first, and possibly the worst, ball of the innings and Rowe found little support from the other early batsmen. Our tail fared better and managed to support Sutton, a Radley 2nd XI player whom we had to borrow on the morning of the match owing to a late cry-off. He batted very sensibly for a valuable 43 and this meant that our total was not too meagre. In the end this was proved as the match was not lost until the last ball of the final over when, with a ring of fielders placed to prevent a single, the ball trickled to short fine leg while a run was scrambled. We must mention our substitute again as he held four fine catches.

Saturday July 10 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 188 (C W E Hume 80); Sherborne Pilgrims 137-8 (P N C Rowe 66)

The School won the toss and after losing their openers for 30 were helped by some good batting from Hume and Fursdon who put on 71 for the third wicket. Rowe was in good form but our innings never got going. A rather tame draw which was not helped by the short playing hours.

Friday July 16 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Sedberghians 208 (J N H Smith 81; N J Wingfield Digby 4-67); Sherborne Pilgrims 188-6 (R C Constant 66, H R J Walker 53)

Sedbergh won the toss but made a poor showing before lunch when they were 98-6. Smith, who was dropped at 18, found support from the tail and, although he scored slowly, it was a valuable innings. We were left with 70 minutes less batting time but good knocks from Walker and Constant put us in a reasonable position. The third wicket fell at 140 with 45 minutes left and with two more going soon after the innings lost momentum. If only we had held our catches in the morning.

Saturday July 17 v Canford Cygnets at Canford - Drawn
Canford Cygnets 185-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 111-7

Canford won the toss and on a warm day batted for three and a half hours leaving us two hours to get the runs. Proctor started off in great form hitting Shackleton for several fours in the early overs, but when he decided to run himself out we fell behind the stiff run rate, and several wickets were lost through careless strokes. It was not a very inspiring day's cricket.

Sunday July 18 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 167-7 dec (A D Brearley 67*); Sherborne Town 123-9

We won the toss and made a slow and disastrous start. Hodgson bowled 24 overs unchanged and at one stage had the impressive figures of 11-9-4-2. After 32 overs we were 64-6 but Brearley came to the rescue and put on 56 for the next wicket with Carey (16) in 30 minutes. The final flourish came from Walker who, in 18 minutes, made 32 of the 47 runs scored. The Town's innings was made up of an early reverse followed by a good recovery which took them to 103-4. Wickets then fell in quick succession and they were happy to escape with a draw.

Monday July 19 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 107 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 188-9 dec (P J Lough 65); Somerset Stragglers 81 (E P J F Lyons 4-24)

We won the toss and batted first on a worn Upper wicket. The bounce was uneven and the first five batsmen thought it was too difficult and contributed 66 scratchy runs. Lough and O'Hanlon set about putting things straight and helped to steady the innings. O'Hanlon left soon after lunch but Lough battled on and was last out. An excellent innings in none too easy conditions. The Stragglers never got going after the initial break from Geddes and found our spinners turning it too much.

Tuesday July 20 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 246-7 dec (P R D Gould 121, P N C Rowe 54); Dorset Rangers 243-6 (C M G Hunter 103*)

We won the toss and after losing two early wickets Rowe and Gould put on 124 in under two hours. When Rowe was out Gould went steadily on keeping the run rate going with well taken singles and the occasional four. He was sixth out at 238 having batted for three hours. The Rangers made a convincing reply with all their batsmen making useful scores. Hunter was responsible for guiding the innings, and with half an hour left the Rangers were in a very strong position, needing only 42 runs with seven wickets in hand. At this point our bowling tightened up and, although Hunter completed a fine century in the last over, the Rangers were left stranded four runs short.

Wednesday July 21 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets

Old Cliftonians 93; Sherborne Pilgrims 97-8 (M G Wyburn-Mason 5-27)

Clifton won the toss and elected to bat on a dampish wicket. They made a good start with 28 for the first wicket in half an hour, but then the rot set in and some undistinguished strokes brought their innings to an end soon after lunch. 94 to win appeared easy and with 21 up for the first wicket there were few clouds on the horizon. Two terrible hours later we were 77-8 and all set to lose, but Gould (25*) and Geddes (13*) put their heads down and we scrambled home. It was a long and frustrating day for so few runs, but a good fight.

Sunday July 25 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn

Old Tonbridgians 181-2 dec (C S Fleetwood 56); Sherborne Pilgrims 137-8 (I D Smith 5-49)

After considerable difficulties in beating the bad weather and raising a side, we lost the toss and fielded with only ten men, and two of them outsiders. The attack was not very penetrating, especially with a wet ball, and the OT's were able to move the score along with reasonable ease, eventually declaring at tea. With ample time to get the runs, we started off well, Rowe and O'Hanlon putting on 42 for the first wicket before O'Hanlon was bowled for 16; Rowe was out soon after. Proctor played well, but when he was out there was plenty of time for the OT's to get the last three wickets; it required stout resistance from Devitt to deny them.

Saturday August 7 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Bluemantles 158-4 (N Heroys 102) - Rain

The Bluemantles won the toss and, with some ominous looking clouds on the horizon, decided to bat. Heroys, coming in first wicket down with the score on ten, took full advantage of some varied Pilgrims bowling and was particularly severe on anything short. He made 102 out of the 116 scored while he was at the wicket before falling to Lytle, who had just held a magnificent caught and bowled from a full blooded drive by Rylands. The rain, which had been threatening for some time, finally gained the upper hand and by tea the square was under water.

Saturday August 28 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 97 (R F J Steel 4-12, R Richardson 4-20); Hampshire Hogs 101-4

We won the toss and after one over had scored 13 runs all from Proctor's broad bat. This was too good to last. From 19-2 we recovered to 58-2 with some sensible strokes from Proctor (28) and Walker but from here the innings fell apart. The Hogs had plenty of time, and taking some quiet batting practice, coasted home with twenty minutes to spare.

Sunday August 29 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 23 runs

Esher 157 (E P J F Lyons 5-46); Sherborne Pilgrims 134 (R E A Lowe 4-26)

Esher won the toss and, after a late start, had 72 up for the first wicket in even time.

Our bowling and fielding were distinctly lethargic, but the fall of the wicket seemed to wake us up, and we got down to the task of bowling Esher out. We made a poor start losing our first three wickets for 22. Watney and Lytle (24) they put on 63, but when Watney was unluckily run out wickets fell at regular intervals, and our attempts at a draw were beaten by five minutes.

1972

Played 14: Won 6, Lost 2, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Saturday April 29 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Abandoned

Sunday April 30 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 185-8 dec (P R D Gould 65, W A M Carey 60; C R J Marlow 6-43);
Magdalene College 96-9

Magdalene won the toss and put us in. The wicket was surprisingly quick after the heavy rain of the previous day and we made a disastrous start losing our first five wickets for 28. Carey joined Gould and they put on 124 for the sixth wicket in 135 minutes. Kennedy added a swift 21 at the end and our declaration left Magdalene 140 minutes. After a steady start, wickets fell at frequent intervals. We used six bowlers who all took at least one wicket but early season butterfingers in the last half hour prevented us winning.

Sunday May 28 - Cricketer Cup first round v Lancing Rovers at Lancing - Lost on run rate

Sherborne Pilgrims 184 (P N C Rowe 68, P R D Gould 50; M J D Stallibrass 4-37);
Lancing Rovers 126-7

This was a match that we had in the bag but eventually lost because we failed to press home our advantage. We won the toss and, on a cold and windy day with rain forecast, made the correct decision and batted. Michael Wingfield Digby was out early but Rowe and Gould played extremely well and, when rain made for an early lunch, had taken our score to 58-1 off 21 overs. The Lancing bowlers had to contend with a wet ball after lunch and we went on steadily with the 100 coming in the 30th over and the century partnership two overs later. In the 35th over Rowe was out to a rather tired shot and we then made a nonsense.

Instead of quietly aiming for 220 and shutting Lancing out of the game, our middle batsmen failed to play themselves in and we were struggling at 135-5. Harris played a sensible innings, but he ran out of partners and when he was the last to go we had not got the total that our bowlers needed in the conditions. We also wasted 14 balls of our 55 overs.

It was now a question of slide-rules and run rates as the weather was not going to allow us to bowl our full overs. Our run rate was 3.345 so it was easy for the

mathematical spectators in the warmth and comfort of the Pavilion to know the form - not so easy for the 13 players who were getting very damp. After 20 overs, when the match can be decided on run rate, Lancing were 68-3 and winning. After 23 overs they were 75-4 and we were winning. What a way to decide a cricket match! The ball was getting terribly slippery and one or two expensive overs saw Lancing get their noses in front again.

We dropped a difficult, but vital, catch in the 28th over when the run rates were almost level, and when Proctor came on to bowl the 35th over we were behind. His first delivery was a three bouncer which the surprised batsman hit straight at cover and was caught. The drizzle had turned to rain by now, and the next two deliveries, which were wides, made the umpires realise that we were mad and we had to come off. The rain tried to stop but when puddles appeared on the square, we knew we had missed our last chance of bowling Lancing out.

Sunday June 11 v Esher at Esher - Won by 73 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 182-7 dec (C V Nicholas 55*); Esher 109 (D R Scott 4-38)

We won the toss and helped by good partnerships from Hughes and Scott, followed by Nicholas and Parker (20), made sound if unspectacular progress. Esher started well making 40 for the first wicket but then lost seven wickets for the addition of only nine runs. Scott was mainly responsible for this dramatic collapse taking four wickets in three overs for only one run. 48 were added for the eighth wicket, but when Payne was out the resistance ended, and we won with half an hour to spare.

Sunday July 2 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn
Radley Rangers 186-5 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 120-3 (R J W Proctor 68*)

Radley won the toss and were pinned down by some accurate bowling from Gould, Kennedy and Hardie. Half the side were out, soon after lunch, for only 119, but an unbroken partnership of 67 set us a stiff target. Proctor set off as if he wanted the runs in an hour. This was good policy as after only 85 minutes batting the rain came. This robbed us of 50 minutes and must have cost us a good chance of winning.

Saturday July 15 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 73 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 207-7 (A D Brearley 78); Sherborne School 134 (H R J Walker 4-31)

As we could not have the use of the Upper until Speeches were over it was agreed that a 40 over match would be a better contest. We won the toss and once again Proctor gave us a good start before he ran himself out. Harris gave good support, while Brearley helped himself to some untidy bowling. The School were always going to be struggling to keep scoring at five an over. Hume played well, but inexperience of limited over cricket proved too much of a problem for the other batsmen. We must have a big advantage in a 40 over match, but with the shortened playing hours it made for more interesting cricket for both players and spectators.

Friday July 21 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 227 (H R J Walker 56); Old Sedberghians 230-7 (R I Smyth 127)

We won the toss and, on a good wicket and against some moderate bowling, were sitting pretty at 100-2 after 84 minutes. Our total of 227 tells the story of some poor middle order batting. Sedbergh were left three hours and, after losing a wicket in the first over, were guided by an excellent innings from Smyth. Always severe on anything short of a length, he timed his onslaught to perfection, and gave Sedbergh a well deserved victory with a few minutes to spare.

Saturday July 22 v The Rest at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
The Rest 182 (C H M Greetham 77; A R Wingfield Digby 6-55); Sherborne Pilgrims 183-4 (H R J Walker 69, A D Leahey 65)

A hastily arranged fixture (in lieu of the Canford Cygnets), saw 19 Pilgrims and three visitors on the field. The Rest won the toss and thanks to Greetham and Watney (24) lunched at 139-4 in only 30 overs. Wingfield Digby and Gould knew too much for the lower order and we were given plenty of time to get the runs. The Rest's bowling could only be described as "thin" and with Proctor, Leahey and Walker playing down the line a comfortable win was never in much doubt.

Sunday July 23 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 225-3 dec (K H House 114*, A S Hodgson 50*); Sherborne Pilgrims 142-7

This was a bad toss to lose, on a hot afternoon, and Ken House despatched our bowling to all parts of the Upper. An unbroken partnership of 95 in 45 minutes brought us to the declaration with weary limbs. Our batting never got going, and hard as the Town tried to buy our wickets, we could not summon the energy to hit the bad ball. We were outplayed but never in serious danger of defeat.

Monday July 24 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 225-9 dec (D Dolman 66); Sherborne Pilgrims 230-6 (A R Wingfield Digby 78)

Everyone agreed that the previous day's performance was not good enough so we started with 40 minutes' fielding practice which reached an amazingly high standard. Losing the toss was not popular and when the Stragglers lunched at 141-3 we had dropped nine catches! Our out cricket tightened up after lunch and we restricted the scoring to 84 runs in even time before the declaration. Once again our batting was firing on too few cylinders and with 70 minutes left we had a miserable 86-5 showing on the scoreboard. Enter Wingfield Digby - 44 minutes of controlled hitting - exit Wingfield Digby with 78 runs to his name. This really settled the issue and when Walker hit 20 in an over we won with time to spare. The sudden swing of fortune is best seen in the analysis of one of the bowlers: 10-3-16-2 which became 19.2-4-107-2.

Tuesday July 25 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Dorset Rangers 193-8 dec (A S Hodgson 51; P R D Gould 5-30); Sherborne Pilgrims 146-8

We lost the toss again but our bowling and fielding showed a big improvement. Fursdon and Andrew Wingfield Digby produced an excellent opening spell but the main brunt of the bowling fell on Gould who produced the figures of 24-10-30-5. When the Rangers declared after 68 overs we had two and a half hours batting. A good start was essential but Proctor and Rowe were soon out, and although everyone else made a few runs we never reached the required run rate off the 46 overs bowled.

Wednesday July 26 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 88 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 267-5 dec (P N C Rowe 87, P R D Gould 58, R J W Proctor 53*); Old Cliftonians 179

This was a very satisfactory day for us as everything went according to plan. We won the toss and the Rowe-Michael Wingfield Digby (29) opening partnership put on 102 in an hour. Three wickets fell cheaply and then Gould and Proctor hammered the Clifton attack to the tune of 108 in an hour after lunch. We declared after three hours batting leaving Clifton 15 minutes longer. Our opening attack was discarded after a few overs, and the spinners quietly demolished the Clifton batting and we won with 35 minutes remaining.

Sunday July 30 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

When the fixture was arranged it was realised that the date clashed with the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup. The OT's beat the Charterhouse Friars by 40 runs at home in the semi-final and went on to beat Old Malvernians by 114 runs in the final.

Saturday August 12 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 124; Bluemantles 11-1 - Rain

We won the toss and got off to a reasonable start thanks to Proctor (rather lucky) and Lough (good batting). When they were parted after 66 runs in 50 minutes the rot set in and our total appeared meagre. Scott and Peck, helped by a class slip catch by Nicholas, gave us hope but the usual Tunbridge Wells rain intervened.

Sunday August 13 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 33 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 163 (H R J Walker 69; R F W Hunt 5-48); Hampshire Hogs 130 (N J Wingfield Digby 7-59)

We won the toss but made an unhappy start losing half the side for 58. Only Walker played the early bowling with confidence and when he was out after a stand of 53 with Parker it was left to the latter to hold the fort. He was last out having batted for just under two hours. The Hogs innings was one of those extraordinary performances which occur from time to time at all levels. 41 easy runs by the openers off 11 overs.

Shields comes on and takes two quick wickets and the Hogs are 52-3 at tea. A light shower appears to freshen the wicket and Wingfield Digby makes the batsmen think it is difficult. 52-3 turned into 54-6 and then 74-7. Allom showed how it should be done, but he did not get much support, and we had won a game that at one stage we appeared to be losing comfortably.

1973

Played 17: Won 8, Lost 3, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1

Saturday April 28 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Won by 4 wickets
Emmanuel College 186-9 dec (J K Loney 128); Sherborne Pilgrims 187-6 (P N C Rowe 61)

The season started on a sunny April day against one of the strongest Cambridge colleges. Apart from Loney, the Emmanuel batting was never allowed to assert itself against some accurate bowling. Rowe and Wingfield Digby put on 84 for the first wicket and, after a brisk innings from Hughes, victory seemed imminent. However, we suffered a minor collapse and it was left to Boog-Scott (17*), batting as if in a five day Test, to steer us home in the last over.

Sunday April 29 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 221-7 dec (H R J Walker 58); Magdalene College 160-8

Despite overnight rain and some sore heads we started on time. Rowe was very unpopular when he lost the toss but was forgiven when we were put in! The wicket was lively and we batted patchily to reach 158-4 in two hours before lunch. This included a whirlwind 58 in 25 minutes from Walker. The wicket was much easier after the interval and we raced to 221-7 in a further 45 minutes. In spite of many bowling changes we failed to bowl Magdalene out and by the close they had reached a tame 160-8. It was a successful weekend with no time lost through rain or snow, and keen support shown for such an early season outing.

Saturday May 12 v Oxford University Authentics at Oxford - Won by 16 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 135 (C J Harker 4-31); Oxford University Authentics 119 (A R Wingfield Digby 5-19)

An undistinguished batting performance was retrieved by good bowling and fielding, and in the end we achieved an exciting victory. Lack of match practice and poor shots were the problem. The Authentics batting was in the same vein. Fursdon (2-30) removed the openers cheaply, and A R and N J Wingfield Digby respectively, destroyed the middle and knew too much for the tail.

Sunday May 13 v Vincent's XI at Christ Church - Won by 2 wickets
Vincent's XI 193 (A R Wingfield Digby 4-58); Sherborne Pilgrims 194-8 (J M Wingfield Digby 57)

We faced a strong Vincent's side, including several University players, in a 50 over match. Our bowling was tight and at 133-7 we appeared to be in a strong position, but Michael Watson (28) and C B Hamblin (27) added a quick 46 for the next wicket. When we batted Wingfield Digby played the anchor role. Walker made a fine attacking 44, and Gould won the match with a controlled 27. This was an encouraging win with three overs to spare, but mention must be made of the heavy drizzle which Vincent's had to field in. We were most grateful to them for their sporting attitude in staying on the field.

Sunday May 27 - Cricketer Cup first round v St Edward's Martyrs at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
St Edward's Martyrs 82; Sherborne Pilgrims 85-3

For the first time in the seven years of the competition (apart from a replay in 1971) we were drawn to play on the Upper and were grateful for the arrangements made by the School. St Edward's won the toss and batting first lost an early wicket to a fine slip catch by Walker. They progressed slowly against some accurate bowling and in the 13th over with the score 23 lost their second wicket. Gould came on and got a wicket with his first ball. This was the start of a tight spell which at one point showed the unusual analysis of 7.2-6-1-3. Our bowling and fielding were most impressive and proved too much for most of the batsmen. Francis hit out bravely but just before lunch he ran out of partners. We made a horrible start with the old firm of Rowe and Wingfield Digby going cheaply. Gould, batting in his correct position at number three, played a masterly innings and, helped by a straight bat from Harris (18), saw us out of trouble. We won comfortably enough in the 30th over but another 70 or 80 runs might have been another story.

Sunday June 10 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 135 (J M S Broadley 57; R E A Lowe 6-62); Esher 136-2 (D J Fenn 77*)

We won the toss and batted first on a fiery wicket. We were soon in trouble and it needed a fine innings from Broadley to take us to 85-4 at lunch. The wicket was easier after the interval but the hospitality at lunch and our inert batting saw us out for a miserable 135. Esher, helped early on by some wild bowling, knocked off the runs with considerable ease.

Sunday June 17 - Cricketer Cup second round v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 49 runs
Old Tonbridgians 219-6 (P D Rylands 95*); Sherborne Pilgrims 170 (A R Wingfield Digby 73)

Our first mistake was to lose the toss on a hot June day. Cowdrey and Smith gave Tonbridge (who lost to Rugby in the final) a fine foundation with 65 comfortable runs in the first 19 overs and a large score looked on the cards. Gould caught Cowdrey off his own bowling, and with some clouds around and the ball moving a little, Tonbridge had a shaky period before lunch which saw the score at 107-5. This was a great fight

back and the match was wide open. Unfortunately, the quick wicket after the interval, which was essential, did not materialise. Rylands, who was so nearly out for nought before lunch, gave two very hard chances and then batted beautifully. He found the gaps in the field almost at will and any ideas of restricting the run rate had to be abandoned. 50 runs came in the last five overs.

We made a disastrous start and with a stupid run out tea was taken at 27-4. Walker and Wingfield Digby set about repairing the damage but the required run rate meant that risks had to be taken. They had put on 70 in 19 overs when Walker played right across the line with fatal results. Wingfield Digby went on batting sensibly and at one stage, needing 63 in eight overs with four wickets left, Tonbridge were getting worried. This was the nearest we were to get, for with the fall of a wicket the spell was broken.

Sunday July 1 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 118 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 225-7 dec (R J A Hughes 87*, E M R Brown 57); Radley Rangers 107 (P R D Gould 4-11)

We lost the toss but obligingly the Rangers asked us to bat. The ball did not move much before lunch but we were restricted by some tight medium paced bowling. Brown held the effort together as an ersatz opening bat and succeeded to such good effect that he was not out until after lunch. Later Hughes, aided by Hardie (21) and Wingfield Digby, and helped by some friendly slow bowling, accelerated the scoring rate and we declared five minutes after half time at a score that exceeded our expectations of only 40 minutes earlier. Our bowling was sufficiently accurate before tea to persuade three Rangers to surrender, but the worry was our over rate which was far too slow. However, the Rangers resolved our problem by giving up their wickets in a variety of ways. Hughes bought a crucial wicket and eventually we won with half an hour to spare, with all the bowlers and fielders contributing to the result.

Saturday July 14 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 20 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 212 (A R Wingfield Digby 73*, R J W Proctor 62); Sherborne School 192-5 (J N W Edwards 58)

Once again the Commem match had to be reduced to 40 overs. We were given a flying start by Brearley (17) and Proctor with 79 for the first wicket but there followed a major collapse through idle batting and 96-7 was a different story. Wingfield Digby and Kennedy steadied the innings and with some sound aggression got the scoring rate moving again putting on 83 for the eighth wicket. The School batted sensibly, but a scoring rate in excess of five an over was always going to be a stiff target, and they were well behind the rate for most of their 40 overs.

Friday July 20 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Abandoned

Saturday July 21 v Hampshire Hogs at Sherborne - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 221-3 dec (W F Hughes 102, M A R Burchett 59); Sherborne Pilgrims 220-6 (J R Garforth-Bles 85)

The heavy rain of the previous day threatened to upset the Hogs' first visit to Sherborne but it was travelling problems which caused a late start. We were short of accurate bowling and the Hogs had 65 up for the first wicket in even time. Lunch was taken at 85-1, with Hughes, who had been dropped early on, beginning to play well. After the interval he produced a wide selection of shots and with 13 fours and 4 sixes raced to a fine century in only 95 minutes. We started cautiously and it was not until Garforth-Bles and Parker put on 86 for the fourth wicket in an hour that we got into the hunt. Garforth-Bles played very well and could well have had a century on his first appearance for the Club. When he was out, Boog-Scott hit a breezy 27 but we just failed to get home. Why? 143 were wanted in the last 20 overs, 70 in ten, 26 in three, and only five off the last over with six wickets in hand. The build up had been judged to perfection but the finish was lacking in imagination.

Sunday July 22 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 199-8 dec (A S Hodgson 86*; A R Wingfield Digby 4-56); Sherborne Pilgrims 182-9 (H R J Walker 86)

A late night and a lost toss did not look promising but two hours later the Town were 112-8. Forty minutes later they declared at 199-8. It was not to be our afternoon after all. Walker struck some resounding blows, but the middle order got it wrong and we had to settle for a draw.

Monday July 23 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 8 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 148; Sherborne Pilgrims 149-2 (J M Wingfield Digby 82*)

We lost the toss and the Stragglers batted with great caution reaching 60-4 at lunch. We continued to take cheap wickets after the interval and it needed a last wicket stand of 36 to make their score reasonable. Brearley (18) and Wingfield Digby put on 71 for the first wicket although the latter was in scratchy batting form. We won with 35 minutes to spare but it was not great cricket.

Tuesday July 24 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 81 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 240-8 dec (G P Gent 59, N R H Parker 50); Dorset Rangers 159 (N A C Dudley 5-38, H R J Walker 4-54)

We lost our first two wickets for 33 but Scott and Gould (24) settled down and added 64 in 45 minutes. Gould was stupidly run out just after lunch, and with Gent joining Parker 99 runs came in the hour. The Rangers reached 51-1 by tea, but then suffered a sharp collapse with a good spell from Dudley and Walker's tantalising off-breaks doing the damage. 66-6 with 90 minutes left looked like an early finish, but stands of 28, 33 and 32 for the next wickets were helped by several missed chances and we eventually finished the tail off with a few overs remaining.

Wednesday July 25 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 223 (R J W Proctor 62, C W E Hume 60; H R StG Hammersley 4-58, M S Lockyer 4-65); Old Cliftonians 223-8 (A S Dixon 114*)

We won the toss and the Hume-Proctor partnership had 118 on the board in 83 minutes. The lunch score was 136-1 and the only problem was how many we wanted and when to declare. Clifton kept their spinners on after the interval, and for no apparent reason batting was made to look difficult. No one ventured from the crease to deal with the half volleys, and full tosses were played as if it were a fielding practice. It was a classic example of how not to bat. Clifton had just over three hours' batting. Caisley retired hurt with the score at 20 and was replaced by King who helped Dixon add 105 in just under two hours. Our bowling was rather wayward and several chances were put down. King was missed at 0, 27, 37 and 42 and Dixon at 27, 37 and 81.

At the start of the last 20 overs Clifton were 126-1. Dixon was going well and if he got sensible support they were in a strong position. The required run rate was maintained for ten overs when the score was 170-3. We had a lucky break with a silly run out and this helped to slow the rate so that with 5 overs left Clifton were behind at 185-6. Dixon was striking the ball with majestic ease and, launching a final assault, 29 were added in four overs. Ten were wanted in the last over and seven off the last ball. A gigantic six brought the scores level and gave a fitting end to an exciting last hour.

Sunday July 29 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OTs were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they beat Old Blundellians by seven wickets and lost to Rugby Meteors by five wickets in the final.

Saturday August 11 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 18 runs
Bluemantles 124 (A C W Peck 4-59); Sherborne Pilgrims 106 (R G L Cheatle 4-27)

To bowl out a side containing three of the Tonbridge Cricketer Cup stars for just over a hundred runs was no mean feat, but to do so on the Nevil, and in the process drop several catches, was quite remarkable. The seed of their downfall was Peck, who in a fine spell destroyed the meat of the Bluemantles' batting. We made a good start and were well placed at 60-1, but the sensible strokes of Hume (21), Lough (26) and Robertson (26) gave way to batting of a lower calibre and not even Robert Beeney's "blue" bat could save us.

Sunday August 12 v Bradfield Waifs at Warnford - Drawn
Bradfield Waifs 167-7 dec (J J Blackham 65*; N A C Dudley 4-55); Sherborne Pilgrims 140-9 (D P Manners 4-29)

After a late start, due to the "cross-country" route taken by our wicket-keeper, the Waifs elected to bat. This they did for some considerable time, refusing to respond to the temptation provided by the bowlers. Lytle bowled well and had the good figures of 16-8-17-1. After the eventual declaration and a very moderate start, Lough and Kennedy put on a quick 55, but the task of scoring the runs in 22 overs less proved to be too much.

1974

Played 17: Won 6, Lost 1, Drawn 9, Abandoned 1.

Saturday April 27 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Won by 120 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 187 (J L Carey 51; S Young 6-50); Emmanuel College 67 (N J Wingfield Digby 7-21)

We won the toss but made an uncertain start. Only Walker of the earlier batsmen played with any confidence and, when he was third out at 54, we rapidly slid to 89-6. This brought together Carey and Andrew Wingfield Digby who put on 75 in just over an hour. When Carey was out for an excellent 51 scored in 73 minutes, the tail added some useful runs. Loney, who had scored a fine century against us the previous year, was the only Emmanuel batsman to resist Nick Wingfield Digby, five of whose victims were bowled. A comprehensive win was in the bag by 5.40.

Sunday April 28 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Won by 3 wickets
Magdalene College 178 (P M Quas-Cohen 77; P R D Gould 5-31, N J Wingfield Digby 4-33); Sherborne Pilgrims 179-7

Magdalene won the toss but were soon in trouble against Wingfield Digby and Gould. 31-3 became 72-6 which brought Quas-Cohen to the wicket; he made a most valuable 77 out of 96 and helped Magdalene to a more respectable score. Proctor started with a quick 21, another wicket and then Leakey and Wingfield Digby added 81 for the third wicket. Suddenly we were 110-5 and struggling, but Rowe played a sensible innings which saw us home.

Saturday May 11 v Oxford University Authentics at Keble, Oxford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 1-0 - Rain

Sunday May 12 v Vincent's XI at Oxford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 216-8 dec (D A B Lough 76); Vincent's XI 114-8 (A D Pickering 5-16)

After the early loss of Garforth-Bles, who was run out for 17, Morgan and Lough put on 97 for the second wicket in 74 minutes. We lunched at a comfortable 136-2, but half an hour after the interval were 157-6. Gould (28) and N J Wingfield Digby (21) put on a valuable 42 for the next wicket and we were able to make a reasonable declaration. Vincent's were always struggling against Pickering's tight bowling which yielded the analysis of 19-11-16-5. However, we could not get them all out and two Pilgrims in the shape of J M Wingfield Digby (25) and Hume were largely to blame.

Sunday June 2 - Cricketer Cup first round v Felsted Robins at Felsted - Lost by 6 runs
Felsted Robins 215-8 (R A G Luckin 61, N J E Mason 55); Sherborne Pilgrims 209-8 (P R D Gould 55)

Felsted won the toss and their openers, Luckin and Smith, put on 86 before the former was out after 105 minutes. Lunch was taken at 128-2 after 37 overs. Mason and Bailey (29) put on 44 for the third wicket but wickets then started to fall. We fielded well but were unable to restrict the scoring in the last few overs. Nevertheless, 216 was quite achievable in 55 overs - a rate of just under four an over. Wingfield Digby and Garforth-Bles put on 42 for the first wicket which would have been excellent if they had taken fewer overs. Many singles were missed and this helped the Felsted bowlers to feel they were getting on top. Gould made a useful 55 in his 20 over stay at the wicket, but his partners found difficulty in keeping the score moving. With ten overs left Morgan came in at 144-6 with 72 needed. He helped Gould put on 29 in six overs, and when Gould was out he continued to score fluently. 53 in five overs became 36 in three, and then 24 in the last over. This last over produced 17 runs but the margin of six runs somewhat flattered us in spite of the excellent 29* from Morgan. The simple lesson from this match was the vital importance of good running between the wickets.

Sunday June 9 v Esher at Esher - Drawn

Esher 186-9 dec (J Leemhuis 90; A R Wingfield Digby 7-40); Sherborne Pilgrims 79-3 - Rain

The Esher innings was made by an aggressive 90 from Leemhuis in 87 minutes before lunch. He scored freely off all our bowlers with the exception of Wingfield Digby who, in two fine spells, returned the analysis of 28-13-40-7. Leemhuis excepted, Esher struggled for 65 overs and set us a stiff target. After 20 overs we were in a good position, although pushed for time, but the result was decided in favour of the rain.

Sunday June 30 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 208-6 dec (J M Wingfield Digby 99, P R D Gould 65); Radley Rangers 154-9 (M Glover 68; N J Wingfield Digby 5-27)

A good toss to win and, after an unfortunate run out in the second over, Michael Wingfield Digby and Gould put on 144 for the second wicket. We declared after 53 overs' batting. The Rangers also suffered an early run out before Savill and Glover put on 83 in 68 minutes. When Glover was out at 135-3 there were 15 overs left. Wickets fell at intervals and we had four overs to snatch the last one. We failed, but this was hardly the fault of Nick Wingfield Digby who bowled 17 accurate overs for his 5-27.

Saturday July 13 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 182-8 dec; Sherborne School 94-9 (J N W Edwards 74*; A R Wingfield Digby 5-26)

We won the toss and everyone made some runs. Gent (25) and Rowe (29) put on 58 for the first wicket in 50 minutes, whilst Garforth-Bles and Fursdon (22) added 54 for the eighth wicket in half an hour. The School batsmen had a dreadful time with five ducks and no-one reaching double figures, with the exception of Edwards. He played

a superb innings and thanks to his efforts the School escaped with a draw.

Thursday July 18 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Won by 1 wicket
Old Sedberghians 161-8 (A K Bruce-Lockhart 70*); Sherborne Pilgrims 162-9 (W J Rogers 4-13)

This was a hastily arranged extra fixture against the Sedberghians, who had been let down by one of their other opponents. It was a 45 over match with only one new ball so, on winning the toss, we elected to field. All our bowlers were in the wickets but the stand of 82 for the third wicket by Bruce-Lockhart and Weston gave us something to aim at. We got to 67-3 thanks to a solid innings from Wingfield Digby, but in spite of a good 24 from Brearley slumped to 94-8. Cometh the hour ... Lough, with some sensible striking, and C G Jackson (27) put on 67 before the latter was run out with the scores level. Lough kept his head and we got the final run with a ball to spare.

Friday July 19 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
Old Sedberghians 239-8 dec (H D E Roberts 56); Sherborne Pilgrims 240-8 (H R J Walker 103*; W J Rogers 5-55)

Another close finish and the Sedberghians would probably consider they were unlucky to lose on both days. They batted steadily for 60 overs and set us a very fair target. Their key partnership was by Roberts and Webb for the sixth wicket which added 64 in 31 minutes when the innings was at a decisive point. Wingfield Digby and Lough put on 91 for the second wicket and, when they were parted, Walker came in with 127 wanted in 14 minutes and 20 overs. After a quiet start he took control and with three sixes and seven fours reached a magnificent century in 82 minutes. Wickets fell at the other end and, for the second day running, we got home in the last over.

Saturday July 20 v Hampshire Hogs at Sherborne - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 215 (C Lainé 71; E D Fursdon 4-63); Sherborne Pilgrims 168-8 (R H Rham 4-51)

The Hogs won the toss and made steady progress helped by stands of 51 for the third wicket, 52 for the fifth and 45 for the sixth. Lainé and Wilson played well and were severe on the loose ball. At 182-5 the Hogs must have been hoping for quick runs and an early declaration. However, things did not go according to plan: we got some wickets which forced the Hogs to bat on for 65 overs. This left a tight target but we were given a fine start by Rowe and Sugden with 61 for the first wicket, and then Rowe and Angus Robertson (25) with 39 for the third. We then got into trouble in trying to force the pace and 101-2 became 149-8. It needed a cool 23* from Fursdon to stabilise the tail.

Sunday July 21 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 177-6 dec (A S Hodgson 64); Sherborne Pilgrims 100-9 (G R Corke 5-39)

The Town won the toss and made a very slow start. Fursdon reeled off six maidens and after seven overs had 2-5. Hayward batted 40 minutes for zero and with the Town at 32-2 we were hopeful. Hodgson and Watts changed this with a stand of 92 and we were eventually left with a tough target. Our batting was never up to the task and, apart from Garforth-Bles, we were always coming second.

Monday July 22 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (P R D Gould 50; T M Taylor 4-34, C Barrington 4-36);
Somerset Stragglers 164-8

We won the toss and at lunch were 108-4 with Gould having been supported by Walker (23) and Sugden (21). The middle order was helped by Parker (22) and D J Wilson (20) but we battled for 60 overs. Our bowling did not cause the Stragglers enough problems and, although they were 145-8 with some 20 minutes to go, we could not get the last two wickets.

Tuesday July 23 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
Dorset Rangers 205 (M Harris 64, G H Pinney 58; P R D Gould 4-39); Sherborne Pilgrims 209-8 (H R J Walker 55; M Miller 5-57)

After losing two early wickets, Pinney and Harris put on 100 for the third Rangers wicket. With the score 177-4 at a quarter past three we could have been chasing a formidable total, but Gould and Walker (2-62) got the wickets and we were left with three hours to get the runs. Parker and Walker had a useful stand of 61 in 43 minutes and we wanted 110 in the last 20 overs with eight wickets in hand. Thanks to Walker and Gould (23) we got home with two balls to spare.

Wednesday July 24 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 84 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 189-5 dec (G P Gent 64*; G D A Milne 4-57); Old Cliftonians 105 (A S Dixon 61; P R D Gould 7-36)

After an eighty minute delay through rain we made good use of winning the toss with a stand of 69 for the second wicket by Wingfield Digby and Lough, and an undefeated "declaration" partnership of 74 in 42 minutes from Gent and Gould (26*). Gent batted particularly well and his runs came in even time. Gould was back in the thick of things when Clifton batted and it needed the skills of Dixon to keep them afloat. Victory beckoned at 65-7 but Dixon was still there and it was another 35 minutes before Richard Scott bowled him with a beauty. This enabled us to sort out the tail and win in the last over.

Sunday July 28 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 224-7 dec (C V Nicholas 71*, E D Fursdon 58); Old Tonbridgians 197-7 (S J B Langdale 58*)

Our innings was mixed - a good start by Garforth-Bles but 56-1 turned into a dangerous 117-6. Nicholas and Fursdon rescued the day with a superb partnership of 103 in 43 minutes. Fursdon was in great form hitting four sixes. Tonbridge had 31

up for the first wicket but accurate bowling and good fielding pinned them back to 105-6. Any ideas of a Pilgrims victory were dispelled when Smith joined Langdale and they put on 75 runs in 46 minutes. When Smith was out 45 were still required but the overs were running out and the result was an honourable draw.

Saturday August 10 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

1975

Played 15: Won 2, Lost 8, Drawn 3, Abandoned 2, Cancelled 1.

Saturday April 26 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 188-5 dec (R J A Hughes 51); Emmanuel College 189-4 (C R Bean 85, A R W Daniel 66)

Wingfield Digby and Hughes put on 79 for the second wicket in 85 minutes, and after lunch Walker (26) and Rowe (25*) helped the score along. Although we batted steadily for end April, the scoring rate was never quick enough to give our bowlers a good target. Daniel and Bean had 124 on the board for the first wicket in 98 minutes, but in spite of losing three quick wickets, Emmanuel won with time to spare.

Sunday April 27 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Abandoned

Saturday May 10 v Oxford University Authentics at New College, Oxford - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 130 (R W B Gwyn 6-43); Oxford University Authentics 131-6 (C H Ainscough 50*)

We won the toss but Gwyn and Price bowled well and our innings was in ruins at 55-7. Hume (27) and Floyer put on 47 for the next wicket, whilst Floyer and Kennedy (12) added a valuable 28 for the last wicket. Helped by some good bowling from Scott we managed to pin the Authentics back to 43-5 but here our effort ran out of steam. Ainscough batted with more application than we had and the Authentics had a comfortable win.

Sunday May 11 v Vincent's XI at Queen's College, Oxford - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 195-8 dec (J M Wingfield Digby 55, P N C Rowe 54); Vincent's XI 198-8

Rowe and Wingfield Digby put on a quick 101 for the first wicket, but three run outs spoiled the initial momentum. All our bowlers were in the wickets and Vincent's slumped to 120-7. We slackened our grip and, after Lough had steadied things, Fursdon was allowed to score most of the runs in a last wicket stand of 50.

Sunday June 1 - Cricketer Cup first round v Repton Pilgrims at Repton - Lost by 51 runs
Repton Pilgrims 215-7 (H J W Wright 65*); Sherborne Pilgrims 164 (G C Turner 4-26)

On a hard, fast wicket we were pleased to capture the first three Reptonian wickets for 13 runs. At this stage the bowling and fielding was very tight and, after twenty overs, the score was 25-3. Gradually we loosened our grip and two missed chances allowed Fry and Pilch to add 87 for the fourth wicket. The score was 111-5 (38 overs) at lunch and another wicket soon after had us in good heart, but then two stands dominated by the left-handed Wright added more than 100 in the last 15 overs. Even Fursdon could not escape the punishment, conceding 14 in his last over to tarnish an otherwise excellent bowling analysis. We started our innings confidently but after Rowe was out to a loose shot (20-1) numbers three to six could only muster 23 runs between them. Gould, who had opened, was left with far too much to do and the scoring rate fell alarmingly. Leakey, Andrew Wingfield Digby (26), with help from Nick Wingfield Digby, added 64 for the last two wickets, but once again we had thrown away our chances.

Sunday June 8 v Esher at Esher - Lost by 9 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 146 (A D W Robertson 57; R C Crawford 6-41); Esher 147-1 (J M Moore 91)

After a noon start we struggled to 57-2 at lunch. Robertson and Cobden-Ramsay received poor support and 80-2 turned into 141-6 and 146 all out. We were short of bowling and Esher won with some ease. Moore batted well but Wreford "scratched" and appeared to be playing for his average.

Sunday June 29 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 5 runs
Radley Rangers 209-4 dec (T E Macdowel 69*); Sherborne Pilgrims 204 (A D W Robertson 56; K J Hacker 4-47, C E Comins 4-76)

We lost the toss, our wicket-keeper failed to arrive and so we fielded ten. Radley scored consistently in spite of good bowling from Gould and N J Wingfield Digby. Macdowel and Vernon (24*) set up the declaration with an unbroken partnership of 81. Our batsmen played as if the Radley total was well within reach (which it was on a good wicket and fast outfield) but most managed to get out when well set. We lost in the last over when Dudley executed an "Ali shuffle" towards cover whilst trying to push the ball into a gap near mid wicket that he claimed to have seen. He was bowled middle and off.

Saturday July 12 v The School at Sherborne - Abandoned

Friday July 18 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 214-8 dec (R W O'Hanlon 62); Old Sedberghians 201-9 (M F Webb 53)

We won the toss and made a scratchy 104-6 by lunch. O'Hanlon and Gould put on 105 for the seventh wicket in 85 minutes to restore our fortunes. The Sedbergh innings was similar - 108-6 before Webb made an attractive 53 in 40 minutes. We had nine balls to get the last wicket - a draw was a fair result.

Saturday July 19 v Hampshire Hogs at Sherborne - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 210-6 dec (S M Lapage 67, R Wilson 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 169-6 (R W O'Hanlon 60)

The Hogs won the toss and, after losing an early wicket, Wilson and Lapage put on 88 for the second wicket. The lunch score of 107-1 immediately became 107-2, and then 163-6. Mallett (26*) and Lindsay-Clark (25*) put on 47 and the Hogs declared at half time. We made a bad start (18-3) but Proctor and O'Hanlon added 77 for the fourth wicket. O'Hanlon batted well, before being run out for the second day running. Unfortunately we were behind the clock as a result of the early collapse and Gould (29*) and Pertwee (14*) could only play for stumps.

Sunday July 20 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Lost by 9 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 78 (A S Hodgson 5-26); Sherborne Town 79-1

The first attempt at an all day game was thwarted by rain which delayed the start until the usual 2.00 time. We won the toss and, as it turned out, possibly made the wrong decision and decided to bat. The wicket was not difficult, but different from the two previous days, and we batted badly. House and Lewis found batting much easier with an opening partnership of 57.

Monday July 21 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 178-9 dec (K P Elliott 53; E D Fursdon 4-47); Sherborne Pilgrims 179-8 (Fursdon 66*)

The Stragglers won the toss and against some accurate bowling made a cautious start before lunch (81-4 in 34 overs). We had two wickets after the interval (87-6) but let seven, eight, and nine score 29, 26 and 28. We had 150 minutes batting but played rubbish. 24-4 was a terrible start which was rescued to an extent by Lough (26) and J.M. Wingfield Digby (28) adding 52 for the next wicket. With 40 minutes to go we were 84-7. Enter Fursdon who must have thought he was still batting at Lord's. Walker (26) helped him put on 52 in 23 minutes and the last 43 came in four overs. It was rather late in the season for our first victory.

Tuesday July 22 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 79 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 259-9 dec (P R D Gould 68, P N C Rowe 57); Dorset Rangers 180 (J Dunk 51; H R J Walker 6-37)

We were put in and the Rowe/Gould opening partnership celebrated with 104 in 85 minutes. They were followed by some who scored a few, and some who failed. The end result was good value for 55 overs' batting. Dunk and Joslin (25) put on 47 for the first Rangers wicket, and helped by good batting from Watson and Foot they were well placed at 149-3. It was then that the wiles of Walker's off breaks started to take wickets and we won with six overs to spare.

Wednesday July 23 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 188 (P R D Gould 84); Old Cliftonians 164-9 (Gould 5-38)

We won the toss, and on a wicket which was doing a bit after early morning rain, were soon in a horrible mess at 18-4. Gould had come in at 5-2 and put on 49 for the fifth wicket with Proctor (28) and 86 for the sixth with Hume. No-one else reached double figures and without these three, and Gould in particular, it would indeed have been the "early pint". Clifton started well and with 20 overs left were 88-2. A good springboard for victory, but as in 1973, they were over eager and missed the boat.

Sunday July 27 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OTs were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they lost to Old Malvernians by four wickets.

Saturday August 9 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 162 (P J Lough 66; R D H Hamilton 7-51); Bluemantles 163-8 (S C Gallyer 50)

After losing a wicket in the first over, Lough and Devitt (25) had 95 up for the second wicket, but after this our batting faded. The Bluemantles had similar problems, 11-2 and then 89-3, thanks to a partnership of 78 between Gallyer and Rylands. At 139-8 they were in a worse position than we had been, but a resolute stand of 24 by Chandler (25*) and number nine denied us.

1976

Played 7: Won 4, Lost 3, Cancelled 9.

Saturday April 24 v Emmanuel College at Cambridge - Lost by 10 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 108 (J F James 5-22); Emmanuel College 109-0 (A G Powell 69*)

A side weak in strength and numbers found batting hard going and we were in deep trouble at 44-8. A gallant stand of 46 by Peck and one of our guests, as well as a last wicket stand of 18 got us into three figures. With little bowling and a meagre total we were always going to have problems - Powell and Poole showed just how big these were.

Sunday April 25 v Magdalene College at Cambridge - Won by 6 wickets
Magdalene College 145 (J F James 5-19, C J S Maxwell 4-25); Sherborne Pilgrims 148-4 (H R J Walker 59*, J N W Edwards 53)

We fielded well and, with good bowling from Maxwell and James our tormentor of the previous day, Magdalene never threatened a large score. The early loss of two wickets was put right by Edwards and Walker in a partnership of 98 and we gained a comfortable win.

Saturday May 15 v Oxford University Authentics at Oxford - Lost by 79 runs

Oxford University Authentics 167-6 dec (D Wilson 60, D H Price 56*); Sherborne Pilgrims 88 (Price 6-19)

The Authentics made a poor start against Fursdon and Wingfield Digby who shared the first four wickets. 21-4 was good news but Wilson and Price changed the picture with a partnership of 87 for the fifth wicket. Hume had Wilson caught by his namesake behind the wicket, but we made little further progress. Peter Donald (19) and Lough (21) put on 44 for our first wicket but the innings then expired with all ten wickets falling in 80 minutes.

Sunday May 16 v Keble College at Oxford - Won by 151 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 253-7 dec (P N C Rowe 115, N J Wingfield Digby 53); Keble College 102 (F V Harris 4-11)

We faced a moderate attack and Rowe helped himself to what was offered. Gould (26), D J Wilson (28) and Wingfield Digby gave good support and our runs came off 44 overs. Sexton was the only Keble batsman to offer any resistance and we won with time to spare.

Sunday May 30 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 64 runs
Old Tonbridgians 236-7 (C S Cowdrey 79); Sherborne Pilgrims 172 (P N C Rowe 68)

The OT's won the toss and, after losing a wicket in the second over, were helped by a stand of 69 from C M Smith (22) and Cowdrey. When Smith was out at 71, Rylands joined Cowdrey and they added 58. Both were out just before lunch, when the score was 136-4 after 37 overs. Gracey, with help from the middle order, controlled events and we were left with a tough, but not impossible, target of 4.3 an over. Rowe lost five partners before being joined by Harris at 68-5. They added 59, but when Rowe was eventually out, Harris received insufficient support from the lower order and we were all out with three overs left. It was no disgrace to lose to the eventual winners of the competition, but there is little doubt that the OT's did not play to their full potential on the day - sadly, neither did the Pilgrims.

Sunday June 6 v Esher at Esher - Cancelled

Sunday June 27 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 4 wickets
Radley Rangers 208-7 dec (G de W Waller 81; P R D Gould 4-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 211-6 (R M Morgan 74)

On a very hot day Radley lost their first four wickets for 44, but Waller and Sloan then put on 110 for the next wicket. Gould bowled steadily on a good wicket and helped to restrict the scoring. Peter Donald (20) and Morgan got us off to a good start, and Proctor hit a quick 32, all in boundaries. Gould's unbeaten 20 took us to a good win, the runs coming in 12 fewer overs than we had bowled.

1976 was the year of the dry summer and serious drought. Saturday July 19 to Sunday July 25 must surely have been the most frustrating time in the history of Pilgrims cricket. The weather was wonderful but we could not play. The Upper wicket was dangerous as there were local water restrictions. Although the School could have used their own water from the two artesian wells on Carey's, the longer term interests of "town and gown" quite rightly prevailed. We had to cancel the matches at Commem and the cricket week.

Saturday July 10 v The School at Sherborne - Cancelled
Friday July 16 v Old Sedberghians at Sherborne - Cancelled
Saturday July 17 v Hampshire Hogs at Sherborne - Cancelled
Sunday July 18 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Cancelled
Monday July 19 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Cancelled
Tuesday July 20 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Cancelled
Wednesday July 21 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Cancelled

Sunday July 25 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OT's were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they beat Charterhouse Friars by 56 runs and beat Old Blundellians by 170 runs in the final.

Saturday August 7 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 6 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 166 (G Macleod-Smith 5-44); Bluemantles 160 (N A C Dudley 4-22)

We lost two quick wickets before Devitt and Lough (27) put on 60 for the third wicket. Devitt batted for two and a half hours and, although slow, it was a valuable innings. At the other end we suffered a customary middle order collapse, and it was only when Stebbings came in at 106-7 that bat was put to ball. The Bluemantles made an unconvincing start, but numbers five to eight scored 24, 23, 29 and 21 respectively. It seemed they would get home with a few wickets in hand but some fine bowling, backed up by good fielding, changed the picture, and we eventually won by a narrow margin.

1977

Played 14: Won 5, Lost 4, Drawn 4, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Saturday May 14 v Oxford University Authentics at Trinity College, Oxford - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 173-7 dec (P C G Donald 74); Oxford University Authentics 62-3 - Rain

Celebrating the first occasion when Donalds outnumbered Wingfield Digbys (by three to one) in a Pilgrims side, P C G held our innings together with some majestic blows.

Hume (29) gave him good support. A late start forced us to bat until 4.15. The Authentic's innings was hardly in its stride before the rain came - but only after Walker had tweaked two wickets with his off breaks.

Sunday May 15 v Charlbury at Charlbury - Won by 75 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 185-9 dec (N Bartlett 4-32); Charlbury 110 (P V Frampton 4-57)

This was a most enjoyable game to mark a new fixture. After the early fire of Swift had reduced us to 9-3, Walker (26) and Wingfield Digby put on 58. A mini collapse brought us to 77-6 but Donald and Fursdon added 66 in an hour. Charlbury were in early trouble at 13-2; Downer and Swift (27) added 58; and the last eight wickets fell for 39 runs. It was noted that Philip Lough's contribution to this victory was memorable. Selected, he set out for the ground, which he passed in both directions on the Great Western Railway, but unfortunately did not arrive during the hours of play.

Sunday May 29 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Westminsters at Vincent Square - Won by 67 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 175-9; Old Westminsters 108 (P R D Gould 4-18)

A somewhat disjointed batting display from the Pilgrims. Edwards played well and 20's from Michael Wingfield Digby (run out), Donald, Fursdon and Proctor helped us to a respectable score, although it might not have been a match-winning one against stronger opposition. We got just the start needed when Wingfield Digby stumped the potentially dangerous Surridge, and Westminster wilted in the face of some high class bowling and fielding, with Gould outstanding in both departments.

Sunday June 12 v Esher at Esher - Cancelled

Sunday June 19 - Cricketer Cup second round v Old Malvernians at Malvern - Lost by 73 runs
Old Malvernians 208-6 (J G Tolchard 59, J W T Wilcox 55); Sherborne Pilgrims 135

Despite a brisk start, with 45 in the first eight overs, Malvern's batting was hardly scintillating. Tolchard was in for more than 40 overs but he did score the runs, adding 93 for the fifth wicket with Wilcox. We had a promising opening partnership of 35 from Rowe (16) and Michael Wingfield Digby (19) before the former was stupidly run out. Our usual propensity to rush led to our downfall: the middle order all scored a few, but no-one got stuck in, and we were decisively defeated with six overs left.

Sunday June 26 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 6 wickets
Radley Rangers 176-8 dec (C P Stewart-Morgan 54); Sherborne Pilgrims 178-4 (P J Lough 85*)

Knight and Dudley bowled accurately and, although Radley were, at one stage, 86-1, the batting conditions were not conducive to taking wickets - especially when at least

six different fielders missed chances at first slip. They batted for 61 overs leaving us a reasonable target. Our batsmen made the most of their opportunities and, with Lough timing the ball in a manner reminiscent of the great Graeme Pollock, we coasted to victory in 41 overs.

Saturday July 9 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 30 runs
Sherborne School 170; Sherborne Pilgrims 140 (P J Lough 56; J G B Fish 8-32)

The School, faced with a depleted Pilgrims attack, fared better than in recent years. Lovatt-Williams and Edwards put on 48 for the fourth wicket, and with the score wobbling at 105-6 Madley and Osborne (29) added a crucial 60. Our early batting was sorted out by Fish and we slumped to 18-5. The recovery was led by Lough and Robertson, who added 94 for the sixth wicket, but when the latter was out Fish was brought back to wrap up the tail.

Saturday July 16 v A R Wingfield Digby's XI at Sherborne - Won by 9 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 151 (P N C Rowe 71; D L Budge 4-38); A R Wingfield Digby's XI 142 (R D Knight 6-24)

Only Rowe, striking the ball with ease, took full advantage of the limited bowling resources of the opposition; the rest batted somewhat carelessly and we lost our last five wickets for five runs. With some hostile bowling from Knight, and an extremely accurate, but unlucky, spell from Fursdon, the opposition slumped to 75-7. A recovery led by Budge, batting beautifully at eight, almost saw them home before he gave it away with victory in sight. A most exciting game.

Sunday July 17 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 169-2 dec (V B Lewis 100*); Sherborne Pilgrims 154-7 (P C G Donald 102; A S Hodgson 5-29)

In a rain-affected match the Town completely dominated our bowling with Lewis and House putting on 155 for the first wicket. The next man in, Lea, suffered the unusual misfortune of being run out without facing a ball. The Town's challenging declaration gave us an outside chance. We were 61-4, but Donald in a stay of just under two hours struck the bowling to all parts of the ground and almost led us to an unexpected victory.

Monday July 18 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 287 (J Bretton 112, J Ellwood 68; R J W Proctor 4-82);
Sherborne Pilgrims 204-7 (C W E Hume 79)

Although Proctor, starting with five maidens, and Jerry Edwards (2-31) reduced the Stragglers to 11-3 the runs soon started to flow. Elliot and Bretton put on 80 for the fourth wicket in 45 minutes, and Bretton added 100 with Ellwood in 49 minutes. Our weak attack and tired fielders were pleased to get the last Straggler out in the 56th over. Edwards (27) and Hume put on a solid 59 for the second wicket, followed by Hume and Lough (28) with 75 for the next. We then suffered a mini collapse and the

innings lost momentum and the match faded to a draw. We had 58 overs but came nowhere near the striking rate of the Stragglers.

Tuesday July 19 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Dorset Rangers 218 (G H Pinney 68, J G Hutt 57; P C G Donald 5-32); Sherborne Pilgrims 64-2 - Rain

The early Rangers batting was productive and they were well set at 168-2. Good bowling from Donald and Saunders was at last rewarded with wickets, the last eight going for only 50 runs. Jerry Edwards (24*) and Saunders (23) batted well, and with the former well set it looked as if we could sweep to victory - but the rain fell down.

Wednesday July 20 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 196-9 dec (P C G Donald 93; M G Wyburn-Mason 5-69); Old Cliftonians 197-5 (T P Rees 71)

A noon start saw Donald embark on a fine innings which lasted 140 minutes. He received little support but after his departure Gent (25*) struck out and we declared at 3.30 after 52 overs. Wyburn-Mason bowled well but was flattered by his return. Rees scored in fits and starts but dominated the early part of the Clifton innings. Lockyear, at three, was more adventurous and his 41 in 37 minutes helped to set the tempo. At 138-5 we thought of a win, but Capper struck the ball with agricultural grace to secure victory in the last over.

Sunday July 24 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 3 wickets
Old Tonbridgians 245-6 dec (N Heroys 92*, B D Hatley 61); Sherborne Pilgrims 249-7 (A R Wingfield Digby 98*, N R H Parker 60*; A B E Hudson 4-78)

Tonbridge batted with their usual competence: Bushby and Hatley with 71 for the first wicket; and Heroys involved in stands of 42, 25 and 52 for the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets. A good declaration at 3.15 and all to play for. Lough and Saunders (26) started with 48 before tea, but immediately after the interval wickets started to fall and at 5.25 we were 101-7. An early finish seemed inevitable, but Wingfield Digby and Parker thought otherwise. In 22 overs they put on 148 and saw us to a famous victory.

Saturday August 6 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Abandoned

Saturday August 13 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 135 (J E Holmes 4-31); Bluemantles 136-7 (I E L Davis 57*)

A disappointing display of batting by the Pilgrims, who were 80-8, was partially redeemed with a dogged effort by Redfern who batted for nearly two hours, and a last wicket partnership of 24 from Nick Donald and John Stebbings. A miserable total to bowl against: but Fursdon, Proctor and Redfern did their best and the Bluemantles made heavy weather of getting the runs, needing just under three hours.

1978

Played 15: Won 3, Lost 1, Drawn 6, Abandoned 5.

Saturday May 13 v Oxford University Authentics at Pembroke College, Oxford - Drawn
Oxford University Authentics 160-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 118-9 (J F W Sanderson 5-42)

After winning the toss, master tactician Peter Donald decided that the overcast conditions and slightly damp pitch were ideal for the devastating combination of Justin Fish and David Fursdon who were sure to rip through the brittle batting of the Authentics. He decided to insert the opposition. Shortly afterwards it became clear that Fursdon had not arrived. This was not altogether surprising since the secret location of the game had been revealed to only a few. However, it transpired that Fursdon was, in fact, at a wedding in Wiltshire and was unlikely to arrive at all. Unperturbed, the captain opened with Fish and Floyer and when two wickets had fallen for 21, the dangerous Dean came in to bat. After one or two sighters, Dean began to look menacing and the Pilgrims seemed to prepare for a session of ball-chasing.

Then Dean pushed the ball firmly to the vacant mid-off position and set off for a single. Before one could say "Rodney Ontong", Donald had swooped panther-like from cover, thrown down the stumps at the bowler's end and run out Dean by yards. Thereafter, the Authentics descended to 62-5 before Orders, assisted by Morrill and Buggé, stiffened their resolve. Our batting left a great deal to be desired. Hume showed his normal facility for missing the straight one and Rowe improved his record of being run out more than any other Pilgrim. Donald briefly displayed the confidence born of runs under the belt, but it was not his day. Only Garforth-Bles (27), Walker (16) and Floyer (19) ever came to grips with the Authentics' attack, and at the end Fish was left to survive the final over.

Sunday May 14 v Charlbury at Charlbury - Abandoned

Saturday June 3 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 189-7 dec (N C R Isaac 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 187-8 (P N C Rowe 74, A R Wingfield Digby 58)

On his return to the Upper after a wonderfully successful season for the School in 1977, Justin Fish was quick to show that he had lost none of his incisive speed and swing, taking a wicket in the first over. However, it soon became clear that the pitch and conditions offered little assistance to bowlers and that a resolute defence would survive. Isaac remained steadfast till nearly the end of the School's innings, and had Eckersley-Maslin not had to withdraw for a time after losing his contact lens the School might have gained greater momentum. Nevertheless, Isaac persevered and first Osborne and then Eckersley-Maslin took the School to a good total.

Rowe handled the School attack with glorious confidence and progressed quickly to

74 before half hitting a slice to mid-off in a manner reminiscent of the Hon Sec's golf swing. By this time Wingfield Digby had begun to bat with some effect and he was joined by Redfern (25) who, as always, played well within himself. These two put on 60 for the sixth wicket, but unfortunately lost impetus and did not take sufficient advantage of the slow bowling. When Wingfield Digby was magnificently caught on the boundary, 20 were still needed with only three overs remaining. Our team temperament was not at its best in such circumstances and, with the captain leading an unintelligent rush for the runs, we floundered in a morass of tip and run outs.

Sunday June 4 - Cricketer Cup first round v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse -
Lost by 10 runs
Charterhouse Friars 109; Sherborne Pilgrims 99

We found ourselves drawn away from home yet again, this time against the fancied Charterhouse. We lost the toss and, although Charterhouse began batting well, it was obvious that the surface of the wicket was loose and that it would not be a high scoring game. Andrew Wingfield Digby, as first change, broke through in his opening over, dismissing Hooper. From then on wickets fell regularly. Bidwell batted carefully for his 31, whilst Barker (21) and Ekins (22*) scored valuable runs.

110 to win was not an unduly daunting target and, in our usual sporting way, we decided to give Charterhouse a chance as Lough and Rowe between them attempted a run to the wicket-keeper standing up. After this, our batting went from bad to awful and it was only an innings of 17 from Walker that provided any stability. Fursdon started to loft the ball, however, and, when he was joined by David Wilson, it looked as though they might win the game as they took the score from 60-7 to 92. At this point with the ball striking Fursdon's pad, and a stray appeal from deep extra cover, the umpire took the opportunity to raise his finger. Enter Nick Wingfield Digby, stage right, hero of the hour, only to be "run out" while on his way back to the non-striker's end, a boundary having been signalled by the Charterhouse fielder at third man. The end result was that we lost by ten runs in a most unexpected way.

Sunday June 25 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 7 wickets
Radley Rangers 90 (F V Harris 6-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 91-3

Once again the match manager, Richard Gould, was responsible for producing one of the strongest sides of the summer and it is true to say that the Radley game has become one of the highlights of the season. As is customary in this game, knowing the strength of the opposition, we took the field in determined and sober mood. Richard Knight opened the bowling, and Harris was brought on at the other end in the absence of Fish who suffered transmission failure. Knight quickly broke the opening partnership and then Harris, bowling with craft and guile, length and line, flight and trickery, tore the very heart from the Radley effort. The advent of Fish helped crush the backbone of the innings. Formality though our innings may have been, it required the sure touch and technique of Harris at the helm and he guided us to victory.

Saturday July 15 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 10 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 210-7 dec (P C G Donald 119; P E J Sanderson 4-61); Sherborne School 200 (N D Osborne 102; P R Saunders 4-68)

The second match against the School coincided, as usual, with Commem. and we were in carnival mood. Garforth-Bles unfortunately suffered the loss of his wicket first ball, but this only heralded the arrival of Donald. Donald had spent the previous night in some degree of discomfort but, like the sunshine after the rain, his strokes burst forth upon the Upper, each one a golden gem that made it good to be alive to witness such things. He took no risks, offered no chance and slowly and surely marked his personality on the proceedings. He reached his century soon after lunch.

The School took some time to get going, losing five wickets for 65, but then Osborne came in and began to exercise his authority, punishing particularly the luckless Gent and wayward Saunders. The School wicket-keeper, Kenny, had the unusual distinction of being caught behind the wicket first ball off a shoulder high full toss from Saunders which seemed directed towards fine leg. Osborne's control grew menacing and there were those who thought that the School might yet make it. But, in the final stages, they suffered the same mishaps as we faced in the first encounter and the innings ended in a welter of wasted wickets and run outs.

Sunday July 16 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 146; Sherborne Town 140-5

The game against the Town was transferred from its normal slot in the "week" and played on the Terrace, starting in the afternoon. Carey, making a rare appearance for the Pilgrims, dominated the early part of the innings, batting briskly and forcefully. Donald, tired, no doubt, from his exertions the day before, settled for a quick 40 before the innings disintegrated disappointingly. We took the field in high spirits and thoughts turned to the prospect of a quick breakthrough. Knight and Garrett bowled tidily and well against the strong Town batting and Hayward was bowled by an excellent delivery from Knight. Alas, our catching let us down and ten catches in all were dropped. However, the bowlers gradually gained the ascendancy and accurate spells from Dudley and Redfern allowed us to gain a creditable draw.

Saturday July 22 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 268-4 dec (P N C Rowe 89, N C R Isaac 82, P J Lough 62); Dorset Rangers 217-9 (J Wilson 64; E D Fursdon 4-47)

Winning the toss, we elected to bat and Lough and Isaac, making his debut for the Pilgrims, strode purposefully to the wicket. The Rangers' innocuous attack held no hidden menace for these two illustrious players. Lough soon took control stroking the ball with that careless ease that we know so well. Isaac, more cautious but not less effective, lent valuable support and together they put on 115 for the first wicket. When Lough was out, Rowe came in where he had finished the week before, scoring 89 vintage runs. When Pilgrims bat like this one is bound to ask why we have never done better in the Cricketer Cup.

The early dismissal of Pinney by one of Fursdon's better balls promised more than it delivered, for our attack did not quite have the penetration necessary to capitalise on this breakthrough. Stands of 38 and 92 took the Rangers to a safe position, but when they slipped to 153-5 at the beginning of the last hour, we looked to have some chance. A good display of slow left arm bowling from John "Bishen" Gay, with Fursdon pushing through his leg-breakers, took us to the brink of victory ... but it was not to be.

Sunday July 23 v C W E Hume's XI at Sherborne - Abandoned

Twenty two Pilgrims were on the Upper but rain prevented any play.

Monday July 24 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 185 (J F Blackburn 5-49); Somerset Stragglers 167-7 (N Hampton 55)

Opening the batting again, Lough charmed us all with the depth and range of his talent and he held the innings together in its early stages. The middle order batting collapsed, but Devitt (25) and Proctor led a magnificent surge with 54 for the sixth wicket to ensure that we ended with a respectable total. The Stragglers innings was a frustrating affair. They should have won comfortably, particularly as they reached 130 for the loss of only two wickets and it was unsatisfactory that they should score only 167 in 56 overs. However, all credit was due to the Pilgrims for a tenacious bowling and fielding performance led from the front by Proctor. Deploying his field with the skill and experience of a Richie Benaud, and bowling his medium pace leg-breaks with wonderful control, he first ensured that the Stragglers could not score fast enough and then took three quick wickets as they lost their cool. Again, alas, victory was not to be.

Tuesday July 25 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Honourable Artillery Company 148 (C G Jackson 4-48); Sherborne Pilgrims 149-7 (P J Lough 68*; Bewick 4-53)

This new fixture marked the end of the HAC's first Dorset tour. Although they suffered from the sudden withdrawal of two players and arrived with only nine, they also brought some beer and it was agreed that we should play ten-a-side. Hume, anxious as always to find his form realised that there would be no better opportunity than to face the Pilgrims' attack, and he deserted to the opposition. Garrett particularly moved the ball dangerously off the wicket and deservedly removed both openers. Hume was allowed his fling but the guile of Lough soon accounted for his presumption and he was caught off a dangerous long hop from Jackson. This was at the beginning of some controlled leg-break bowling from Jackson, and Gay (2-9) also produced nine very fine overs to wrap the innings up.

We were perhaps a little complacent at the beginning of our innings and were soon in trouble against Bewick and Stent. When Donald was bowled playing a rather casual

defensive shot, it was clear that victory would not be easy. Things did not improve and we slumped to 57-6. Then Lough and Gay came together to repair the damage. Helped by a dropped catch by renegade Hume, Lough played a true captain's innings and slowly but surely took us to a winning position. Gay assisted ably, defending stoutly and sensibly and allowing Lough as much of the strike as possible. Gay was out at 136, but by then the match was all but won.

Wednesday July 26 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 245-6 dec (P C G Donald 101); Old Cliftonians 174-7 (A S Dixon 54)

Donald won the toss and Gent and Rowe put on 75 for the first wicket in cavalier fashion before Gent was superbly caught on the boundary. Donald then came in and, first with Rowe and then with Isaac, proceeded to dominate the Clifton bowling. It was not, perhaps, one of his best innings, but invaluable in the circumstances and full of character. When we reached 200 for the loss of only two wickets, it was clear that Clifton would be struggling to stay in the match, and we were able to declare at a handsome total. Garrett quickly dismissed Rees and when Rowe caught Hammersley magnificently in the gully off Stebbings, Clifton were 13-2.

Then Dixon came in and began to hit the ball with customary gusto. In the 20's he offered a chance to mid-on which Hume dropped, and he then threatened to break loose before he was brilliantly caught by Donald, at long on. By this time Clifton were 119-5 and there was a real prospect of victory. Donald opened the game up to keep them interested, and how much more open can you get than to bring on Rowe. Redfern, substituting for Gent, held two blinding catches, but Hume put down what was arguably the simplest chance in the history of Pilgrims cricket, and the game drifted to a draw.

Sunday July 30 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Abandoned

Saturday August 5 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Abandoned

Saturday August 12 v Bluemantle's at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

1979

Played 11: Won 1, Lost 3, Drawn 5, Abandoned 2, Cancelled 1.

Saturday May 12 v Oxford University Authentics at Oxford - Abandoned

Sunday June 3 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Malvernians at Malvern - Lost by 120 runs
Old Malvernians 251-7 (J G Tolchard 121, D Bailey 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 131

Regrettably, this was another disappointing performance in the Cricketer Cup. Our bowling and fielding performance was not too bad, but our batting let us down yet

again. After Fish had taken two early wickets, Tolchard, in stands of 91 and 69 with Bailey and Price respectively, took control, enabling the Malvernians to reach a very good, if not impossible, total. Lough was disastrously run out for five and when Tim Edwards was out for only three shortly afterwards, the innings shuddered. Including Edwards, eight wickets fell for only 52 runs which effectively brought to an end any hopes of victory. Only a last wicket stand of 39 enabled us to reach a measure of respectability.

Sunday June 24 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Abandoned

Saturday July 14 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 167 (J M P C Turner 5-27); Sherborne School 142-7

This was a rather disappointing game after the excitements of 1978 and was characterised by indifferent cricket from both sides. Lough opened the batting with Kenny, who was soon out after a flourish of stroke play. Lough took up the attack with Powe who seemed to have difficulty in adjusting to the unusual experience of remaining at the crease. After a stand of 49 Lough was out, and Powe was involved in a stand of 34 with Donald. We reached 160-4, with a useful 31 from Madley, and then lost six wickets for seven runs, which was a collapse of dramatic proportions even by our standards. In the face of tight bowling the School were never really able to get going and Dudley had their batsmen in considerable trouble with his constant variation of pace and direction. The game faded to a draw.

Saturday July 21 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Honourable Artillery Company 273-3 dec (Weinburg 136, J Levison 70); Sherborne Pilgrims 274-6 (P J Lough 156, R A L Leach 51*)

Thanks to the skills of Lough we managed one of the great escapes. The day began badly when some of the team failed to arrive. They seemed to be under the impression that it would be possible to drive from London to Sherborne on a summer Saturday morning in less than twenty minutes. They were reprimanded. Spectators who arrived at the start of the game were, however, rewarded by the unusual sight of Hume opening the bowling. Predictably, this spectacle was short lived since he failed to trouble the batsmen with anything on target. Nobody else had any luck either and the HAC openers reached their hundred partnership without difficulty. Thereafter, it was only lack of concentration by the HAC which enabled us to take any wickets at all.

The advantage gained by the HAC was scarcely diminished by the appearance, after the break, of Major Dudley as their umpire. Aided and abetted by his son, he soon made his mark on the Pilgrims' innings and we slumped to 24-2. But Lough stirred himself and began stroking the ball with that masterly caress that we know so well. Accelerating, he struck boundaries at will and took the game by the scruff of the neck. Ably supported in turn by Saunders and Leach, he brought an unlikely victory in sight before surrendering to Dudley. There was only one worthwhile candidate for the Horlicks award. Dudley had played for the opposition, taken more wickets than any

other opposition bowler and enlisted his father to play for the opposition. It was no contest.

Sunday July 22 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Lost by 80 runs
Sherborne Town 266-5 dec (V B Lewis 74, A S Hodgson 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 186 (P R Saunders 92)

The new found variety in our attack fared little better than the day before and, as usual, we were given a batting lesson by Lewis. Batting conditions were ideal for the Town and, if the truth be told, were ideal for us as well. However, only Saunders played with any confidence and, in a disappointing collapse, we lost our last five wickets for 21.

Monday July 23 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 253-8 dec (C J Dalton 62, D A Jones 51*); Sherborne Pilgrims 150-6

The arrival of Fursdon heralded an immediate change in our fortunes and, as he thundered in from the pavilion end, the dried blood of old battles on his flannels, our hopes revived after the trouncing from the Town. The Stragglers openers quickly put on fifty without any obvious difficulty. Then Dudley came on, footsore and bowling loose, after 367 consecutive overs during the HAC tour. Gay decided to teach him that disloyalty has its price and put him on to bowl through 19 overs until nearly the end of the innings. Dudley responded with the grit, guile and stamina to take three wickets. In spite of Barker and Bulford putting on 40 for the third wicket we slumped to 69-4 and then to 87-6. Howard and Gay girded themselves for a battle with an hour and a half still to play and in magnificent style blunted the attack and we drew.

Tuesday July 24 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 291-5 dec (E D Fursdon 102*, G P Gent 66); Dorset Rangers 242-7 (A Foot 65, A P Hussey 63)

It is perhaps fair to suggest that this was the only game in the week that we came close to dominating and it was only a pity that we could not force a victory. Gent and Bulford put on 74 for the first wicket and then Fursdon joined Gent to delight us with an array of shots that speared the field. Gent decided that he did not want to bat in the afternoon and just before lunch we slumped from 126-1 to 129-4. After lunch, Fursdon completed his century without difficulty, but, partnering him, Stebbings hit a very quick 40 and we found that we had scored rather too many runs. Nevertheless, the Rangers gave it a go and despite excellent bowling from Fish they were well up with the clock. Hussey, particularly, batted with great zest but, when he was bowled by Fish, the challenge foundered but we were unable to overcome the tail end resistance.

Wednesday July 25 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 134 (M G Eldridge 7-29); Old Cliftonians 135-2 (T P Rees 61*)

"Le petit général" marshalled his forces and, after the early dismissal of Hume, we reached 56 without too much difficulty. Then, succumbing to some straightforward bowling - a constant threat to Pilgrims batsmen - we lost eight wickets for 53, and only a last wicket stand of 25 between Dudley and Fish avoided total disaster. In reply, Clifton were, perhaps, unduly cautious, taking 45 overs to overhaul us. Nevertheless, our bowlers enabled us to salvage a little pride bowling tightly throughout. Fish bowled twelve overs for 24 runs and Andrew Wilson, playing his first game for the Pilgrims, bowled seven overs for 12 runs.

Sunday July 29 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OTs were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they beat Oundle Rovers by 97 runs and beat Uppingham Rovers by five runs in the final.

Saturday August 4 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 202-4 dec (P N C Rowe 74, D F Gibbs 66); Hampshire Hogs 166-7 (S D Beecroft 53)

After a late start, Dudley sent in two brewers, Gibbs and Watney, to open the batting. Watney was out first and then Gibbs and Rowe took complete command and bludgeoned the demoralised Hogs attack all over the ground. We quickly switched our attack to the artful and graceful skills of spinners Gent and Gay who teased and tricked their way through the Hogs' middle order, but time ran out before we could clinch victory.

Saturday August 11 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Bluemantles 221-9 dec (D G Gallyer 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 129-9 (D F Gibbs 63; N A L Davis 5-17)

Finding that the start was delayed by rain, the Pilgrims retired to the pub whence they were extracted by Dudley who was taking his responsibilities seriously. The Bluemantles reached 100 for the loss of only one wicket and then floundered in the face of consistently deceptive bowling from Dudley who managed to bowl 23 consecutive overs. In the end it was a very creditable fielding performance from the Pilgrims. Our batting was less resourceful, however, and only the dogged obstinacy of Gibbs prevented total disaster, with eight of the remaining ten batsmen totalling eight runs between them. Surprisingly, we held out for an inglorious draw.

1980

Played 16, Won 7, Lost 4, Drawn 3, Abandoned 2, Cancelled 1.

Saturday May 3 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Lost by 1 wicket

Sherborne Pilgrims 169 (P N C Rowe 89); Royal Agricultural College 173-9 (J E Gay 4-55)

This new fixture was arranged through the good offices of Paul Madley and Justin Fish and, but for the weather, proved very happy. We won the toss and Pete Donald, opening, got quickly into his stride before playing a rather wet shot to be caught in the gully. Rowe entered the fray and, with the casual grace of the really gifted, scored 89 of the next 115 runs while Julian Powe played an invaluable anchor role. Thereafter, the innings evaporated rather abruptly and we collapsed from 146-3 to 169 all out.

The College batting was a little intimidating with Hammond at three and Compton at four, but this threat galvanised us into the sort of fielding display which had to be seen to be believed. It all began when an attempted sweep was top edged and suddenly there were cries for Nick Donald to catch the ball which was swirling wildly in the wind. Ever alert, Donald ran to his left ... then to his right ... then back and then disaster - he tripped and fell face down, but flinging out his arm he held the ball inches from the ground. There followed a series of most remarkable catches, perhaps the most spectacular of all being Gay's superb "Tony Lock" effort to catch and bowl Fish. Somewhat stunned, the College slumped from 58-2 to 112-9, but then appallingly inept captaincy from Hume allowed the last pair to put on 61 to win.

Saturday May 10 v Oxford University Authentics - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 193 (R D Kemp 4-78); Oxford University Authentics 180-9 (M W J Ruffell 63; P N C Rowe 7-85)

We won the toss and after losing the openers cheaply, Donald and Hume batted together for some time. We managed to struggle to 193 which seemed too few. The Authentics started ominously well and reached 119-1 with little apparent difficulty. Meanwhile, however, Donald had played his masterstroke and had introduced Rowe to the attack. As the fielders withdrew dejectedly to the boundary, Rowe, his arm high as ever, began to work his own special kind of magic. He bowled 21 consecutive overs to finish with figures which ensured that he would have to buy a jug. We were able to hang on for a draw and, at one stage, even think in terms of victory.

Sunday June 1 - Cricketer Cup first round v Bradfield Waifs at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
Bradfield Waifs 189-7 (K S K O'Brien 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 190-4 (T D W Edwards 83)

Drawn at home for the first time for some years, and with the prospect of two more rounds at home, spirits were high at the start of this game. Of the bowlers, however, neither Fursdon, Fish or Lyons was fully fit and Fursdon's opening spell of nine overs for nine runs was all the more praiseworthy. The bowlers were helped by some undistinguished batting from Bradfield and there were three run-outs. We were lucky to escape with a score under 200, particularly with some very noticeable crocks in the field.

Our victory was founded on a superb second wicket partnership of 120 between Edwards and Garforth-Bles. Garforth Bles' painstaking innings proved an ideal foil to

the dominant role which Edwards adopted and it was a pity that they were not able to complete their 50 and 100 respectively. Donald and Saunders had a brisk partnership at the end and we reached the target in the 53rd over.

Sunday June 15 - Cricketer Cup second round v Felsted Robins at Sherborne - Abandoned

Sunday June 22 - Cricketer Cup second round replay v Felsted Robins at Felsted - Won by 3 wickets
Felsted Robins 174 (A R Wingfield Digby 4-48); Sherborne Pilgrims 175-7 (Wingfield Digby 66*; R K Higgins 4-27)

The Felsted middle order was destroyed by Wingfield Digby who, at one stage, took three wickets for one run. The innings faltered and their last five batsmen contributed only 21 runs. A fine display from all the bowlers and, in a competition where runs count as much as wickets, Richard Knight's 0-22 from 12 overs was particularly good. Fursdon responded to his promotion to opening batsmen by smacking the ball all over the ground and scored 48 of the first 66. However, we slumped from 66-2 to 96-7 and it looked as though it would be curtains for us once more.

But Wingfield Digby does not know the meaning of defeat and began to show what a great competitor he is. Soon the shots began to flow and the ball began to cross the boundary and with somewhat unexpected support from Mark Floyer the impossible seemed to be within reach. As the target came closer and closer the tension mounted but the strong nerves of the batsmen saw us through to a remarkable victory in the penultimate over.

Sunday June 22 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Cancelled

We were playing in the second round of the Cricketer Cup.

Sunday July 6 - Cricketer Cup third round v Charterhouse Friars at Sherborne - Lost by 11 runs
Charterhouse Friars 210-6 (C J S Bidwell 54, N H L Sellars 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 199 (T D W Edwards 55, J N W Edwards 50)

The third round against the old foe was badly affected by rain. Charterhouse started very confidently and were going strongly when their innings was interrupted by a lengthy stoppage. The openers eventually put on 110 but five wickets then fell for 16 runs and their score was contained to manageable proportions, the match having been reduced to 50 overs. Gould bowled especially well adding the scalp of Richard Gilliatt to that of Colin Cowdrey, which he claimed some years ago at Tonbridge. Donald was out early on, but Tim Edwards, in stands of 60 with Fursdon and 83 with his brother, batted superbly to put us in with a chance. By then, however, it was becoming very dark and impossible for new batsmen to see the ball. We stumbled and fell at the final hurdle amid a flurry of run outs. The match finished at six minutes to nine.

Saturday July 12 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 174 (P E J Sanderson 8-76); Sherborne School 166-7 (W J Rydon 58)

We opened with a dour determination - somewhat uncharacteristic of recent sides - and as 18 runs were scored in the first ten overs without loss, it seemed that we might have the springboard for a large score. Chris Bulford looked as safe as Boycott before he was bowled and then Lough was out at the same score. Donald batted with his usual carefree application and pushed the score on briskly. Meanwhile, Sanderson was beginning to weave the web of artistry and skill associated with Bishen Bedi at his most tantalising and our batsmen succumbed to the cunning variation of pace, flight and length. Only Redfern among the later batsmen resisted the temptation to the woofy and it seemed that we had made insufficient runs. In reply, the School were flustered by the pace and fire of Fisher and Stebbings which left them reeling at 24-3, and then 40-5. Rydon and Quinlan added 66 for the sixth wicket but progress was slow and the game petered into a rather tame draw with no real prospect of victory for either side at any stage.

Saturday July 19 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 39 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 157-9 (Stent 4-30); Honourable Artillery Company 118 (E P J F Lyons 4-18)

Although it looked as though this game might have to be abandoned, we eventually managed to start at 3.00pm after frantic telephone calls to Bristol managed to trace Redfern and Lyons in pre-match training at their local gym. The game was reduced to 35 overs a side. We batted very steadily with the prodigal Proctor returning to the side as prodigious a performer as ever. Stebbings and Lyons bowled well and the HAC were unable to withstand the withering pace. Aided and abetted by two run outs, they slumped to defeat.

Sunday July 20 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Abandoned

Monday July 21 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 183; Sherborne Pilgrims 186-5 (P C G Donald 72, E P J F Lyons 63)

Once again Stebbings was quickly among the wickets as the Stragglers were 17-2. Stebbings has been compared to Michael Holding, with the same fluid run up, the strong shoulders and the windmill sweep of the bowling arm, and comparisons were made today. Julian Powe must rate a mention in stumping not one, not two, but all three of Walker's victims. Our innings opened with Lyons and Bulford, with Lyons reaching his 50 out of 59 in only 33 minutes - an extraordinary display by a batsman playing straight and correctly, and with such panache as to leave his fellows aghast that such things were possible. Donald scored quickly as well, and we went into tea at 98-1 after only 50 minutes batting. Afterwards, Saunders added a useful 36 for us to reach a comfortable victory.

Tuesday July 22 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 80 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 231-5 dec (J Powe 59, P C G Donald 53, H R J Walker 52);
Dorset Rangers 151

Fresh from two victories we laid the foundations for a third with an opening partnership of 84 between Walker and Bulford. No-one was really tested by the bowling, although it was a rather younger and better Rangers fielding side than of late. Powe scored a handsome half century, forcing the ball between mid wicket and mid on with artistry and skill of the born again batsman. Lyons and Powe shared the early wickets as our pace attack left the Rangers rocking at 59-5, a position from which they were never able to recover. A seventh wicket partnership of 56 was broken by the wily Gent, playing on his 25th Pilgrims tour.

Wednesday July 23 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 112 (G P Gent 51; T P Rees 5-27); Old Cliftonians 114-5 (M W Bailey 51*; Gent 5-42)

Potentially our strongest side of the week started confidently enough with Gent and Bulford putting on 34 for the first wicket. Although two quick wickets then fell we recovered to 77-2 with Gent and Saunders going well. In a chapter of Pilgrims' history much better forgotten, we lost our next eight wickets for 35 runs after a series of the most appalling shots imaginable. The pity of it was that the bowling really wasn't that testing and we should have doubled our total easily. It is to be hoped that the memory of that day will have a chastening effect and that those concerned will bring rather more resolution to their play next year. Clifton made rather heavier weather of winning than they might have because of the masterful bowling of "le petit général" who set an example we should be well advised to follow. Unfortunately, Bailey batted impressively and Clifton won soon after tea.

Sunday July 28 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 9 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 81 (N Heroys 4-16); Old Tonbridgians 84-1 (J H Tebay 53*)

If the Clifton game was shameful then this was humiliating. Another disastrous performance with nothing of any merit to mention at all except for the magnanimity shown by the Old Tonbridgians in declining to get us all out a second time round. It was the first time for several years that the fixture had actually been played because of the weather or their commitments in the Cricketer Cup. They were in fact quite strong but not so strong as to excuse the abysmal display by our batsmen, the proceedings being enlivened only by more enormous sixes from Stebbings. Otherwise, the less said the better.

Saturday August 2 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 4 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 189-8 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 191-6 (D C Watney 83)

The Hogs batted slowly for 63 overs, maybe unnerved by the renaissance of John Kennedy as a threatening opening bowler. Indeed, the excellence of the bowling and

fielding can be the only explanation for the muted display. Watney opened our batting and played with a freedom and skill unrivalled by any of the Hogs batsmen and he set us on our way with a wonderful performance of controlled hitting. Nevertheless, time was short and after Watney was out three quick wickets fell before Gent and Brearley saw us home to victory in the last of the 20 overs in the final hour, only the 48th of the innings.

Saturday August 9 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Bluemantles 205-6 dec (T C Fiducia 86); Sherborne Pilgrims 157-9 (G J Chudley 5-35)

None of the Bluemantles batsmen had much trouble with our bowling, although Stebbings and Dudley were always steady. Chandler particularly seemed to find the bowling very friendly and was helped by Gay's failure to move two yards to his right along the long on boundary to catch a skier which could have been an aeroplane for all the notice he took of it. Our batting centred around the contributions of Watney and Devitt, but the middle order let us down and we were left to struggle at the end.

Sunday August 24 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 54 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 208; Cobham 154

This second new fixture of the season was made possible by the infiltration of Cobham CC by the brothers Edwards and Symondson and several other Pilgrims. For once our middle order batted strongly, attracted no doubt by some familiar bowling and a very short boundary over square leg where several balls disappeared. Cobham opened briskly and looked as though they would overrun us. However, Ali Symondson was brilliantly run out by Powe when going for a second run and they lost their last eight wickets for 78 runs in the face of good bowling and fielding. A fitting end to the season.

1981

Played 15: Won 5, Lost 3, Drawn 5, Abandoned 2.

Saturday May 2 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Drawn

Royal Agricultural College 173-8 dec (N T Gadsby 72, J Carwood 51; N A C Dudley 4-30); Sherborne Pilgrims 98-8

The RAC had completed their victory in 1980 with an undefeated partnership of 61 for the last wicket and continued in 1981 with an opening partnership of 104. The openers, Gadsby and Carwood, took some time to adjust but then began to dominate. Garrett eventually bowled Carwood the unplayable delivery and ultimately Dudley's canny length and deceptive run up paid dividends. Rowe was clearly concerned that his talents as a left arm slow bowler were still not fully appreciated and when he eventually came on he was determined to set the record straight. As his arm got lower and lower, so he tossed the ball higher and higher, and the batsman became more and more confused by its trajectory. The last seven wickets fell for only

27 runs. Our early batting was as inept as you could wish to see with several batsmen, who had better remain nameless, playing early season shots which have only been matched since by England in the second innings at Calcutta. Only battling Gay (28) played with any resolution at all. However, the match drifted to a draw as our efforts were devoted solely to saving the game.

Saturday May 9 v Oxford University Authentics at Oxford - Drawn
Oxford University Authentics 149-7 dec (N R J Green 52*); Sherborne Pilgrims 107-7

Garrett and Andrew Wilson opened the bowling and Wilson, particularly, with his contorted run up and delivery soon had the 'Tics batsmen wondering whether he was bowling from behind his head. They had clearly not faced such a strong attack before and their fragile confidence was shattered by the appearance of Rowe as first change. Obviously bowling from memory, Rowe managed 19 overs and did not concede many runs. The 'Tics struggled to their total in 52 overs. Our first five batsmen played as ineptly as the week before and five wickets were down for 39 before Donald joined Garrett. Playing with gusto and yet grace, and above all consummate power and timing in a desperate and all consuming passion to see the team through to the victory so dearly sought, they smote the ball over the field in a manner reminiscent of the great last wicket partnership between Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson in the World Cup against the West Indies. Boundary followed boundary until Donald was bowled by the unstoppable one and then Garrett saw us through to a well earned draw.

Sunday May 31 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Wellingtonians at Wellington - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 90 (T N B Potter 4-17); Old Wellingtonians 91-8 (R D Knight 5-20)

Another exit in the first round and we have only ourselves to blame. It seems extraordinary that we should enter a match of such importance with a lack of proper organisation, with at least three people selected on the very eve of the match because first choice players were not available to play. Let us hope that in future people are given proper notice of their selection and ensure that they are free on the dates of the Cricketer Cup rounds.

Despite our self inflicted troubles we came very close to beating the 1980 losing finalists. The start was delayed because of overnight rain and the match reduced to 47 overs. We won the toss and Garforth-Bles and Lough made a steady start before Lough was caught. Donald was bowled without scoring and thereafter only Rob Symondson (14) showed any application. When Garforth-Bles was out at 62 the innings folded in a flurry of ineptitude. By the time Wellington batted the wicket was drying and was ideal for the seamers who should have been playing. As it was, Knight, Blackburn and Andrew Wingfield Digby bowled admirably and with splendid catching all round Wellington were reduced to 35-7.

Then Wilson came in and struck a quick 26, but when he was out at 66 we should still have won if we had had a full complement of bowlers. But Edwards showed just

the concentration and judgement which our batsmen had lacked and saw Wellington through to victory. What a wasted opportunity.

Sunday June 21 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 4 wickets

Radley Rangers 250-5 dec (C J Croft 113, R C H Reed 52); Sherborne Pilgrims 251-6 (P C G Donald 64, E P J F Lyons 59)

A perfect day's cricket was enhanced by the return from faraway places of that prodigal son of the soil Richard Gould who soon reverted to his former ways chatting loudly to anyone within earshot. His presence in the team lent solidity, experience and above all class to our performance to see us through to a great victory. It was a good batting wicket and Knight did exceptionally well to remove their two openers for only 39. Thereafter Croft and Reed put on 128 for the third wicket and showed just what a good pitch it was. But we never flagged and our bowling remained tight and persistent, our fielding sharp and athletic as we battled away with typical grit and application. Eventually Gould removed both Croft and Reed and when they declared Radley had been restricted to only four runs an over.

A rather challenging target but we were equal to it and after a steady opening partnership of 49 between Rowe and Leakey, Donald and Lyons began stroking the ball all round the ground with consummate ease and grace. Both scored at a run a minute and when they were out Gent and his former protégé Lough continued this rate of progress and we beat Radley yet again.

Saturday July 11 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets

Sherborne School 200-5 dec (M M C F Jones 60); Sherborne Pilgrims 201-6 (G P Gent 58; W J Rydon 4-87)

The School made a good and steady start and neither of our typically hostile pace attack of Wilson and Blackburn could make any headway on the usually placid Upper wicket. It took a monster ball from our occasional all rounder Donald to break the partnership at 92 just before lunch. Though lunch was taken at 105-1 the School failed to capitalise on this score afterwards and dawdled about in the afternoon until they were really obliged to declare because of the lateness of the hour, we having bowled 61 overs.

Gent and Leakey put on 93 for the first wicket and from this excellent platform we were able to launch our bid for victory. One must marvel at the continually spritely Gent whose dedication and wonderful stroke play lit up the evening. Donald struck a brisk 47 and, despite losing three quick wickets in the 160's, the target was always within our reach and we used only 44 overs in attaining it.

Sunday July 12 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Won by 141 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 258-5 dec (P C G Donald 129*, J F Blackburn 51); Marlborough Blues 117 (J G Hall 51; J H Stebbings 5-15)

If ever there was a beating this was it and manager Lough must have regretted that

his duty to Queen and country had closeted him in camp on Dartmoor. To defeat the 1980 winners of the Cricketer Cup by such a margin was magical indeed. Some cricket correspondents have said that Gooch's century at Lord's was the finest since the War. Few, having seen Donald's majestic effort, would agree. In truth it was not his finest innings with several unforced errors but it was a delight to watch the Marlburians chasing down the hill to recover yet another boundary. Blackburn lent valuable support in a fourth wicket partnership of 133 and we needed only 45 overs to reach our total.

Mere words cannot convey the full extent of the rout which followed; the terror caused by Stebbings' pace was tangible. Some statistics may help: Stebbings bowled five consecutive maidens, the first three wicket maidens. Marlborough batsmen two to five all scored ducks, all bowled or caught behind the wicket off Stebbings. With Donald removing Frome who had sensibly stayed at the other end Marlborough descended to 14-5 and then 23-6. Then Stebbings tired and relaxed a fraction and Hall and Hawksfield put on 73 for the seventh wicket. Marlborough at last showed a little fight and were within ten minutes of salvaging a draw before we finally managed to wrap up the tail.

Saturday July 18 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 228-9 dec (P N C Rowe 89; N A C Dudley 5-42); Honourable Artillery Company 128-7 (P Eveleigh 53)

Once again we had the better of the HAC, although this time we just failed to clinch victory. Our dynamic opening pair Bulford and Leakey put on 52 for the first wicket and encountered little difficulty until Leakey was bowled and Nick Isaac, making a welcome return to Pilgrims cricket, similarly failed to spot the straight one. Thereafter Rowe took command and stroked his way imperiously to a big score, but he was toppled by renegade Dudley, yet again playing for the opposition, before he could reach his century. Dudley caused considerable embarrassment to the other Pilgrims batsmen. The HAC were soon in trouble against our tenacious attack and quickly descended to 68-6. But then Eveleigh and Fletcher realised that survival on the Upper wicket was not so much a problem as their colleagues had thought and put on 59 for the seventh wicket. Although they made very heavy weather of saving the game - they took 51 overs to amass 128 - save it they did.

Sunday July 19 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Sherborne Town 199-7 dec (E P J F Lyons 5-47); Sherborne Pilgrims 200-5 (N C R Isaac 55)

How sweet a victory over the Town and we owed it all to the marvellously subtle tactics of Dudley who had been vilified only the day before. The Town opened steadily as usual and put on 59 for the first wicket and then after the second wicket fell at 89, five wickets fell for only 34 and the middle order was ripped apart by Lyons. Spiller was out to an astonishingly brilliant catch by Rory Powe which was worth the entrance fee on its own, and after he went the Town's energies were devoted to survival. The target was fair, although not generous, but Leakey and Isaac

immediately put us firmly in the hunt with an opening partnership of 87, just the right mixture of caution and aggression. Then Powe and Saunders (22) carried on the good work. Powe dominated proceedings but Saunders with that lazy grace which sometimes supplants the hangover was equal to him, stepping back, on one memorable occasion, to drive Reg Hayward over extra cover in a manner reminiscent of the great Viv Richards. For all their experience and discipline the Town could not stem the flow and we won a famous victory.

Monday July 20 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Somerset Stragglers 235 (C Barrington 90; G P Gent 5-49); Sherborne Pilgrims 231-9 (J Powe 74; R Priest 4-52)

Another excellent game and a close one. The Stragglers started shakily against Redfern and Garrett and lost two wickets for 32. But they fought back strongly, lurching at 150-2. However, the ever wily Gent destroyed their middle order and, in the process, dismissed Hugh Walker who was unsportingly playing for the opposition. This continued poaching of our finest talent must stop. The Stragglers lost their last five wickets for only 25 so the target was certainly attainable. We did not start very well losing our openers for 21 and our first four wickets for 89, but what an innings there was from Powe. Singlehanded he pushed us back into the reckoning, keeping the score going, smashing the odd imperious boundary. Admirably assisted by Mason, Gent and Wilson, he pushed us onto the path to victory, but we fell a little short.

Tuesday July 21 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 16 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 225-8 dec (E P J F Lyons 54; G H Bolshaw 4-37, P Frost 4-77);
Dorset Rangers 209 (A G M Watson 59; P R Saunders 6-64)

After a late start Rowe hustled into action with a brisk 46 out of 66 for the first wicket. Lyons took his place and with that immaculate straight bat but inimitable timing he soon worked the Rangers bowlers over. Though our middle order did not perform very well, Powe continued his form from the Stragglers game to help us reach a reasonable total for declaration. The Rangers made a good start putting on 69 for the first wicket. But soon Saunders, doctor, gourmet and occasional spinner, began to weave his magic spell over their batsmen. Such was his mastery of flight and length that they found themselves thrashing at air. They came down the wicket to hit the juicy half volley and found the ball in Powe's gloves with the bails off. They were mystified, stumped in all senses of the word - three stumpings in all were the measure of Saunders' craft and of Powe's sleight of hand. Yet they came close and deserved to be beaten by only a narrow margin.

Wednesday July 22 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Abandoned

Sunday July 26 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 98 runs
Old Tonbridgians 200-9 dec (N A C Dudley 4-50); Sherborne Pilgrims 102 (C C Ellison 4-27)

Another disappointing performance against the Old Tonbridgians which was especially sad after we had bowled and fielded very well to restrict them to only 200. The persistently excellent medium pace bowling of Garrett, Rory Powe and Dudley prevented any of the OT batsmen from settling, and brilliant catching all round the wicket ensured that the pressure remained on them constantly. They took nearly 59 overs to amass 200. Our batting was a disaster with Ellison smashing any pretensions we may have had to reach this modest target. Only Saunders revealed any of the characteristics normally associated with batsmanship as he struggled to restrain his natural aggression to build an innings from which to launch a bid for victory. But partners came and went and none stayed with him. Eventually Saunders was overcome and with him our hopes of respectability.

Saturday August 1 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 218-4 dec (C H E Gabb 66); Sherborne Pilgrims 171-9 (A D Brearley 86)

A remarkable game in several ways. The start was delayed because of rain. When we eventually began it appeared the Hogs had invented a local rule whereby they were allowed to hit the ball on to the wet part of the square but we weren't allowed to field it. Hence the Hogs amassed a large number of singles and our whole approach to fielding became inevitably lackadaisical. When we came to bat we adopted different reasoning and declined to run singles where the fielders could not field. In truth we were half asleep for most of the match and three of our first four wickets to fall were run outs resulting from the batsmen believing they could reach safety by jogging down the pitch at quarter pace. Only Brearley and Proctor showed any gumption at all and Brearley, particularly, took the whole responsibility of making it a game upon himself. While he was still in there was a chance of victory, but once he had gone our only purpose was to avoid defeat.

Saturday August 8 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 193 (R J W Proctor 84, P R Saunders 54; R J M Heard 7-39);
Bluemantles 194-5 (T C Fiducia 89)

After the openers had both gone cheaply, Proctor and Saunders slowly began to dominate the excellent Bluemantles seam attack. The robust Proctor at one end and the elegant Saunders at the other set about themselves marvellously to the delight of those watching. We particularly remember Saunders hitting the ball out of the ground over mid wicket, being hit on the head by the next ball and, showing the grit of all true Pilgrims, hitting the third ball out of the ground again! What a joy it was and what a pity when the last five batsmen managed only 21 between them and we failed to score enough. Alas, our attack lacked its usual penetration and bite and we were run ragged by some fine stroke play from Fiducia. Not even John Kennedy, who had made his comeback against the Hogs, could make any impression on the Bluemantles and they eventually ran out easy winners.

Sunday August 23 v Cobham at Cobham - Abandoned

1982

Played 14: Won 4, Lost 7, Drawn 3.

Saturday May 1 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Lost by 22 runs
Royal Agricultural College 229-5 dec (R C H Seager 58, M R Mitcham 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 207 (A D Brearley 108; W P Willis 4-78)

The strong RAC batting made free with our attack, scoring at five an over throughout their innings. The elusive line of Garrett and the speed of Fish did not disturb their equilibrium and they were able to build a commanding total. By contrast our batting was a sorry affair for the most part. We slumped to 66-6 before Brearley took control. Striking the ball with power and grace to all parts of the ground he made a mockery of the bowlers' earlier successes. With twelve fours and two sixes he raced to a well deserved hundred putting us in sight of an unlikely victory. But it was not to be and when he was caught at 184 the innings collapsed.

Sunday May 30 - Cricketer Cup first round v Eton Ramblers at Eton - Lost by 54 runs
Eton Ramblers 250-7 (P G Lowndes 100, R A Yorke-Long 70*; R D Knight 4-47);
Sherborne Pilgrims 196

Once more an unaccountable failure to have organised the team properly and provide our strongest eleven led to our demise. Let us hope we have finally learnt our lesson about being prepared for the first round. We began well, Knight bowling consistently fast and accurately dismissed their opener without scoring, and they lost three wickets for 33. But then Lowndes and Yorke-Long took control. In a partnership of 148 they exposed our bowling for the lightweight rubbish it was, apart from Knight. Our batting was severely weakened by Tim Edwards' inability to bat but even so, we struggled well enough with three of the first four batsmen scoring 40's. But we were always behind the clock and, once Donald was left without competent partners, the innings died a quick death.

Sunday June 20 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 31 runs
Radley Rangers 226 (G de W. Waller 107; G P Gent 4-76); Sherborne Pilgrims 195 (C R Pritchard 5-64)

The Radley innings was dominated by Waller who batted competently if unexcitingly. Gent toiled away with determination for his four wickets. Bulford batted well and featured in a fourth wicket partnership of 57 with Lough on which our slender hopes of victory were based, after we had lost our first three wickets for 53. After Lough was out at 164 we were buried.

Saturday July 10 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 52 runs
Sherborne School 193-6 dec (R W Lloyd 71*); Sherborne Pilgrims 141 (P L Garlick 4-32)

We managed to lose by bowling badly and batting ineptly, and we were made to look

very ordinary indeed. Lloyd batted well for the School, but was helped by some friendly bowling. The less said about our batting the better.

Sunday July 11 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 33 runs
Marlborough Blues 185-7 dec (A K Cunningham 85); Sherborne Pilgrims 152

First there were three Wingfield Digbys, then there were three Donalds and this time there were three Loughs all in the same team. If this performance was anything to go by it may be the least successful combination. We bowled well enough, Marlborough slipping at one stage to 87-5, but we were unable to make another breakthrough despite restricting them to a little more than three an over. Our innings never really got going, but having struggled to 113-4 we were in with a remote chance. Unfortunately we then lost four wickets for four runs and we slithered to a disappointing defeat.

Saturday July 17 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Honourable Artillery Company 194 (Wright 51; E P J F Lyons 4-47); Sherborne Pilgrims 195-7 (P J Lough 72)

Having lost the first five matches of the season it was fitting that we should start the week against our favourite opponents, the HAC, whom we had never failed to beat so far, but it was a close run thing this time. Lyons bowled to great effect and Wilson produced eleven tight overs to take 3-24. After a partnership of 69 for the fourth wicket the HAC collapsed losing their last seven wickets for only 26. Lough was in tremendous form and the full blade of the bat swept through the HAC bowling with wonderful fluency. Lyons helped him add 75 for the fourth wicket and then went on to add 53 more for the sixth wicket which took us close to victory. Powe scored a powerful 33.

Sunday July 18 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 194-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 172-9 (R M Horton 6-76)

This was an excellent game which resulted from a well timed declaration by Reg Hayward. Although the Town seemed to have batted for some time, they had been contained by fine bowling from Wilson, Rory Powe, Walker and Mason. Leakey was cunning in bringing on Walker early to beguile the Town's batsmen with his length, flight and width. We lost wickets regularly throughout our innings with nobody except Leakey managing to get established. At 117-6 Wilson joined Jonathan Powe and, with both hitting lustily, we reached 150 and sight of victory before Powe was ridiculously run out and was quite properly awarded the Horlicks as a result. Our hopes evaporated with his departure and Wilson's shortly after.

Monday July 19 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Somerset Stragglers 179; Sherborne Pilgrims 180-6

Although Stebbings and Powe bowled tidily to start with, it was with the introduction of Lyons as first change that we began to dominate the inept Stragglers batting.

Thereafter the wickets fell regularly. After an opening partnership of 82 between Gent and Lloyd we managed to lose 6 wickets for 29 runs. Some Pilgrims teams would have surrendered at this stage but the Stragglers hadn't reckoned with Arkell and Mason who saw us through to victory with an undefeated partnership of 69.

Tuesday July 20 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 160; Dorset Rangers 154-6

We narrowly survived against a strong Rangers side. From 31-1 we slipped to 38-5 and then to 66-6 before Gay and Mason got a grip. They both played with tenacious application in adding 81 for the seventh wicket, and we struggled to a respectable total. After a ferocious opening spell by Stebbings, who took two wickets for one run in four overs, the Rangers settled but none of their batsmen ever really dominated enough to go for victory. They should have won easily.

Wednesday July 21 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 8 wickets
Old Cliftonians 135 (A G Y Scott 54; E P J F Lyons 5-9); Sherborne Pilgrims 138-2 (C J E Bulford 59)

Victory against Clifton was sweet as we have lost rather more often than we have won in recent years. A remarkable spell of bowling by Lyons decimated the Clifton middle order, which in truth was rather brittle, and only Scott showed any competence at all. We cantered to victory, if canter is a word that can properly be attributed to Bulford's batting!

Sunday July 25 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 165-9 dec (C R Martin 57; A D H Grimes 4-45); Old Tonbridgians 167-5 (G R Cowdrey 103)

An embarrassingly one sided defeat during which we never seemed to come to terms with the OT's superior all round ability. Martin and Mason made valiant attempts to apply themselves to dealing with the high quality bowling but the rest of us were nowhere. The OT's bowled 73 overs of which Allbrook used up 31, bowling unchanged to finish with 3-62. We were unfortunate enough to meet an in-form Graham Cowdrey who, after a relatively responsible first 50, let rip to reach his hundred with no trouble at all. His performance rather overshadowed the fact that Andrew Wilson had removed the other opener with the first ball of the innings and the OT's had in fact slipped to 17-2 before Cowdrey took over. The measure of their victory was that they used only 24 overs in reaching the target, that is less than a third of the number they bowled!

Saturday July 31 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 2 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 209-8 dec (C H E Gabb 71*, P R C Came 71); Sherborne Pilgrims 210-8 (R J W Proctor 53; G Richardson 4-56)

Another very good game against the Hogs made even more compelling by the perfect cricketing day. Our attack lacked penetration and, indeed, it was Stebbings who

dropped the simplest chance of the summer to allow Came a life. It was left to Proctor, that great old workhorse, some call him Old Deuteronomy, to inveigle the batsmen into all manner of false strokes with his irresistible combination of leg breaks, top spinner, googly and straight one. And it was Proctor, too, who delighted us with his scintillating batting, hitting three sixes in his match winning knock before he was last out with only four needed for victory.

Saturday August 7 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Bluemantles 245-5 dec (P H Jones 70, T C Fiducia 58; C R Martin 4-94); Sherborne Pilgrims 171-7 (J M Franklin 4-49)

Although the Bluemantles had actually won in 1981, this was the third time in four years that we had managed to hold on by the skin of our teeth to scrape a draw. Fiducia was dropped early on and the Bluemantles were never in trouble after that, despite steady spells of bowling from Martin and Wilson, who bowled 18 very tidy overs with no luck at all. Our batting was indifferent, and it looked as though we would inevitably lose at 129-7 before Gay, that saviour of lost causes, struggled and gritted his way in his indomitable manner to safety.

Sunday August 22 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 138-7 dec (E P J F Lyons 60; J G H Legg 5-38); Cobham 139-7 (P C G Donald 4-35)

Cobham had the better of a rain affected match for reasons which it would be unwise to relate. Outstanding contributions from Lyons and Brearley were the backbone of our innings. Despite the failure of some batsmen to see Donald's bowling for what it really was, Cobham were able to win comfortably with a long time to spare.

1983

Played 17: Won 2, Lost 8, Drawn 5, Abandoned 2.

Saturday April 30 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Abandoned

Sunday May 15 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - Lost by 58 runs
Dorset XI 247-7 (T J Murrills 114, D R Baty 59); Sherborne Pilgrims 189 (A I C Wilson 61, E P J F Lyons 59; G R Rendell 5-17)

This match was intended as a joint trial, the Pilgrims for the Cricketer Cup and Dorset as a prelude to their excursions into the NatWest Trophy. Opinions may vary as to the extent to which it fulfilled its purpose! Dorset, with partnerships of 105 for the first wicket and 101 for the second, always dominated our bowling although Andrew Wilson plugged away in his inimitable style just short of a length for 11 tidy overs. The absence of Blackburn, who was playing for Dorset, meant that our batting lacked steel and it was not until Lyons came together with Wilson at 46-4 that much mettle was shown. Together they put on 103, Lyons so straight and graceful and Wilson so forceful and strong. After Lyons was out a brief flurry from David Wilson (24) offered

hope of survival at least, but our last four wickets collapsed for only eight runs.

Sunday May 22 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Cheltonians at Cheltenham - Abandoned

Sunday May 29 - Cricketer Cup first round replay v Old Cheltonians at Sherborne - Won by 85 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 194-9 (T D W Edwards 51); Old Cheltonians 109 (Edwards 4-31)

The match was a replay of the one abandoned because of the weather the week before. Cheltenham won the toss on a cold and overcast day and put us in on a slow wicket. This was just as well since Bev and Rob Symondson did not arrive until lunchtime, having gone to Cheltenham by mistake. In the annals of Pilgrims history this will rival the failure of one Pilgrim six years ago to disembark at the right station in Oxfordshire until the game against Charlbury was complete.

After Lough had scored four off the first over, Leahey was caught first ball of the next - a dangerous long hop if your correspondent was not much mistaken. Jerry Edwards was unluckily run out at the bowlers' end from a deflection and we were 24-3 when Tim Edwards joined Lyons to put on 48 for the fourth wicket. Progress was slow but needed to be in the conditions, and with patient stands of 39 between the brothers Symondson for the seventh wicket and Bev Symondson and Paul Madley of 44 for the ninth wicket, Madley scoring a cameo 22, our total in the allotted 55 overs was quite reasonable.

Fish marked his return to the side with a devastating opening burst, sending back their first three batsmen for only six runs. Blackburn chipped in with two wickets at the other end, bowling seven overs for only three runs. Cheltenham descended to 19-5 and, despite a brave stand of 51 for the sixth wicket, never recovered with drizzle and bad light adding to the misery at the end of their innings.

Sunday June 12 - Cricketer Cup second round v Charterhouse Friars at Sherborne - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 166-9 (J F Blackburn 52*; M W G Doggart 4-29); Charterhouse Friars 170-3 (W R Bristowe 75*)

A second successive Cricketer Cup match at Sherborne was a novelty indeed but Charterhouse's rather greater experience of the later rounds of the competition, and their all round superiority, led to a comfortable win. We started slowly and badly losing three wickets for 18 after ten overs and half the side were out for 54. Rob Symondson and Blackburn doubled the score but it was a pity that others lacked the application and professionalism they showed. Our total was never going to be enough against a side of Charterhouse's calibre on an easy paced wicket and fast outfield. Although they started slowly, tied down by some excellent "limited over" bowling from Edwards who bowled seven maidens in his 11 overs, Bristowe and Hooper put on 119 for the second wicket and Charterhouse reached their target with seven overs to spare.

Sunday June 19 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn

Radley Rangers 279-6 dec (P R J Anderson 111); Sherborne Pilgrims 168-8 (C R Pritchard 4-39)

As evidenced by an opening attack of Lyons and Redfern we were rather short of bowling and Radley put on 93 for the first wicket without apparent difficulty. After this partnership was broken by a smart stumping by Madley, standing up to Gent, Bulford who had clearly gained inspiration from the sight of Botham at Old Trafford the day before, ran out their dangerous number three. It was a pleasure to see Rowe get a bowl and a greater pleasure to see that it was a short one. His innovations of line and length set Radley a difficult decision of when to declare. In retrospect it might be said that they batted a little long, but it was only 3.40pm when they declared, the Pilgrims having bowled 61 overs. We started shakily, losing the openers for only eight. Saunders joined Brearley at 24-3 and they put on 62 for the fourth wicket but were both out to careless shots, and 86-3 became 104-8. Lough and Gent came together and batted out time without difficulty against moderate bowling on a good wicket.

Saturday July 9 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 48 runs

Sherborne School 170-7 dec (R A Rydon 65); Sherborne Pilgrims 122 (I P M Sharpe 4-23)

Although we had gathered a stronger side than in recent years against the School, the result was the same - a comprehensive defeat. The School lost two quick wickets but then Rydon and Thorne put on 98 for the third wicket. After they were parted, the School crawled a little. In reply we lost our openers for ducks and it was left to Turner, first with Ford and then with Blackburn, to repair the damage in stands of 29 and 46. At 86-3, after not many overs, we looked in with a chance but it was not to be against tidy bowling and good catching.

Sunday July 10 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 13 runs

Marlborough Blues 193-9 dec (J G Hall 68*; J H Stebbings 5-50); Sherborne Pilgrims 180 (R A L Leach 67*; O T Gravell 5-58, Hall 4-42)

Something in the Marlborough wicket seems to bring out the best in Stebbings who was at his most exhilarating again, this time delighting in the speed of the track and aided by excellent close to the wicket catching. He took the first three wickets to fall and, at the other end, Cuthbert wheeled away taking 3-29 in 13 overs. Marlborough were in a lot of trouble at 83-7 but then Hugh Walker came on with his unique brand of bowling labelled "hit me to the boundary", and so they did. However, this was all part of a careful ploy to make the match more even. Although we started badly, losing four wickets for 32 and five for 57, Leach and Blackburn, in a stand of 98 for the sixth wicket batted enterprisingly showing how to deal with the modest Marlborough bowling. At 155-5 we looked set fair for victory but then threw it away with Gravell, brother of the well known Welsh centre Ray, picking up three wickets in seven balls to finish off the tail.

Saturday July 16 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 213 (N C R Isaac 110); Honourable Artillery Company 165-9 (J E Gay 4-49)

The HAC arrived in some disarray, several of their team having been involved in a car accident. Fortunately there were no serious consequences, except for their depleted attack which suffered considerably at the hands of the rejuvenated Isaac, who batted very well, if a little nervously in the nineties, for a much deserved hundred. It was just as well he did because after opening with Lough (18), nobody else reached double figures until Powe came in at 108-6. All the rest threw their wickets away. Powe added 63 for the seventh wicket and our final total, with Isaac last out, was just about good enough. Our attack, despite its quality on paper, was also exposed by some sensible batting on a typically good batting strip on the Upper. The HAC reached 124-2 without any difficulty but then fell apart trying to deal with Lough and Gay. Time after time they were beaten for pace, particularly by Gay whose ability to delay the arrival of the ball until the batsman had completed his third effort to hit it caused constant problems. Unfortunately Hume, with his usual appreciation of the tactical requirements of the situation, failed to bring back the fast men in time to break the last wicket partnership.

Sunday July 17 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 213-4 dec (J C Mason 77*, M M C F Jones 52); Sherborne Town 184-7 (J R Homfray 71; W J Rydon 4-99)

A fine batting display by Jones and Mason, who put on 88 for the second wicket, saw us to a good total. Jones, making his debut for the Pilgrims, attracted the attention of the selectors while Mason's qualities were already well known. We were quickly on top of the Town's batting, Rydon and Lyons sharing the wickets, as they slumped to 84-7. It must then be recorded that the captain made some surprising decisions in letting the Town put on an unbroken partnership of 100 for the eighth wicket. He persisted with the same attack which quickly became familiar to the Town's tailenders. A draw was grabbed from the jaws of victory.

Monday July 18 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 212 (M M C F Jones 50; D Langford 6-52); Somerset Stragglers 182-9 (G P Gent 6-49)

A slightly disappointing batting display from the Pilgrims despite a good start. After an opening partnership of 65 between Isaac and Jones, who scored his second successive 50, our batting rather fizzled out as we failed to take advantage of a solid foundation. Perhaps it was a preoccupation with the need to avoid getting out to Hugh Walker, who was bowling for the opposition, that prevented anyone else taking a grip. The Stragglers did well to bowl 70 overs at us and it was a pity that we could not match their enterprise. Our opening attack of Stebbings and Will Rydon suffered somewhat from the Stragglers' evident frustration as they scored 57 from nine overs before tea. Afterwards, though, the oldest pro of all and still the best, "le petit", came on and tantalised the opposition with his flighted long hops and teasing full tosses.

Mirabile dictu he managed to prise out Hugh Walker who was stumped by Rice as he threatened to win the game. Hardly a moral victory but a draw is better than nowt as they say on the Yorkshire Cricket Committee.

Tuesday July 19 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 60 runs
Dorset Rangers 145 (P L Garlick 4-20); Sherborne Pilgrims 85

Defeat by the Rangers in such a manner as this can scarcely be relived without a sigh. Older hands were saying that they could not remember so dismal a batting display. After making our task easy by a competent display in the field we threw it away with some careless batting, of which the less that is said the better.

Wednesday July 20 v Old Cliftonians at Sherborne - Won by 26 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 235-7 dec (A D Brearley 106, J F Blackburn 53; S J Y Scott 5-40);
Old Cliftonians 209 (C L R Cottrell 55; G P Gent 5-74, J H Stebbings 4-47)

Amid stores of depression and melancholia in our dressing room, we showed the sort of character later to be emulated by our peers in New Zealand and Pakistan, and came good. After the early loss of Gent, Blackburn, who seemed to take personal responsibility for the defeat the previous day, and Brearley, who batted as only he can, put on 121 for the second wicket at more than five runs an over. Clifton tried eight bowlers in an attempt to break their stranglehold, but to no avail. Stebbings demolished the Clifton innings in his first over taking two wickets without a run being scored and an alert and industrious all round fielding performance saw Clifton fall to 90-5 until a partnership of 61 for the sixth wicket temporarily boosted their hopes. Then their number two, who had survived the Stebbings onslaught, was finally stumped by Rice off Gent and, wisely co-ordinated by Isaac, the bowlers finished it off.

Sunday July 24 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 208 (R J W Proctor 62; A M Spurling 5-64, D C P Roberts 5-86);
Old Tonbridgians 211-4 (N Heroys 59)

Although not humiliated this time we were again comprehensively outplayed in all departments by the OT's. Where do they get all these cricketers from! Perkins played jauntily and well to score 43 out of a partnership of 60 with Proctor. Thereafter progress was generally slow but needed to be against a tight attack. Curbing his natural enthusiasm for the big one Proctor, if not the oldest pro of all then certainly the most distinguished in ways, concentrated on placement rather than power. Useful contributions from Gay and Wilson, who hit a robust 30 in even time, saw us to a reasonable total, albeit in 66 overs. Unfortunately, the OT's were never troubled by our attack, although treating Garlick and Proctor with some respect. They reached their target in 44 overs.

Saturday July 30 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 211-8 dec (J D Lloyd 61); Hampshire Hogs 212-5 (P R C Came 124)

A rather disappointing performance saw only Lloyd emerge with much credit from our batting line up. Although we were never unduly threatened by the Hogs attack, it took us 57 overs to accumulate our total. Came dominated the Hogs innings being out just before the end after guiding them to victory. Dudley bowled with his usual flourish to the delight of all interested spectators who watched the end of the day's proceedings in the idyllic cricket setting of the Warnford ground.

Saturday August 6 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Bluemantles 241-6 dec (M J Wheeler 126; N A C Dudley 4-50); Sherborne Pilgrims 238-7 (C R Martin 64; N L Thomson 5-54)

An excellent game and much closer than in recent years mainly because of a rather stronger Pilgrims line up. Dudley was the only bowler who measured up to the task of containing the batsman and Wheeler really had free rein. But it was in our batting that the difference showed with scintillating stroke play from the elegant Waite and glorious hitting from Martin who hit four sixes in his innings. In the end we fell just short but the spirit of our play was typified by David Leahey who could not resist the temptation to play for the Pilgrims on the morning of his wedding. As we batted second he did not, in fact, make the scoresheet but let us hope he was more successful later in the day.

Sunday August 21 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 232-8 dec; Cobham 233-4 (R F Symondson 80, R J Doughty 59*)

As usual the Cobham side was filled with several Pilgrims, and a County player in the shape of Doughty. We batted well but Cobham batted better. It was a game of two halves: our innings and theirs, with the batsmen generally dominant.

1984

Played 13: Won 3, Lost 5, Drawn 4, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Saturday May 7 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 180; Royal Agricultural College 183-3 (G Barker 104*)

If we were looking for a truly wretched start to the season then this match must be regarded as a triumph. We won the toss and, in extremely cold and windy conditions, the Dickensian figure of Michael Wingfield Digby fought a heroic battle. With Rice and Mason putting on 50 we were able to reach 180, but any thought that this might have been a winning score was extinguished by a truly dreadful bowling performance in which the only thing that can be said was that our bowlers left no part of the pitch untried - an exception to this was Will Rydon who bowled with perseverance but no luck. In the event the College had no trouble in scoring the runs with almost an hour of the match to spare.

Sunday May 20 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - Lost by 20 runs

Dorset XI 221 (A Kennedy 105); Sherborne Pilgrims 201 (M M C F Jones 76)

This was a trial match for both sides played on a 55 over basis under Cricketer Cup rules. We put Dorset in to bat and although Kennedy scored a pre-lunch century our bowling and fielding was tight enough to keep the run rate in check. In chasing quick runs after lunch Dorset were able to set us a rate of four an over, which was always going to be hard to sustain given the very poor light and the relative lack of match practice of many of our batsmen. Nevertheless, Jones played supremely well in compiling 76 and in putting on 78 for the first wicket with Eckersley-Maslin which, in retrospect, was the high point of our innings. We then became bogged down against some rather miserly off-spin bowling by Chris Stone. Jerry Edwards played pugnaciously for 28 and reminded us that the Edwards cricketing dynasty is not yet a spent force.

Sunday June 3 - Cricketer Cup first round v Oundle Rovers at Oundle - Lost by 7 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 140; Oundle Rovers 141-3 (P H Edwards 55*)

Oundle, fielding a side containing a sprinkling of Blues and playing at home, were clearly going to be a formidable proposition, and so it turned out to be, but on the other hand we did not do ourselves justice with a rather feeble batting performance. We were put in to bat on a drying wicket and were given an excellent start by Jones and Eckersley-Maslin who put on 51 in 14 overs, which should have provided an ideal platform for a score which needed to be about 180 in the circumstances. But from 51-0 we lost all our remaining wickets for 89 runs with only Edwards and Blackburn, who added 38 for the fifth wicket, providing any significant resistance against a bowling attack which, although reasonably accurate, had little else to offer. Such a modest score was never going to put Oundle under pressure. We fielded and bowled keenly but they got home with nine overs to spare.

Sunday June 24 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 15 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 244-3 dec (M M C F Jones 59, P N C Rowe 50); Radley Rangers 229 (A D Murdoch 65)

With good company, attractive surroundings and fine weather what more could a cricketing man want? Perhaps an innings from Rowe, and to the undisguised pleasure of all present, the old maestro strode out to the wicket and, in compiling his half century, played some fine strokes before getting dismissed in time for lunch. It was nice to see Rowe in form and nicer to know that now he wouldn't be given a bowl. We continued to flog the Radley attack after lunch before Lough made a challenging declaration. Thereafter Radley found themselves in deep trouble at 167-8 against Gould - some used to call him the white Sobers - and his spin twin Gent. A ninth wicket stand of 59 needed to be broken by the fast bowler Stebbings, who was assisted by a startling catch by Lyons, before Gould shattered the defences of the Radley number 11 to secure a well deserved victory.

Saturday July 14 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 181-7 dec (J H Stebbings 61; N H Peters 4-48); Sherborne School 185-4 (D W Thorne 82)

We fielded a side of modest talent, which perhaps did well to reach 181 after having been put in on a green wicket against a tight School attack. The School bowled well but were handicapped by their lack of a spinner. Eckersley-Maslin again showed form and consistency in making 48, but a mid innings collapse left us in trouble. A hero was truly needed and our prayers were answered in part by the appearance of Stebbings who, in an arrogant and attacking innings of 61, struck 11 boundaries all around the wicket. If we thought our score was going to be adequate we were badly mistaken for the School batsmen played extremely well and treated the swing and pace of Stebbings, Rydon and Fisher with disdain. Thus it was left to Gould and Gent to try and undermine the School innings with their experience and guile, but unfortunately the School were too well set and deservedly won with time to spare.

Sunday July 15 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 192 (A K Cunningham 4-25); Marlborough Blues 193-4 (C F Worlidge 125*)

We lost the toss and were put in to bat on a wicket which looked more difficult than in fact it turned out to be. Eckersley-Maslin played well before sportingly walking for a catch behind upon which the umpire had not adjudicated. At 78-5 it was left to Brearley to play a face saving innings which enabled us to provide a reasonable target for the Blues. Unfortunately, the boundary on the pavilion side was extremely short and Worlidge took full advantage of this in scoring a fine unbeaten century. Stebbings bowled with much vigour, but the pitch which had in the last couple of years enabled him to terrorise the opposition with his pace was slow and unhelpful. Saunders bowled his left arm spinners with some thought and posed problems early on, but an additional spinner was sorely missed.

Saturday July 21 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 91 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 253-9 dec (R M Eckersley-Maslin 110, P R D Gould 51);
Honourable Artillery Company 162 (J Jones 66, S Grant 50)

With fine weather and a good batting strip we got off to a dreadful start in which five of the first six in the batting order contributed a total of 11 runs. It was left to Eckersley-Maslin and Gould to salvage the situation. The former displayed great elegance of shot whilst the latter, in his pragmatic way, provided splendid support. The recovery was further aided by a valuable innings from the stubborn Drew. The HAC must have been a little disappointed in allowing us to recover in the way we did but they started off in fine fashion with an opening stand of 87, their progress only being arrested when Gould started purveying his left arm spin. Thereafter the HAC fell into confusion, which was fully exploited by Lyons, who with more extreme variations of the left arm spin left the way open for Garrett to finish off the innings and secure victory.

Sunday July 22 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Town 211; Sherborne Pilgrims 206-4 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 111, C Stone 51)

In perfect batting conditions we duly lost the toss and took the field. Our bowling resources were somewhat thin, clear evidence for this being that Lyons bowled throughout from one end when he really had become due for a rest after five overs. Still we finished manfully and managed to contain the Town to 211. In a fine reply Eckersley-Maslin hit his second century in successive days and was well able to deal with the wily swing bowling of Hayward. Stone and Eckersley-Maslin went on to attack the Town's bowling with great vigour, and given the limited time at our disposal we did very well to get as close as we did to victory.

Monday July 23 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 254-5 dec (M M C F Jones 119*); Somerset Stragglers 224-9 (A Challacombe 141*, G Pope 51; J R Drew 5-31)

A fine opening partnership of 92 between Eckersley-Maslin and Jones got us off to an agreeable start with Jones going on to make an unbeaten century. Blackburn and Isaac also made useful contributions against a variable but friendly attack. We were set back on our heels somewhat by a vigorous attacking innings by Challacombe, who was particularly severe on Gent's leg breaks. However, the remainder of the opposition were not quite in the same class and were rudely surprised by the penetrative left arm medium pace of Drew. As victory appeared over the horizon so did Garrett, apparently unaffected by his earlier mauling, but despite his taking two wickets, the last pair held out for an honourable draw.

Tuesday July 24 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 314-0 dec (J F Blackburn 203*, M M C F Jones 100*); Dorset Rangers 265-8 (A G M Watson 144*)

The Rangers attack seemed unable to extricate much life from the wicket and found themselves on the receiving end of two batsmen who were both very much in form. Blackburn, readily appreciating the quality of the pitch compared with the bowling, wasted no time in despatching the Rangers to all parts of the ground and, managing to maintain his concentration throughout, accumulated his double century in 158 minutes leaving Garrett able to declare the innings at 3.00. At the other end Jones, in reflective mood, accumulated his second century in successive days. With such a large score it is always difficult to know how best to approach the problem of dismissing the opposition. It was a question that Garrett clearly found difficult to answer as he tried every conceivable combination of bowlers, including Jones whose bowling is entirely without merit. It was left to Proctor to provide some hope with a bag of three wickets, but in the end the Rangers were well able to hold out for a comfortable draw, helped by an excellent century from Watson.

Sunday July 29 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OTs were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they beat Old Alleynians

by 132 runs and beat Old Malvernians by seven wickets in the final.

Saturday August 4 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Abandoned

Saturday August 11 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 243-6 dec (J M Wingfield Digby 68); Bluemantles 210-8

This was a most encouraging display. Wingfield Digby, aided by Devitt and Rice, provided the foundation of our innings with valuable contributions from Rydon and Mason. The Bluemantles were never able to get going against an attack which ranged from the pace of Garrett, to the extravagant, but penetrative, spin of Gay, backed up by the indescribable bowling of Proctor. Such a combination almost proved too much for the Bluemantles who just managed to hold out.

Sunday September 2 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 1 wicket
Cobham 248 (A J Houston 64; C R Martin 4-36); Sherborne Pilgrims 252-9 (J N T Perkins 83, M M C F Jones 66; C A S Penn 5-87, Houston 4-81)

This was a most exciting win to round off our season. Cobham won the toss and elected to bat. In reducing them to 112-6 on a good batting wicket we could have felt justifiably pleased, but then a seventh wicket stand of 98 helped them to 248 which was about par for the course. We lost two early wickets but Jones and Perkins compiled a fine third wicket stand of 131 which brought us well up to the required run rate. Rydon (21) increased the impetus but a late order collapse left us needing 33 runs with only two wickets remaining. However, Mason, maintaining a steady nerve, scored a valuable 19 in fading light and with one wicket left scored the winning run off the penultimate ball.

1985

Played 15: Won 3, Lost 3, Drawn 5, Abandoned 4.

Saturday May 4 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Won by 4 wickets
Royal Agricultural College 125 (R C A Garrett 5-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 126-6 (M M C F Jones 71)

In unprepossessing conditions we obtained a well deserved victory. The student farmers displayed a dubious knowledge of wicket husbandry by electing to bat first and finding themselves confronted by the hostile Garrett, who bowled expansively. He was ably assisted by Chris Ward, making his debut for the Pilgrims, who provided an effective foil with his medium place in swingers. In the result the College were whipped out by 2.50pm leaving us with just the excessive amount of time which can cause such havoc in a Pilgrims side. Nevertheless, Jones displayed punishing form and hit the bowlers hard and often. Garrett, promoted in the order as his mother and girlfriend were watching, found the occasion a little too much for him. Blackburn was beaten by a ball which would have beaten Garrett so it was left to O'Hanlon and Lyons to stem a minor collapse by a display of batting commensurate with their age

and ability, and which forged an encouraging victory.

Sunday May 19 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - Lost by 8 runs
Dorset XI 233-6 (T J Kent 62); Sherborne Pilgrims 225-9

To confine Dorset to 233 in their 55 overs on an easy paced pitch was a tribute to the perseverance and accuracy of the six bowlers, all of medium pace bar the slow left arm of Saunders. Simon Knechtli, in his Pilgrims debut, bowled his right arm medium pace with great gusto and on occasions extracted some surprising bounce which undid two of the first three Dorset batsmen. Saunders bowled with commendable accuracy so early in the season. However, it was early season rustiness which made it difficult for our batsmen to quickly find form and force the pace though Edwards played strongly. The hero was Saunders who unleashed a succession of powerful drives in launching a bold counter-attack, which put the match back into the balance until the last few overs. Given the lack of match practice it was overall a fine effort to have run Dorset so close.

Sunday June 2 - Cricketer Cup first round v Harrow Wanderers at Sherborne - Lost by 31 runs
Harrow Wanderers 211 (E C Gordon-Lennox 73; P R Saunders 4-28); Sherborne Pilgrims 180

This contest was disappointing in that following an outstanding fielding and bowling display by us we completely surrendered the initiative by indulging in a tentative batting display which was possibly prompted by a fear of winning. Harrow won the toss and not surprisingly chose to have first use of a slow flat wicket. All our bowlers worked hard with Tim Edwards being particularly economical, though perhaps the outstanding bowler was Saunders, whose left arm spin prompted a post lunch Harrow collapse from which they never really recovered. Indeed they lost their last seven wickets for 43 runs. A target of 211 on such an easy wicket was well within range, but against a persevering and strictly moderate Harrow attack we slipped behind the required rate, thus placing an impossible burden on the lower order. Will Rydon and Simon Knechtli briefly raised hopes with an eighth wicket stand of 40 but by then the match had become almost irretrievable.

Sunday July 7 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn
Radley Rangers 195-9 dec (H R Mendus 75; P W L Redfern 4-34); Sherborne Pilgrims 140-8

Looking around the changing room it was not entirely clear as to who would bowl for us but in an emotional moment Lough awarded the new ball to that famous post war pair of Redfern and Mason. There was little to choose between the two of them save that Redfern bowled well. Before the tarmac had completely ruined the new ball, Lyons replaced Mason and his particular brand of left arm swing bowling caused the run rate to change and allow Gent to bowl an extended spell of leg breaks. He was ably assisted by the wicket keeping of Michael Wingfield Digby who missed the earlier part of the match owing to the accelerator pedal having come away from his car.

Mention must be made of the fine bowling of Redfern who, despite the damage done to the new ball by Mason's deliveries, bowled with skill and patience. Our innings flowered quickly but was then suddenly cut down in its prime by a fine spell of leg spin bowling by Gale and in the end we were lucky to escape with a draw.

Saturday July 13 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 214-5 dec (D M G Wright 74*); Sherborne Pilgrims 116-3 - Rain

With a powerful pace attack we put the School in to bat but their openers took full toll of some initially rather plain bowling. At 55-0, after little more than half an hour, we were wondering whether we had done the right thing. In the event we reduced the School to 127-5. However, the absence of an adequate spin attack was a sore handicap to us and allowed the middle order to retrieve the situation. We made a spirited reply with Blackburn showing particularly fine form but, with 40 minutes to go and 99 runs needed for victory, the rain came.

Sunday July 14 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Won by 7 wickets
Marlborough Blues 151 (R C A Garrett 5-29); Sherborne Pilgrims 154-3 (G A Tice 51)

This was a comprehensive victory in which the Blues were completely outbatted and outbowled, and one which provided ample revenge for the indignities inflicted on us in the previous year. On a damp, grey and misty day the Blues elected to bat first on a somewhat grassy wicket and were immediately confronted with a hostile piece of pace bowling by Blackburn, who extracted considerable left from the wicket. However, the outstanding bowler was Garrett who, reducing his pace and concentrating on accuracy, completely undermined the Blues innings with the admirable assistance of the debutant Tice who took the astonishing number of five slip catches, four of them off Garrett. Not satisfied with his contribution so far, Tice went on to open our innings and take 51 runs off a most competent attack. He ran out Isaac but generally showed great judgement. Michael Wingfield Digby no doubt would have stayed with Tice a little longer had he not been hit on the head by a short ball. Happily he was soon restored to his normal self. It was left to Eckersley-Maslin and Edwards to guide us home to the most satisfying victory of the season.

Saturday July 20 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Abandoned

Sunday July 21 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Town 202-6 dec (N S Arnold 70*); Sherborne Pilgrims 143-6 (R A Rice 86)

This match was remarkable for the return to form of Rice who played superbly for his 86. He placed us in a position to make a serious challenge on the Town's total had it not been for the rain.

Monday July 22 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 83-6 - Rain

Another miserable wet day saw our batsmen looking at the rain clouds rather than

the ball. The weather won all too soon.

Tuesday July 23 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Dorset Rangers 222-8 dec (A G M Watson 106); Sherborne Pilgrims 223-5 (R A Rice 115)

To the relief of all, the skies cleared and we had an uninterrupted match. Watson played exceedingly well for his 106, his second century in successive years in this fixture. Given the easiness of the pitch the Rangers total was by no means a large one and this became rapidly apparent when Rice came to the crease and proceeded to play a succession of delightful strokes in his best innings by far for the Pilgrims. He was well supported by Blackburn and Spink, and victory was obtained with time to spare.

Wednesday July 24 v Wiltshire Queries at Sherborne - Drawn
Wiltshire Queries 196 (J R Drew 5-60); Sherborne Pilgrims 155-9 (G P Gent 4-69)

This was a renewed fixture and provided an evenly matched contest. It was a little difficult at times to know which side was the Pilgrims. We won the toss and inserted the Queries on an easy paced pitch. Cassell played promisingly, but the foundation of their innings was provided by Lyons who, in an innings of artistry and charm, drew the fire out of our varied attack, for whom Drew bowled dreadfully to obtain five wickets, three of them falling to rank long hops. Our innings began unpromisingly with Isaac committing the cardinal sin of leaving Redfern's straight ball (a delivery which Redfern had worked on in winter nets). A serious challenge was mounted by Rydon and Blackburn but we found ourselves in trouble against the leg spin of Gent and off-spin of Morton, and in the end were struggling to avoid defeat.

Sunday July 28 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Abandoned

Saturday August 3 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Abandoned

Saturday August 10 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

Sunday September 1 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 16 runs
Cobham 188 (W J Rydon 4-29); Sherborne Pilgrims 172 (R C A Garrett 69*)

This was an afternoon match owing to the home club's lunchtime catering difficulties. Rydon bowled his slow medium in swingers to great effect and we did well to restrict Cobham to 188. We were in all sorts of trouble until Garrett arrived at the crease and in a pungent and vociferous display, during which he hit three sixes, brought respectability to our score and could even have secured victory had he not run out the last batsman, a lamentable and uncharacteristic lapse of judgement.

1986

Played 15: Won 3, Lost 7, Drawn 5.

Saturday May 3 v Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester - Won by 40 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 183 (E P J F Lyons 52; C A Lloyd 4-23); Royal Agricultural College 143 (Lyons 5-38)

A convincing, if not resounding, victory to start the season was marked by some unusually spectacular Pilgrims catching. Of the six chances offered five were taken, three of them by Chris Ward in the deep. Our innings largely revolved around a stand of 68 between Rydon and Lyons, with useful contributions from Isaac (21) and Rice (25). The opposition batting seemed only to have one gear as they tore into our attack as though they were late for the milking, and ran their runs as if afflicted with warble fly. As wickets fell their run rate merely increased until in a blaze of glory they were sunk without trace - befooled by the slow left arm trickery of Lyons, aided and abetted by the glutinous hands of Ward.

Sunday May 18 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 196-7 (T D W Edwards 90, M M C F Jones 68); Dorset XI 199-6 (A Kennedy 56, G S Calway 55)

We won the toss and, in a 55 over match, elected to bat on an easy wicket. A magnificent opening partnership of 150 between Edwards and Jones laid the foundation of our innings, with Edwards being particularly strong off his legs, and in addition producing a number of powerful cover and straight drives. Jones kept pace in his methodic way marked by a series of fine on drives, including a prodigious blow for six. At 117-0 with 19 overs to go we might have hoped for a few more runs than we actually got, but wickets fell in the chase, and none of the later batsmen were in long enough to get their eyes fully accustomed to the conditions. Dorset were made to fight every inch of the way. Fine swing bowling by Edwards, Justin Fish and Richard Arkell, aided by some enthusiastic outfielding, kept them under pressure but they eventually squeezed home with two balls to spare. The foundation of their innings was a partnership of 115 for the fourth wicket by Calway and Kennedy.

Sunday June 1 - Cricketer Cup first round v Downside Wanderers at Sherborne - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 196-8; Downside Wanderers 199-3 (R T Vyvyan 74, A R Bernard 56)

A winning margin of seven wickets did not flatter our opponents whose batting was far more purposeful than ours had been earlier in the day. On losing the toss we were put in to bat on a green but slow wicket. Edwards played well for his 37 but a lunch score of 100 off 36 overs was really too slow in the circumstances against strictly moderate bowling. After lunch we were guilty of some casual batting but Saunders played a fine attacking rear guard innings which culminated in the final two balls of the innings going for six. A score of 196 really put the onus on the bowlers, but sadly both line and length were lacking as Downside, mercilessly punishing the many loose balls presented to them, raced to 96 off 22 overs before the first wicket fell. They were never under any pressure and victory was secured with ten overs left.

Sunday July 6 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 248-4 dec (M M C F Jones 126*, A D Leahey 80); Radley Rangers 212-6 (R J Flory 53, C H H Pegg 50*)

On a perfect batting wicket Jones and Leahey hammered the Radley attack to all parts of the ground. Rowe and Wingfield Digby (J M), like the poor, are always with us, but on this occasion failed to make their usual quota of runs. Radley fared badly against the fierce pace bowling of the burly Wilson and were much relieved to come to the green and pleasant bowling of Rowe and Redfern who, in spells of economy of both guile and accuracy, prised Radley back into the game for a brief while before they put up the shutters for a rather disappointing draw.

Saturday July 12 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 164 (P M S Slade 4-34, A R Vassigh 4-53); Sherborne School 140-6 (N H Peters 61; A I C Wilson 5-29)

A very modest batting performance against the best School attack for some years saw us reduced to 87-8, before Lough and Fisher (26) gave the score some respectability. Any thoughts the School might have had of an easy victory were shattered by the vibrant fast bowling of Wilson, who took the first five wickets, four of them clean bowled. From such beginnings the School's ambitions withered and they were content to play out for a draw with able batting from Peters.

Sunday July 13 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 4 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (S J Baillie-Hamilton 4-59); Marlborough Blues 179-6 (S E Battersby 63)

A rather patchy batting performance, in which Eckersley-Maslin and Rice both played well, saw us to 178, which given the paucity of our bowling attack seemed to be manifestly inadequate; and so it proved with Marlborough getting there in 39 overs though Gent toiled away manfully with his leg spinners.

Saturday July 19 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 205-6 dec (R A Rydon 87); Honourable Artillery Company 160-8

A pugnacious innings from Rydon, together with a solid contribution from Isaac, gave us a fine start to the week. They put on 124 for the second wicket in even time. HAC never mastered a varied attack, and unlike many found Gent a source of considerable mystery but, in spite of being 138-8 with six overs left, managed to hold out for a draw.

Sunday July 20 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Lost by 50 runs

Sherborne Town 227-7 dec (G S Calway 79, J D Clarke 58, I C D Stuart 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 177 (C Stone 56; S Sawney 5-57)

The Town made light of our bowling on a good wicket and declared after 53 overs.

Eckersley-Maslin made a useful 34 in an hour but, with the notable exception of Stone, the rest did not offer. Extras at 27 were the third highest score by a long way.

Monday July 21 v Somerset Stragglers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 213-6 dec (M M C F Jones 90, R M Eckersley-Maslin 50);
Somerset Stragglers 147-9 (S Larder 57; R A Rydon 5-31)

The Stragglers were thoroughly outplayed and fortunate to escape with a draw. A fine opening partnership of 107 between Jones and Eckersley-Maslin enabled the later batsmen to chase for quick runs. The Stragglers were always in trouble against a competent attack and found Rydon particularly difficult to cope with. However, they defended stoutly to deny us what would have been a well merited victory.

Tuesday July 22 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 8 runs
Dorset Rangers 225-9 dec (S W D Rintoul 113, J R Tozer 59; J J Fisher 4-53);
Sherborne Pilgrims 217 (M M C F Jones 55)

The Rangers won the toss and elected to bat in perfect conditions. The Pilgrim Rintoul made an excellent century and the treachery was compounded with 59 from Tozer. Mention should be made of the tireless Gould, increasingly regarded as the Mahatma of modern slow bowling, who toiled with the thoughtful meanness (34 off 17 overs) to keep the Rangers in check. Our reply was fitful - Jones was again in fine form and was well supported by Gould and Henderson, but their hard work was to no avail as, in the dying moments, Ward played a shot of rare negligence to snatch defeat from the jaws of a respectable draw. The fact that he was caught by Gent off the bowling of Richard Scott (yet another Pilgrim) in the last over made it all the more annoying!

Wednesday July 23 v Wiltshire Queries at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
Wiltshire Queries 134; Sherborne Pilgrims 137-4 (M M C F Jones 61)

The Queries never got going and the only stand of any consequence was 43 for the seventh wicket by Lawson and Cleaver (25). Morton and Gould bowled their spinners to good effect. After losing an early wicket, Jones and Cooke put on 107 and this led to victory with time to spare.

Sunday July 27 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 262-5 dec (T D W Edwards 108*, J N W Edwards 63); Old
Tonbridgians 263-2 (J Owen-Browne 108, E M Wesson 89)

This was our best batting display of the season with the Edwards brothers in their contrasting styles taking the bowling by the scruff of the neck to set Tonbridge with a challenging task. It should have been, but with only nine men and scant bowling resources, we were in no position to stem the runs which flowed from the bats of the openers who put on 188. Tonbridge reached their target in just 42 overs. We only had ourselves to blame.

Saturday August 2 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 153 (C Bazalgette 4-23); Hampshire Hogs 155-3 (M G Molden 62*, P R C Came 52)

We were indebted to Isaac, Rydon and latterly Spink, without whom our innings would have been an extremely sorry story. As it was 153 was a modest enough score, especially in view of our exiguous bowling resources. Not surprisingly the Hogs fed greedily on the generous offerings and, in spite of being 42-3, coasted to victory with great ease.

Saturday August 9 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn
Bluemantles 235-4 dec (W J Wesson 104, S H C Cosstick 52*); Sherborne Pilgrims 204-7 (R J W Proctor 90; B N Grainger 4-75)

We were unable to make much impact on the Bluemantles batting following an early breakthrough by Lyons, whose use of the new ball reminded many of his spells with the old one. Our reply was robust. That Viking of the north, Proctor, played a pathfinding innings of 90 in which he first pillaged and then laid waste to the bowling - however upon his departure the necessary momentum could not be maintained. Number eight had said that he had to leave early for London to get back to dinner with his girlfriend. As he was stumped second ball he will have had mixed feelings as his train was heard to leave from the nearby station. The fall of this wicket and others further reduced our chances and the match subsided to a draw.

Sunday August 31 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 4 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 185-9 dec (M M C F Jones 86; A R Black 4-61); Cobham 181 (G Stuckey 93; A I C Wilson 4-43)

A match where the fortunes of both sides fluctuated throughout the day and which culminated in an exciting finish. We won the toss, and on an untypically slow damp Cobham wicket, were indebted to the ever improving Jones, whose anchor innings of 86 was punctuated by many fine legside strokes to take his Pilgrims runs for the season to 507 (average 56) - an altogether splendid contribution. Mason (23) gave sound support before we declared. Cobham set off well with 51 for the first wicket, which became 51-2 and then 164-4. The fiery pace of Wilson, in his second spell, was too much for the middle order. Nevertheless, Stuckey kept going and was only out in the last over - caught by Jones on the long on boundary going for the winning hit.

1987

Played 15: Won 5, Lost 5, Drawn 5.

Sunday May 3 v Keble College at Oxford - Won by 87 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 212-5 dec (J M Wingfield Digby 59); Keble College 125 (A J Berens 68; W J Rydon 5-22)

On a slow wicket Michael Wingfield Digby played the first of many fine innings in what turned out to be a prodigious summer for him. Lyons played sternly, as is proper for a captain, and it was disappointing to see him out two balls after lunch just 74 short of his century. The innings was given much needed impetus by Mason and Will Rydon, neither of whom were afraid to play the lofted shot, and their rapid stand of 64 enabled us to make an early declaration. Rydon went on to further distinguish himself by taking five Keble wickets, of which three were taken by surprise and the remaining two by balls that pitched. With Rob Rydon (2-14) bowling with great hostility at the other end, the Keble batting fell into disarray though the tail enders defended with spirit.

Sunday May 17 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - No result
Dorset XI 184-4 (A Kennedy 66); Sherborne Pilgrims 57-2 - Rain

Dorset won the toss and batted first in overcast and drizzly conditions which made bowling extremely difficult. After a number of interruptions for rain the 55 over match was reduced to 41 overs. However, the rain worsened and in the end it was a relief that the match was called off after we had batted for only 14 overs.

Sunday May 31 - Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
Rugby Meteors 186 (P M S Slade 4-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 189-4 (J N W Edwards 96, M M C F Jones 56)

We lost the toss and Rugby elected to bat on an easy paced wicket in bright sunshine. They were never able to assert themselves as a result of fine accurate bowling, particularly from Ward (2-22) and Slade, with the latter's four wickets all being bowled or lbw. Indeed, that was the method of dismissal of all the Meteors bar one, who was stumped. Our reply was dominated by a fine attacking knock from Edwards whose innings was probably his best for the Pilgrims to date; he was well supported by Jones, and they put on 150 for the second wicket. We won with seven overs to spare; a rare, but welcome, victory in the Cricketer Cup.

Sunday June 21 - Cricketer Cup second round v Uppingham Rovers at Uppingham - Lost by 21 runs
Uppingham Rovers 163 (D A Stewart 52; P M S Slade 5-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 142 (N D N Pull 4-29)

A match which brought sharply into focus the manifest frailties of our batting. We did extremely well to dismiss Uppingham for 163 and, even though the wicket was not easy, we never really came to terms with the task. Our bowling was excellent with Slade being outstanding - he kept the ball right up to the bat and his accuracy can be demonstrated by the fact that he clean bowled all his five victims. Blackburn also bowled well conceding 14 runs off his 12 overs, and all in all at the half way stage, whilst it was recognised that the Uppingham total would not be an easy one to pass on a pitch which was severely restricting stroke play, there was nevertheless reasonable cause for optimism. However, in spite of an opening partnership of 42 by

Jones (27) and Eckersley-Maslin (20) our innings never gathered momentum with no-one establishing himself, and as soon as the asking rate crept up to four an over we were in real difficulties for, despite the modest bowling, it was extremely hard to force the pace on a pitch of Plasticine-like qualities. Thus disappointment again, though much encouragement could be found from the fine performances of the bowlers in both rounds of the competition.

Sunday July 5 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 188-7 dec (P J Lough 52*); Radley Rangers 190-5

Inept batting by us on a perfect wicket against ordinary bowling left Radley with a relatively simple task which they accomplished without much obstruction from our bowlers. Our innings would have been in a really sorry state had it not been for a staunch knock of 52 from Lough who brought to bear all the experience gained by him over the last two decades - it is rumoured that Lough has now gone to Australia to join the expanding Pilgrims community out there. A forward defensive shot resulting in his being stumped for nought caused Wilson to suffer a muscular seizure and limited his pace bowling contribution, which proved a considerable handicap when trying to knock down some early Radley wickets. Coming into this match with an increasing reputation as a mystery bowler, Rowe found himself against batsmen who refused to be puzzled by his ability to vary his length without any apparent change in his action - it is now thought that he will increasingly devote his time to commentary. Truth to say Radley were in no way tested by our bowling and no real pressure was brought to bear on them.

Saturday July 11 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 250-4 dec (S W D Rintoul 96, D W Thorne 58); Sherborne School 164-7 (A Kardooni 54)

Ultimately a somewhat tedious game with the School appearing to have no ambition other than to salvage a draw. In a way this was understandable for their bowlers had been severely battered. At lunch we were 153-1 and declared at 3.15. Rintoul, in his first game for the Pilgrims, played most impressively for his 96. To bowlers he must appear an imposing figure at the crease and, with a variety of strokes at his command, he was always seeking to dominate the bowling. With Thorne playing an attractive innings of 58, runs came at a great pace. Psychologically perhaps our total was a little too large for the School and, despite our bowling 61 overs at them, of which one third was leg spin, they never really sought to attack, though Kardooni played some attractive strokes.

Sunday July 12 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 80 runs
Marlborough Blues 236 (J T Burrell 90, S E Battersby 79; W J Rydon 6-43); Sherborne Pilgrims 156 (Battersby 5-24)

We performed reasonably in dismissing the Blues for 236, especially as at one stage they were 214-3. For this we must be thankful to Rydon whose swerve bowling confounded their middle and lower order. We started our innings in great attacking

vein with Jones and Wingfield Digby putting on 86 runs in quick time - from that high point we tumbled into utter disrepair with wide holes being blown into it by the hostile pace bowling of Battersby, although Fisher defended manfully for 25.

Saturday July 18 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Drawn
Honourable Artillery Company 247-4 dec (T M S Wright 126*, C March 53);
Sherborne Pilgrims 241-8 (J M Wingfield Digby 58)

On a benign wicket, against bowling so polite that to take a wicket would be regarded as a grave discourtesy to our first guests of the week, the HAC compiled runs in complete comfort. We were playing 12 a side. Our batsmen similarly enjoyed the offerings of the HAC bowlers with Wingfield Digby, Spink and Drew all playing forceful innings - in particular Spink struck some huge blows showing the technique acquired in the course of earning his Rowing Blue - his efforts almost snatched victory out of the jaws of a draw. It was nice to see Isaac in his third match of the year open his account with a spirited innings of 27.

Monday July 20 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne (Terrace) - Won by 6 wickets
Sherborne Town 92 (G P Gent 5-18); Sherborne Pilgrims 93-4

In deference to their 150 year celebrations we agreed to play the Town on the Terrace and fielded our most powerful team of the week. Although we won, the match was a disappointment because the Town were much under strength and never made a match of it. However, mention should be made of Gent who in 18.4 overs of leg spin took 5-18. In our reply Jones played well for his 39, but an unevenly contested match ended with time to spare.

Tuesday July 21 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 28 runs
Dorset Rangers 158 (R A Matthews 4-54); Sherborne Pilgrims 130 (M L Morton 6-30)

Over the years we may have been complacent about our chances of beating the Rangers. This year we were put in our place. The bowlers did well in getting the Rangers 116-8 but allowed Scott to get what turned out to be a vital 38 at number ten. Nevertheless we had a good start, but 63-1 rapidly turned into an uncontrolled slide caused by the thoughtful off breaks from Morton.

Wednesday July 22 v Old Tauntonians at Taunton - Drawn
Old Tauntonians 119 (R C A Garrett 5-44); Sherborne Pilgrims 113-9

The best game of the week. This was a new fixture and for the first year we agreed to play at Taunton. We found our opponents a powerful and well organised team but we responded well to the challenge and, in an inspired bowling display on a wicket offering some help to the fast bowlers, we routed them for 119. Leading the bowling honours was Garrett who, in 23.4 overs of accurate, hostile bowling, took 5-44. We immediately realised that our march to victory would not be a formality when Taunton revealed a battery of competent bowlers led by the hostile speed of Grant, who was very sharp indeed. Nevertheless, whilst nobody actually established themselves,

everybody made a valuable contribution, though at 85-6 things were getting a bit tight. We continued to inch our way towards the Taunton total, but three unnecessary run outs damaged our cause to such an extent that we were left to fight out the final few overs to secure a tense draw. A fair end to a most enjoyable game.

Sunday July 26 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 7 wickets
Old Tonbridgians 125 (S Ross 5-40); Sherborne Pilgrims 126-3 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 51)

It is a pleasure to be able to report about a rare victory against illustrious opponents, and a substantial one at that. We were well captained by Michael Wingfield Digby who, encountering late selectorial difficulties, was compelled to draft in two "guest" Pilgrims, Ross and Browne, who both made valuable contributions to the cause. Our opponents were completely routed on a pitch offering some help to the medium pacers, who all bowled well to take full advantage of the conditions. A total of 126 is one which has been known to lure Pilgrims sides to defeat, but on this occasion the task was accomplished with panache. Our openers made a vital contribution by putting on 77 which put the result beyond all doubt and it was entirely appropriate that Captain Digby should be at the wicket at the moment of victory.

Saturday August 1 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 235-6 dec (R M Eckersley-Maslin 153); Hampshire Hogs 238-3 (R J Coles 112, R K Gifford 73*)

The enduring memory of this match will be the superb innings of Eckersley-Maslin who played outstandingly for 153; 106 came in boundaries, 16 fours and seven sixes. He played shots all around the wicket, with his boundaries primarily being the result of fine timing and placement. The extent to which his innings dominated the proceedings is revealed by the fact that when he was dismissed the score was 207-4. Unfortunately, we were well short of regular bowlers and were never able to keep the powerful Hogs' batting in check. Although they were 24-2, Coles and Gifford added a powerful 153 for the third wicket which decided the result.

Saturday August 8 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 3 wickets
Bluemantles 147; Sherborne Pilgrims 149-7

A small margin of victory flattered our opponents who were outplayed for most of the day in dark, overcast, but fortunately dry, conditions. The Bluemantles elected to bat on a slow green pitch. Our seam bowlers were not at their best and we quickly resorted to that wily left arm duo of Saunders (slow) and Gay (very slow) - the batsmen became increasingly frustrated by virtue of the accurate slow bowling and one by one fell to impetuous shots. A target of 147 was cause for justified optimism. Michael Wingfield Digby played doggedly for 27 and Mason, coming in when the innings had become calm, made a significant contribution of 34 to put victory well within our sights.

Sunday August 23 v Cobham at Cobham - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 179 (A R Black 6-59); Cobham 178-9 (G R C Hubbard 70*; W J Rydon 4-38, J E Gay 4-40)

On arrival at the ground Lyons was advised by his opposing captain that so weak were his forces we should dispense with the toss and bat first - this we did. That redoubtable pair, Rice (22) and Mason (20), ignoring the problems posed by a sodden pitch, struck the ball forcefully in a valuable opening stand of 44 with Rice doubling his aggregate for the season. Further impetus to the innings was given by Spink who struck five boundaries in his 34. Rowe played a resourceful innings of 41, showing considerable patience in the face of a slow pitch, and bowling much of which was wide of the stumps. The innings ended on 179 with Garrett punctuating the close with a violent blow for six. Everything went well for us with Rydon's swerve bowling defeating the Cobham early order before Gay made inroads on the middle order with his sharply dropping left arm spinners - it is thought that the recent Soviet/US Arms Agreement may limit this style of bowling in the future.

At 97-9, with three quarters of an hour left, we had high hopes on an early win. Such ponderings were rudely shattered by a violent assault perpetrated upon our bowlers by the number eleven, Hubbard, a large rough-hewn fellow of between 40 and 70 years of age who, on the occasions he connected with the ball, propelled it unerringly out of the ground. This he did frequently and Lyons, sheltering under the Pavilion, was powerless to do anything save for listening to the apologies proffered by the opposing captain for making gross misrepresentations at the start of the day. The unmerciful assault continued until we arrived at the final ball with two runs needed. Hubbard attempted another monumental blow, but thankfully missed the ball by a good two feet, and the match was over with a draw perhaps being the just result.

1988

Played 14: Won 5, Lost 2, Drawn 4, Abandoned 3.

Sunday May 1 v Keble College at Oxford - Abandoned

Sunday May 15 v Dorset XI at Sherborne - Drawn

Dorset XI 186-9 dec (G S Calway 55; P M S Slade 4-27); Sherborne Pilgrims 89-8 (J R Hall 4-28)

We put in a fine exhibition of bowling and fielding having lost the toss on a slow but good batting wicket. In particular Slade and Will Rydon (2-43) posed problems for the Dorset batsmen with their late swing, though it was Lyons who, in a comparatively short spell of one over, undid Dorset's premier batsman, Richard Lewis. Our batting was decidedly rusty and the innings was creaking at 25-6 but Clive Martin (22*) and Mason (24) tenaciously fought it out for an honourable draw.

Sunday May 29 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Wykehamists at Winchester - Lost by 9 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 77 (E J W Jackson 4-17); Old Wykehamists 78-1 (W E J Holland

53*)

In a howling gale with leaden clouds scudding across the sky we won the toss and "elected" to bat. Our batting failed woefully against a competent attack of three medium pacers and one off-spinner, all of whom took advantage of the conditions which allowed the ball to swing for most of the innings. Nevertheless, the wicket was perfectly good and it was our lack of technique which led to five of us falling to catches behind or at slip. A target of seventy seven was hardly a challenge in the circumstances and our opponents strolled to an easy victory which was completed immediately after tea.

Saturday July 2 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Sherborne School 130 (P M S Slade 4-23); Sherborne Pilgrims 131-6 (P J Hodges 4-39)

In order to accommodate speeches on the occasion of the Headmaster's last Commem, the beginning of the match was put back to 1.30pm but it still allowed plenty of time to complete a decisive victory, the cornerstone of which was the penetrative bowling of Slade and Rob Rydon complemented by the accurate, though unrewarded, swing of Will Rydon (0-20 in 15 overs) which thoroughly stifled the School batsmen. The fielding was extremely tight and was highlighted by a sharply taken catch at slip by Will Rydon off his brother's bowling. An aggressive opening stand of 37 between Slade (24) and Fergus Miller then saw us lose five wickets for 15 before Rice wrested the initiative back with a belligerent 42 which was full of powerful drives and pulls.

Sunday July 3 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Abandoned

Sunday July 10 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Abandoned

Saturday July 16 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
Honourable Artillery Company 158 (M L Morton 4-51); Sherborne Pilgrims 160-4 (C S Rix 55*)

On a wicket affording some movement for the seam bowlers and turn for the spinners we pinned the HAC down, though it took some 67 overs to dispose of them. Morton and Gould (0-16 in 12 overs) bowled well in their contrasting styles and, together with Lyons, took a measure of advantage from the conditions. In contrast the HAC bowling proved terminally languid and, led by a fine knock by the promising Rix, we won with time to spare.

Monday July 18 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 217-6 dec (D W Thorne 117*); Sherborne Town 189-7 (S J Legg 87; G P Gent 5-59)

A fine century by Thorne, which contained 21 boundaries, was the highlight of our innings and enabled us to set a challenging declaration. We immediately set the

Town back on their heels with Slade dismissing one of the openers for a duck. However, a sound innings of 87 by Legg held the innings together, although they never made a serious attempt to force a victory.

Tuesday July 19 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 260-5 dec (R M Eckersley-Maslin 87, C R Martin 63*); Dorset Rangers 200-6 (M C Wagstaffe 79, G P Gent 56)

A fine opening stand of 133 between Wingfield Digby and Eckersley-Maslin formed the base for Rice and Martin to take full toll of an ageing Rangers attack. However, the Rangers made a splendid response with fine displays from Gent and Wagstaffe. Well though Slade and Gould bowled, the Rangers were not so easily dislodged and they saved the match with ease.

Wednesday July 20 v Old Tauntonians at Sherborne - Won by 19 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 240-9 dec (N C R Isaac 52, S W D Rintoul 50); Old Tauntonians 221 (S Hogg 90, C V Goodchild 50)

This was the second fixture with Old Tauntonians and they are to be congratulated for going for victory right up to the bitter end. Though we won it is right to say that we were assisted considerably by our opponent's refusal to contemplate the idea of a draw. Our top order all got runs with Isaac emerging from a lean spell with a fine knock of 52. Our opponents' response was led by a pugnacious innings of 90 from Hogg, the current Bristol fly half. In the end their innings was wrapped up with a hostile spell of bowling from the effervescent Garrett.

Sunday July 24 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 8 wickets
Old Tonbridgians 131 (P M S Slade 4-27); Sherborne Pilgrims 132-2 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 52)

An outstanding victory against powerful opponents who were bewildered by our hostile pace bowling attack led by Slade and Blackburn. In support of the bowling there was some very sharp fielding and the whole operation was energetically directed by Michael Wingfield Digby behind the stumps. In the event our opponents were put out for the paltry score of 131 which took them 50 overs to compile. In contrast, our innings proceeded without difficulty and with Eckersley-Maslin and Blackburn both playing fine attacking knocks we achieved our target in 30 overs.

Saturday July 30 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 171-7 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 165-8 (R A Rydon 52*; P Dunn 4-28)

Our bowlers did splendidly in confining our opponents to such a modest target with Goode showing commendable accuracy and stamina to achieve 3-29 off 16 overs. Our innings never really got going until Rydon entered the arena at 74-6 and bludgeoned the hapless Hogs to such effect that the prospect of victory began to face us, and in the end the Hogs may well have felt relieved to escape with a draw.

Saturday August 6 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 3 wickets
Bluemantles 170-9 dec (W J Wesson 51; E P J F Lyons 4-42); Sherborne Pilgrims
171-7 (N A L Davis 4-41)

On the hottest day of the summer the Bluemantles rather selfishly chose to bat first on a perfect batting strip. However, their batting was kept well in check by tight swing bowling from Slade, Rydon and Lyons. Unfortunately our bowling began to suffer from sunstroke and we were unable to perform the coup de grace on their tail as a result of which we were kept in the field until 4.40pm before a declaration was forthcoming. Incensed perhaps by our extended ordeal in the sun we were determined to get the runs even though there would only be enough time for 30 overs. Everybody played their part with Rydon finally taking the bowling by the scruff of the neck and hammering it to all parts of the field. A well earned victory.

Sunday August 21 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 137 (C R Martin 56*; G Snook 4-45); Cobham 139-3 (J N W Edwards 75*)

The match was played in depressingly dark conditions though it never rained. We were put in on an emerald green wicket affording much help to the seamers but, truth to tell, our efforts, save for Jones and Martin, were inept and lacking in resolve. A score of 137 was always going to be difficult to defend on the small Cobham ground and our cause was hardly helped when we dropped Edwards before he had scored ten. Thereafter he went from strength to strength and, together with J R Garforth-Bles (25*), saw Cobham to a decisive victory.

1989

Played 14: Won 5, Lost 4, Drawn 5, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 7 v Keble College at Oxford - Won by 115 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 235-6 dec (J M P C Turner 72); Keble College 120 (S M Chaudhury 52*; P J Hodges 5-25, J E Gay 4-44)

A convincing victory provided a splendid start to the season. It was particularly pleasing to see a Pilgrims side containing a significant proportion of recent School leavers with Hodges (in his debut match) and Rix making useful contributions to the victory. An opening stand of 80 between Wingfield Digby and Turner served as a fine platform upon which Eckersley-Maslin (24), Hodges and Rix capitalised. In reply Keble made little headway against the pace of Slade (1-10 in eight overs) and ultimately were sorely puzzled by the penetrative offspin of Hodges, ably supported by the mature left arm spin of Gay.

Sunday May 14 v Old Whitgiftians at Croydon - Won by 1 run
Sherborne Pilgrims 186-9 (P J Lough 51); Old Whitgiftians 185

This new fixture provided a wonderfully exciting contest. The Old Whitgiftians' wicket

was ideal for batting, though the deceptively low bounce was the undoing of some. There was no intrinsic merit in our opponents' bowling whose initial enthusiasm turned to the philosophical resignation of those who have spent years toiling away without obtaining any measurable success. Ashworth in his debut game for the Pilgrims played attractively for his 20 until he was bowled by something of a scudder. Our mainstay proved to be Lough who, starting cautiously, blossomed out to strike five boundaries, including two sixes. His was a vital contribution and he was well aided by important innings from Garrett (22) and Slade. Slade showed a particularly violent disposition towards the bowling, with all but nine of his runs coming in boundaries.

Our opening attack of Garrett and Slade started off with great vigour, though by this time the pitch was devoid of any pace, and as time went on our opponents began to assert themselves - a tight spell of off spin by Hodges gave us a measure of control, but the target remained well within reach. With 20 overs left an effervescent display of left arm swing bowling by Lyons (2-6 in eight overs) rudely interrupted the progress of our hosts. At this stage our fielding achieved a high level of competence with Evans and Ashworth outstanding. In the final stages Slade held his nerve and, with the final ball of the penultimate over, provided the perfect yorker to secure us the match.

Sunday May 21 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 213 (R C M Henson 5-37); Radley Rangers 216-8 (G E I Cully 70*, C H H Pegg 52)

This was the second warm-up match before the first round of the Cricketer Cup and our undoing was the failure of a number of our batsmen to capitalise on their positions, having become well set. Nevertheless, Jones, Eckersley-Maslin and Slade all played well in their various ways. We seemed well set for victory with Radley at 103-5, but Cully batting at seven took the game by the scruff of the neck and, in an innings of 70, hit ten boundaries, including three sixes - a truly match winning effort.

Sunday June 4 - Cricketer Cup first round v Bradfield Waifs at Bradfield - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 187-9 (R M Graham 4-24); Bradfield Waifs 190-4 (R M F Cox 98*)

On winning the toss our hosts put us in on a wicket with a little moisture still in it to give some assistance to the bowlers. However, having become entrenched in our early cautions we lost our way and after 30 overs were only 82-2, and after 45 overs we were 141-4. These figures probably speak for themselves and it was only a vigorous innings of 28 not out by Will Rydon which enabled us to rally to 187. If our batting may have been disappointing, our bowling and fielding was splendid and, in the end, the fact that we lost the match can largely be attributed to Cox who dominated the Waifs' innings, and by doing so kept the pressure off their later batsmen. His early dismissal would have substantially enhanced our victory prospects for the remaining batsmen found batting hard going, and the Waifs only

reached their target in the last over. The match should have been played at Sherborne but, due to a "misunderstanding", the Upper was not available.

Sunday June 18 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 4 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 167 (A R Crocker 69*; J E Gay 4-33); Sherborne Pilgrims 170-6 (M M C F Jones 77)

We won the toss on a perfect day and decided to put in the Hogs on their artificial surface. The morning session was characterised by sharp fielding and accurate bowling, particularly from Hodges who bowled 17 overs for 12 runs. It wasn't long before we struck and the Hogs found themselves at 56-3 after 90 minutes play. Gay replaced Ward from the farmyard end and proceeded to fool the opposition with extremes of varying pace, length and line! The perfect delivery removed a dangerous left hander the ball before lunch, so the Hogs left the field at 75-5. Lunch usually takes its toll on the younger Pilgrims, but this time the weather, rather than the port, was beginning to induce some lethargy into the side. We missed a couple of sharp chances and allowed the Hogs to creep back into the game.

We started quickly with a useful contribution from Lough (22), but it was Jones, playing with the usual flair and indifference, pushing one's and two's and running well between the wickets, who gave a perfect demonstration of controlled batting. Further useful contributions from Rix, Hodges and Ashworth raised the score to 134-5. Jones then made his first mistake and was caught at deep extra cover. At this stage we needed 30 off the last four overs, a fair task given the Hogs' bowling strength. We plundered the attack and ran between the wickets well, which left five required off the last ten balls. A quick single, followed by a hooked top edge was all that was needed to complete the day. At last a victory at Warnford and by a very pleasant margin too.

Saturday July 1 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 137 runs
Sherborne School 227-9 dec (J R Tweedale 80); Sherborne Pilgrims 90

This was by some way the most unsatisfactory performance of the season. The School won the toss and all went reasonably well for us until the period just before and after lunch, when we completely lost control against a barrage of fine stroke play from Tweedale and Leeke batting at five and six respectively - it was a splendid exhibition of counterattacking play and, in the end, we were fortunate to keep the total down to 227. The less said about our batting the better - there was no doubt that the School attack was stronger than usual and well supported in the field. However, with the exception of Ashworth (28) our batting was feeble and we subsided without a fight.

Sunday July 2 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Cancelled

Sunday July 9 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 3 wickets
Cobham 166 (J J Fisher 6-31); Sherborne Pilgrims 167-7 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 53)

We were fortunate to win the toss on a damp overcast day and had little difficulty in deciding to invite the home team to bat. Conditions were always going to favour the bowlers and nobody used them better than Fisher. In two hostile spells he proved too much for nearly all the Cobham batsmen and finished with well earned figures of 6-31. The bowling was backed up well by some tight fielding and the two catches by Rice and Drew were of a very high standard. Our innings got off to a fine start with a fluent 53 from Eckersley-Maslin but the all too familiar middle order collapse, plus a long break for rain, meant that victory had to be earned by graft, and Drew, in appalling light and drizzle, saw us home by three wickets. Had there been a "Horlicks" award it would have undoubtedly gone to Lough who, having arrived late, immediately dropped a catch and made no runs.

Saturday July 15 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 249-7 dec (R A B Spink 77; G Meggitt 4-69); South Wales Hunt 231-7 (M G Lewis 72*, N B Morgan 69; G P Gent 4-96)

A splendid innings by Spink, who batted with the gay abandon of one recently having finished his law finals, was the highlight of a match in which bowlers could exert little influence. Spink was ably assisted by Gould and Rice, who both played attractive innings to enable us to make a challenging declaration. The Hunts were soon 13-2, but stands of 95 by Morgan and Meggitt for the third wicket, followed by 61 from Madley and Lewis for the fifth, kept them in the match. We had the glimmer of a chance at 176-6 but Lewis played sensibly and we could not dislodge him.

Sunday July 16 v Honourable Artillery Company at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Honourable Artillery Company 189 (T M S Wright 81; C Stone 4-62); Sherborne Pilgrims 190-6 (J R Drew 52, R A B Spink 52; M Scott-Ramm 4-48)

On a slow flat wicket bowling was hard work but Bagnall bowled his left arm pace with splendid enthusiasm and stamina, and his figures were scant reward; Stone bowled with his customary resource and control, and to dismiss the HAC for 189 was thoroughly creditable. Spink continued his post-law final celebrations with a vigorous 52 and Drew made a welcome return to form. It should have been all over with seven wickets to spare but Lyons and Lough were both dismissed without scoring, leaving Gould and Stone to see us home.

Monday July 17 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 194-9 dec (P J Lough 65; A Willows 5-50, G Kirsten 4-64);
Sherborne Town 162-7 (W L Soulsby 54; C Stone 5-30)

We got in difficulties against the bowling of Willows and Kirsten and, in spite of a good innings from Stone, were struggling at 82-7. Lough and Gould added a vital 78 for the eighth wicket and, when Lough was out after a two hour stint, Slade helped Gould put on 34. We batted for 76 overs but due to earlier problems could not declare any sooner. Richards (29) and Soulsby started with 91 for the first wicket, but when Stone came on he got two quick wickets and from that moment the Town lost the initiative and the match petered out into a draw.

Tuesday July 18 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Dorset Rangers 165 (R G Hansford 50*; P M S Slade 5-38); Sherborne Pilgrims 137-8 (J Dike 4-36)

By this stage of the week the Upper wicket had begun to break up which resulted in there being very little bounce and virtually no pace. The state of the wicket undoubtedly made it difficult for batsmen to score easily and for bowlers to be penetrative. Slade bowled accurately and with stamina, and well deserved his figures. A target of 165 seemed modest enough, but our batsmen found it difficult and, against the bowling of Gent and Dike, we never looked like achieving the target.

Wednesday July 19 v Old Tauntonians at Taunton - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 204-7 dec (C Stone 96); Old Tauntonians 155-8 (W Adam 84)

Played on a splendid wicket this was a most enjoyable and exciting contest with fortunes fluctuating throughout. A sixth wicket stand of 126 between Stone and Evans saved us from the dire straights of 48-5. Against a varied and competent attack Stone played strokes all around the wicket and utterly arrested the progress of our hosts. To their great credit our hosts batted in attacking vein right down the order, and it was only when they were eight wickets down that they put up the shutters. Bagnall (2-25) bowled a very fine opening spell but, for the most part, the bowling was done by the spinners, Stone and Gent, who both toiled away with great effect to secure three wickets apiece.

Sunday July 23 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Old Tonbridgians 219-7 dec (R W Holmes 61, J M W Sale 55); Sherborne Pilgrims 210-8 (R G Gutteridge 54, C Stone 50*; R Owen-Browne 5-59)

The previous two years had seen our hosts suffer heavy defeat at our hands. On this occasion, however, we were sadly depleted and fortunate to escape with a draw. Our mainstay was Stone whose bowling and batting was of a high order. We did well to confine the OT's to 219 on a perfect track but our batting found the going somewhat taxing and we did well to get as close as we did.

Saturday August 5 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 225-8 dec (I Fuller 53; R B Marriott 5-68); Bluemantles 227-4 (B N Grainger 90, B J MacGibbon 64)

On a beautiful white batting track we did ourselves less than justice in scoring 225. Our batting was disrupted by a bowler of some three score years who posed a problem, which has so often undone batsmen in the past, namely, whether to try to hit the ball for four or six. Five of us succumbed and it was only thanks to the lower order batsmen that we were able to set a reasonable target: we thought it was reasonable, but on reflection a target of 400 might have been more appropriate. The Bluemantles tore into us with no bowler being exempted from severe punishment. We were flogged all over the ground and the lack of a regular spin bowler proved to

be a sore handicap. A fine performance by the Bluemantles, who attacked throughout. They batted for 43 overs compared to our 60 and that sums up the day.

1990

Played 18: Won 10, Lost 3, Drawn 4, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 6 v Keble College at Oxford - Won by 183 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 257-5 dec (D W Thorne 133, R A Matthews 51; M G Evans 4-62);
Keble College 74

We were up against weak opposition and this allowed Thorne and Matthews to put on 121 for the second wicket. Thorne scored 82 in boundaries and this indicates the punishment he exacted on the bowling. We used eight bowlers, six of whom were in the wickets, and Keble put up little fight with their batting lacking in technique and experience.

Sunday May 13 v Old Whitgiftians at Croydon - Won by 5 wickets
Old Whitgiftians 168 (Waterfield 53; W J Rydon 4-24); Sherborne Pilgrims 170-5 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 76*)

This was a trial match prior to selection of the side for the first round of the Cricketer Cup and played under the rules of that competition. It was a match won by our bowlers, of whom Rydon and Blackburn, with their contrasting methods of late swing and movement off the pitch respectively, were much to the fore. In fact, the opposition's batsmen were unable to dominate any of our bowlers and were always under pressure. Against a modest target our reply was emphatically positive with Eckersley-Maslin leading the way.

Sunday May 20 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 32 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 247-9 (R M Eckersley-Maslin 111; J H Nash 5-73); Radley Rangers 215 (C H H Pegg 88, C R Morris-Adams 63)

This was another trial match for the Cricketer Cup and played under the rules of that competition, save that there was no restriction on the number of overs allowed to a bowler. Eckersley-Maslin put on 59 for the first wicket with de la Hey (23) and 133 for the second wicket with Thorne. At lunch we were 133-5 off 35 overs and therefore had secured a bridgehead from which to launch an assault on the opposition in the final 20 overs, which task was well carried out by Eckersley-Maslin, aided by the Symondsons. Despite some tight bowling from us Pegg and Adams put on 130 for the Rangers first wicket. However, Thorne's innocent off breaks made the breakthrough, which Garrett and Slade with their aggressive pace bowling capitalised upon, leading the Rangers to lose their last six wickets for 29 runs.

Sunday June 3 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Merchant Taylors' at Croxley Green -
No result
Old Merchant Taylors' 8-0 - Rain

We took the field, but after four eventful overs, which contained seven wides and a single, the rain started and did not stop. After an excellent lunch in the spacious Clubhouse the replay was arranged for the following Sunday at Sherborne.

Sunday June 10 - Cricketer Cup first round replay v Old Merchant Taylors' at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
Old Merchant Taylors' 188-9 (R J Wolff 63); Sherborne Pilgrims 189-8

OMTs won the toss and elected to bat. This was awkward as we were still two short, with Evans and Slade held up by Boscombe Down Air Show traffic. However, they arrived at 11.29 and we started at 11.30 without them. We were playing on the wicket the Colts had used the previous day until rained off at 4.30pm. It looked flat and true but with a bit of moisture.

The opening over was dramatic with only nine fielders, a leg bye from the first ball and off the third ball a short run to Eckersley-Maslin at cover who hit the stumps at the bowler's end like Clive Lloyd or Colin Bland; score 1-1. This was our last success for some time as Rob Rydon and Garrett strived for a break through. The OMT captain, Wolff, an excellent left hand striker, played a fluent innings and kept the score moving with well placed shots through mid wicket and good extra cover drives. After 20 overs the score was 64-1 and with Wolff in fine form, and neither batsmen in any trouble, a large total beckoned unless we could get a wicket and slow the scoring rate.

The first ball of the 24th over was a potential turning point - Wolff, on 40, tried to force Will Rydon on the on side, missed, and was well out of his ground, but de la Hey, although taking the ball cleanly, was moving to his right and failed to remove the bails. Wolff celebrated his escape with a lofted drive over mid on and in the 27th over reached a fine 50. In the 34th over Wolff stroked Garrett through the covers for three, but Thorne, in going for a run out, threw the ball over the wicket keeper's head for an overthrow; an all run four. Maybe this was part of the plan because off the next ball Wolff, in trying to turn Garrett to leg, got a thick outside edge and Evans took a well judged catch at extra cover; a very good 63 and we were pleased to see him depart. At the lunch interval OMTs were 132-2 after 38 overs - a run rate of 3.47 per over. This left us with a further 17 overs to bowl which at, say, five an over would leave a target of 217.

The first few overs after lunch were going to be crucial and we needed a wicket. Slade started from the Pavilion end with Will Rydon at the bottom end and after 40 overs the score was 138-2. In the 42nd over Rydon was hit for two boundaries by Ducat who was promptly out to a good catch for 49. Two overs later Blackburn replaced Rydon at the bottom end. An inspired change? The second ball comprehensively bowled number five for a duck - 157-4. It was now vital to keep the pressure on as Smith, the number four, was on 18 and starting to look dangerous. The next ball number six was lbw and Blackburn was on a hat trick, which did not materialise - score 157-5. After 40 overs Rob Rydon replaced Slade at the Pavilion

end and bowled a maiden. The next over saw a fine attempt by Thorne, at mid on, to catch Smith but the score went on to 167-5. Two runs came off Rydon's next over and in the following over number seven was caught at the wicket off Blackburn - score 169-6 with five overs left. Rydon bowled number eight for a duck and the score was 170-7 with four overs left.

It had been an excellent 13 overs for us with only 38 runs scored and five wickets falling. Three runs came off the next over and then Rydon bowled number nine for a duck - score 174-8 with two overs left. In his last over Blackburn missed a hard caught and bowled from Smith - it was travelling fast but a chance. Smith took seven off the rest of the over and the final over saw a run out and seven runs. This was a good performance, even if the bowling was somewhat wayward with five wides. However, we bowled straight when it really mattered. It was interesting that three batsmen and extras were responsible for 185 of the 188 scored. The fielding was excellent with some 25 runs saved by good stopping and chasing. This was probably the key difference between the two sides. The main concern must be the 29 extras; five wides, five byes and 19 leg byes.

So the scene was set - the light good, the wicket slow and the ball not coming on to the bat, the outfield somewhat quicker than before lunch, the time 3.25pm and the target 189 or 3.4 an over. Not an easy task, but with sensible batting and good running between the wickets it should be on. Gent and Turner made a cautious start with 17 coming off the first seven overs. Nicholson, bowling medium pace up the hill and moving the ball in the air and off the wicket, was not easy to get away, and in the eighth over Gent was caught at cover trying to loft the ball over the top. Thorne immediately had trouble with his timing on the slow wicket. There was no need to take undue risks at this stage but only eleven came off the next eight overs and we seemed to be getting bogged down.

However, in the next over Turner hit Hampel, the slow left arm spinner, for six. In the 20th over there was an all run four, which might have been five, but it was difficult to tell whether it was Turner or Thorne who was slowing down! After 20 overs the score was 46-1, whereas OMTs had been 64-1 at the same stage. Thorne appeared to be trying to hit the ball too hard but as soon as he started to play within himself the runs began to flow and 12 came off the next two overs. Unfortunately, in the 23rd over he forgot the rule of "no hooking on the Upper" and was lbw on the back foot to Walter, the other spinner. It kept low but that is the reason for the rule. After 24 overs the score was 64-2 and this saw the end of an excellent twelve overs from Nicholson. His analysis of 12-7-17-1 was just reward for some intelligent bowling.

The final session started with us needing 124 off 30 overs - a rate of 4.13 - with eight wickets in hand, Turner on 31 and Eckersley-Maslin yet to score. We needed to accelerate but the target was still achievable if we played sensibly. In the second over Eckersley-Maslin, who had played so well at Radley, was lbw on the back foot to Walter and we were 67-3. Blackburn joined Turner and in the 30th over the latter was out. The ball was relatively wide outside the off stump and kept very low; in trying to force it away Turner hit his wicket. A most unfortunate way to get out but a

valuable innings of 39. The score 77-4 with 112 to get in 25 overs - a rate of 4.48 an over. This was a testing moment for Evans to come in, playing in his first Cricketer Cup match. After a quiet look at the bowling he hit two consecutive boundaries over mid on, followed by a third through the covers. A good start.

After 32 overs it was 93-4, and three overs later we started on the final twenty, requiring 88 runs with six wickets in hand; the prospect of an interesting finish. Off the first ball of the 38th over Blackburn was caught at shortish mid wicket as a result of a compromise between a defensive and a hard hit lofted shot over the top. Score 109-5 and enter de la Hey. His first Cricketer Cup and a difficult situation, but any thoughts that an older hand might have been sent in were dispelled when he scampered three two's off his first three balls. Disaster came with the next ball which he put through mid wicket for a comfortable single but, in going for the second, Evans was run out by a wide margin. A bad over for us with two wickets; score 116-6 and the run rate now 4.29, but who could score those runs?

Will Rydon joined de la Hey and in the next six overs 15 runs came, leaving a rate of 5.1 an over. Walter (2-35) finished his tidy spell from the Pavilion end and Whiles, the opening bowler, returned. On the slow wicket a quicker bowler might be easier to score off? This dream was rudely interrupted when de la Hey was yorked by the second ball and Rob Rydon came in to partner his brother. The score was a dismal 133-7. At the end of the over (the 45th) we had advanced to 137, helped by three separate wides. Was this an omen of good fortune? Only 52 were wanted off the last ten overs but, with respect to Slade and Garrett, it was vital not to lose a wicket until more runs were on the board. With some sensible batting and picking the right ball to hit, the Rydons added 45 in the next eight overs; nothing dramatic but consistent pressure on the fielding side with 5, 9, 3, 8, 4, 3, 3, 10 from these overs. We therefore required seven from the last two overs.

Rob chipped the first ball over mid wicket for two. What followed was pure Whitehall farce, although it did not feel quite like that at the time. Rob hit the next ball hard and high towards the Sheds; the fielder signalled a six and we had won! But, no. The square leg umpire ruled that it was only a four, so we needed a single to win. Rob hit the next ball into the covers and set off for what he considered to be a run but his brother was run out. No comment, except that in the event of the scores being level at the end, it is the side losing fewer wickets that wins. OMTs made 188 for 9; we were now 188 for 8 and if Slade and Garrett were both out we would have blown it. However, we need not have worried. Slade played out the rest of the over and Rob steered an outside edge for a single off the first ball of the last over.

This was a good win, even if we had some worrying moments. It was a fine effort to slow the OMTs scoring rate after lunch and equally pleasing when the Rydons took control of the game in the closing overs. The main difference was in the fielding where we saved many runs, whereas they gave a few away; other opponents will not be so kind.

Sunday June 17 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 4 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 200 (J M P C Turner 52); Hampshire Hogs 196 (M G Moldon 57; P J Hodges 4-38)

The score is testimony to an exciting and hard fought game. Turner and Quinlan played soundly and later on, when the innings was in danger of becoming unduly modest in size, Eckersley-Maslin and Rice (21) made valuable contributions. The Hogs were initially confident in their response but, against the off spin of Hodges, were unable to sustain their challenge and collapsed with their last seven batsmen offering a total of 20 runs as their contribution to the game.

Sunday June 24 - Cricketer Cup second round v Old Malvernians at Malvern - Lost by 73 runs

Old Malvernians 177-7; Sherborne Pilgrims 104

We played in dark and cold conditions which were present throughout the day. The cricket ground is cut into the side of the Malvern Hills and enjoys a long straight boundary but, more significantly, very short square boundaries over which a six is deemed to count four. The Malvernians batted first on a grassy wicket which was almost white in complexion. Rydon had won the toss but, as soon as he decided to field, a heavy drizzle fell for some time, and when play started 25 minutes late the outfield and ball were wet. At lunch they were 72-3 off 30 overs. Shortly after lunch, with all our bowlers having maintained an immaculate line and length, the Malvernians subsided to 126-6; but a seventh wicket rally between Murray and Price saw the score move from 126 to 177 in the space of the last six overs with many of these runs coming via the square boundaries. Nevertheless, to have confined the home team to 177 was testimony to the hard work of our bowlers and a marvellously sustained fielding performance.

By tea we were 65-1 off 25 overs. This was the high point of our expectation for a target of 112 off the last 30 overs, even allowing for the fact that there was some help in the pitch for the bowlers, was well attainable. The fact that our remaining nine wickets were disposed of for a meagre 39 runs can partly be explained by the tight offspin of Murray (2 for 31) and the cleverly flighted left arm spin of Ashworth. Because the bowlers were undoubtedly competent and experienced, they were able to make the best out of a wicket which gave them a little help, but there is no doubt that many of the strokes played were ill-chosen.

Given the modesty of the target it needed but one batsman to play a substantial innings, and the pressure would then have reverted on to the bowlers; instead, for the majority of our innings, the bowlers had two batsmen who were both unestablished. In the end the margin of victory did not really reflect the fact that for three quarters of the game the result was in the balance. It should be recorded that the Malvernians went on to win the competition.

Saturday June 30 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 212 (R H F Pugsley 4-73); Sherborne School 209-9 (W F F Hughes 64)

We were given a good start by Webb and Quinlan (21) with 47 for the first wicket and lunched at 100-2. In trying to force the pace against a tight School attack we were soon 135-7, but Knechtli came to the rescue. The slow start and middle order collapse prevented us setting a challenging total as we had to bat for 60 overs. Tea was taken between the innings and the School batted with great enterprise to get within four runs of victory in only 40 overs. Two run outs towards the end upset their chances, but it would have been a cruel blow to have lost their unbeaten record after dominating for so much of the day.

Friday July 6 v Downside Wanderers at Sherborne - Cancelled

Saturday July 7 v Old Aluredians at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 313-2 dec (C Stone 138*, R A L Leach 73*, R A Bagnall 58); Old Aluredians 186-9

The scores reveal that this was a one-sided contest but, nevertheless, it allowed some of our batsmen to occupy the crease. Both Stone and Leach played well and took full advantage of the anodyne attack. Bagnall, promoted above his station to number three, exhibited great violence on his way to 58. Some of his innings was played before lunch and some after lunch, but the majority was talked about during lunch. The opposition reply was feeble, but Gent (2-51) bowled his leg breaks to telling effect, and Bagnall bowled his left arm pace well enough to secure three wickets.

Sunday July 8 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Lost by 12 runs

Dorset Rangers 267-5 dec (S R Hayward 87, D W Thorne 65); Sherborne Pilgrims 255 (R A Bagnall 77, P J Hodges 55)

The Rangers batted well against a varied attack but one which on the day (possibly because of the preceding night) lacked both resource and joie de vivre. Accordingly, Thorne (a Pilgrim) and Hayward (about to be a Pilgrim) showed no mercy on us and both played many delightful strokes. Our reply to a tight declaration was spirited and rumbustious with Hodges playing a responsible innings of 55, and Gould mustering up sufficient breath not only to obtain 37 valuable runs but to talk about his innings to anyone who cared to listen to him. The piece de resistance came when Bagnall, batting at number seven, threw his body and soul into a powerful 77 in which at one point he fired off three huge sixes in succession. Whilst he was at the wicket, victory was at large for us; but with his departure our challenge receded and eventually failed.

Monday July 9 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Won by 122 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 245-7 dec (J F Blackburn 88); Old Blundellians 123 (Blackburn 4-23)

An opening stand of 131 between Blackburn and Mason opened the way for Hodges and Garrett (28) to attack the bowlers and enable us to declare at half past three.

The opposition's batting was of no real account and was bundled out with eight overs to spare.

Tuesday July 10 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Lost by 86 runs
Sherborne Town 193-7 dec (G S Calway 51*); Sherborne Pilgrims 107

The Town batted for what seemed an interminable time in dredging up 193 off 66 overs. It was good to see Scott Stevens, the outstanding bowler for the School this season, make an early debut for the Pilgrims and he bowled well to take 2-43 off 18 overs. Our reply was strictly modest against a competitive attack and we failed to do ourselves justice, although Andrew Wingfield Digby batted well for 26. It was our first hard fought game of the week and it didn't do us any harm for that; but why were we dismissed so easily?

Wednesday July 11 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
South Wales Hunt 256-6 dec (N B Morgan 122); Sherborne Pilgrims 259-7 (J F Blackburn 94, C K Cuthbert 60; N G Anderson 4-63)

By this stage of the week off the field activities were beginning to exert their influence on performance - in the match Bagnall's wicketless six overs for 33 runs, coupled with a duck, was eloquent testament of his exertions to date. However, on this occasion, faced with a large opposition score due to a fine innings from Morgan, Cuthbert and Blackburn, assisted by Matthews, responded splendidly by taking up the challenge of making fast runs to secure a fine victory with three overs to spare.

Thursday July 12 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 42 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 181; Butterflies 139 (C Stone 4-23)

Our innings never got into top gear against some useful bowling. Gould opened with 26, Stone got a good 37, followed by modest, but nevertheless useful, contributions from Saunders (24), Mason (19) and Slade (21*). The last three wickets put on a vital 59. The Butterflies batting was no match for the pace of Bagnall and Slade, as well as the off breaks of Stone. The only hold up was a fighting 57 for the eighth wicket by Benkert and Allan.

Sunday July 15 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 21 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 210 (R A Rice 57, J M Wingfield Digby 52); Old Tonbridgians 189 (K M Seecheran 79; P J Hodges 4-45)

This was an outstanding victory against good opposition on their home ground. Wingfield Digby batted doggedly for his 52 and Evans, together with Rice, had a vital stand of 81 for the fifth wicket. Our bowling reached a high standard with Garrett, Hodges and Turner achieving great accuracy. Hodges in particular bowled his off breaks with great resource, bearing in mind it was a batsman's wicket. Against such bowling our opponents lost their last eight wickets for 93 runs.

Saturday August 11 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 229 (W J Wesson 5-99); Bluemantles 158-8 (M E Rosser 67)

The lack of rain over the summer months was beginning to make pitch preparation difficult and this was a good example, for it became apparent after the first 15 minutes of the game that the wicket was losing its top and was dangerous when medium pacers or above were operating. The Bluemantles therefore elected to use their spin bowlers for the majority of our innings, which undoubtedly assisted us in reaching a total of 229. Hayward and Matthews both played exceptionally well on a wicket of increasingly variable bounce and added 91 for the fourth wicket. Turner and Rice (25) were also involved in useful stands. Our pace bowlers, led by the Knechtlis with two wickets apiece, with a cluster of close fielders, then reduced the Bluemantles to 25-5. The spinners were then used and after 113 8 the match petered out into a disappointing draw.

Saturday September 1 v Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 197 (A J M Spink 97); Honourable Artillery Company 146-8 (D Adams 54; C M Ward 6-62)

This was the first time the Pilgrims had visited the home of the HAC but this could not produce a result. At 11.30 there were five Pilgrims on the ground which compelled our hosts to allow us to bat. Shortly thereafter we were 6-3 with defeat by lunch a real possibility. Fate then decreed that Spink should take it upon himself to obtain his highest ever score of 97, which he did with great panache. Ward weighed in with 46 (probably his highest score) and Fisher bored people dreadfully with an interminable innings of nine - but it was valuable and the great escape had been achieved. The HAC then paraded one of their strongest ever batting sides, but that man Spink was at it again. He took a blinding catch and then Ward made further contributions with a fine spell of swing bowling which secured him 6-62. A friend of Garrett, one Pearson, appeared for the Pilgrims and bowled very fast to the great discomfort of one or two of the batsmen. Drew also bowled, but largely to the discomfort of his fielders. However, the HAC hung on to salvage a draw.

Sunday September 2 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 5 wickets
Cobham 183; Sherborne Pilgrims 184-5 (M C Bennett 86, E P J F Lyons 58*; C.J. Phillips 4-76)

At the start of Cobham's innings things did not go as they should have done for the wicket was lively and the bowlers hostile; yet somehow the ball either eluded the edge or dropped wide of fielders. It is also fair to say that, although hostile, our bowling was a bit on the short side and ill-directed. However, Garrett and Matthews at lower pace proved far more effective and, despite a resolute innings of 44 by Edwards, Cobham were dismissed for 183 which, given the pitch, was felt to be a challenging score. With our score at 58-4 Cobham could have been excused for feeling the warm glow of victory beginning to envelope them, but Bennett thrashed the bowlers for 86 and, in a stand of 92 with Lyons, turned the game round. With the score at 150 Bennett was dismissed to let in Isaac who had recently flown in from Japan. Looking lean and fit after a diet of pure fish, he played inscrutably to be in at

the kill when victory was finally delivered to us.

1991

Played 17: Won 7, Lost 5, Drawn 2, Abandoned 3, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 5 v Keble College - Cancelled

Sunday May 12 v Old Whitgiftians at Croydon - Lost by 131 runs

Old Whitgiftians 273-8 (M Phelps 130, A D Vokes 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 142 (J M P C Turner 63; R P James 4-27)

Our first Cricketer Cup practice game brought us to Croydon to face a side that we had beaten in the previous two seasons, and in the previous year very easily. However, this time was very different and alas for the worst. On the first decent summer's day of the year we lost the toss and then had to chase leather for the next three hours, largely due to Phelps, a powerful Australian, smiting our attack to all parts of the ground. Whilst none of the bowlers bowled badly, the batsmen were always on top and in the end we had to work hard to keep the score below 300 off the allotted 55 overs. Obviously we needed a good start and this happened with sound batting from Turner and Quinlan (21); we were 82-0 and still in with an outside chance of victory. However, shortly after tea Quinlan and Turner were dismissed and we descended from 106-2 to a dismal 142 all out off 38 overs. A disappointing result but hopefully useful practice for later games.

Sunday May 19 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won as a result of losing fewer wickets in 50-over match

Radley Rangers 199 (C H H Pegg 60; J F Blackburn 4-20); Sherborne Pilgrims 199-7 (J F Blackburn 50*)

An opening stand of 68 saw Radley off to a good start but Blackburn in particular bowled straight and moved the ball around, and Levy showed the value of a spinner, allowing only 31 runs to be scored off his 11 overs. A steady start by Lyons and Jones, and then Evans, took the score to 95-2 but a mini-collapse caused by the off-spinner, Pritchard, slowed the run rate; this brought Blackburn and Saunders together to retrieve the situation but 50 runs were required off the last five overs, which were achieved off the last ball. A great game of cricket.

Sunday June 2 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Wellingtonians at Wellington - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 231-7 (T D W Edwards 90); Old Wellingtonians 232-4 (R I H B Dyer 127)

A dry day with a possibility of rain later was forecast and so cloud all day was no surprise, but seeing a hard true wicket the Pilgrims on winning the toss (by Paul Saunders in the absence of Rob Rydon with Richmond RFC in Argentina) decided to bat. The makeshift opening pair of Lyons and de la Hey put on a satisfactory 37 in

the first 10 overs, although the latter had been bowled with a no ball the previous over. Both were out by the 15th over and only ten runs were added in those five overs; however, Eckersley-Maslin, who had not been in the best of form, decided to chance his arm, survived various alarms, and with Edwards added 65 in the next 15 overs. Lunch was taken after 37 overs with the score at 129-3, at which point with wickets in hand a rate of six or seven an over for the rest of the innings was thought essential - in fact only five and a half was achieved despite Edwards battling so well to hold the innings together, finally being run out in the 52nd over for 90.

Scott Stevens in his first Cricketer Cup match made his mark by bowling four wides with his first ball but then bowled tidily; the attack, however, lacked penetration and with good running between the wickets, tea was taken after 25 overs with the score 73-1 (at this point we had been 101-2). Soon after tea, with 32 overs gone, spots of rain were felt and the Wellington captain, Jamie Salmon, began to panic over run-rates. We had achieved 4.2 an over overall while Wellington were at that stage 3.4 runs per over and it was not until the 48th over that they finally did get ahead of the required rate thanks to a marvellous innings from Dyer who was out in the penultimate over. Not for the first time we had made a fight of the match to the end, but were fated to lose for want of a fifth specialist bowler, and also for failing to make the extra 30 or 40 runs which would have put greater pressure on the opposition.

Sunday June 16 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Abandoned

Saturday June 29 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 1 wicket
Sherborne Pilgrims 105; Sherborne School 106-9 (P M S Slade 4-43)

We put out a powerful young side, but at lunch after 36 overs, had been reduced to 55-7; stout resistance from de la Hey, Stevens and S Knechtli nearly doubled the score against steady bowling from the School. The School's innings began steadily with Slade going for 20 runs in his first six overs; however, Knechtli made the breakthrough and Slade returned to reduce the School to 93-8. Ricketts kept his head, being top scorer in the match with 25, and amid much excitement the School crept to a famous victory.

Sunday June 30 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Abandoned

Saturday July 6 v Old Aluredians at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Old Aluredians 90; Sherborne Pilgrims 91-6

The week at Sherborne did not get off to the most auspicious start with only seven players from each side on the ground at 11.30; however, Mason arrived and kept wicket so efficiently that soon our opponents were 36-6 and at lunch 73-7. Will Rydon finished off the innings with a brilliant caught and bowled before we stuttered towards victory by 4.30.

Sunday July 7 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Drawn
Dorset Rangers 202-4 dec (R Preston 54*, D W Thorne 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 73-7

(C Slocombe 4-20)

With Mason again late onto the pitch the hoped-for distraction failed to work as the Pilgrims 'B' side, alias the Rangers (there were seven Pilgrims on the Rangers' side), scored steadily until 3.25 when rain interfered with the likely declaration leaving us about two hours 45 minutes' batting time. With only Tweedale being able to cope with the Royal Navy opening bowler, tea was taken at 27-4 and by 6.00 we had struggled to 73-7, at which point rain began and never ceased for nearly 24 hours.

Monday July 8 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Abandoned

Tuesday July 9 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Sherborne Town 195 (M D Nurton 50); Sherborne Pilgrims 196-7 (P J Lough 73*, C S Rix 50)

The wicket had been covered since Sunday evening and so was hard, although the outfield was damp; and the sun shone. We bowled 68 overs at the Town of which 49 were spin; despite the long day and late night before, the fielding was on the whole lively, although Saunders' bleary eyes certainly failed to focus on the blinding catch he took to dismiss Calway. In addition, three run outs were the top wicket taker and no byes were let through, so it was a very good performance to restrict the Town. However, the usual shaky start was worrying (38-4) before first Rix and Lough, and then Saunders and Lough, took the score up towards the target for a very satisfying victory.

Wednesday July 10 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
South Wales Hunt 127; Sherborne Pilgrims 129-5

The sun again shone on a very up and down Pilgrims performance - not least with the non-appearance of Richard Gould for his annual outing. With some very lively bowling from Knechtli and Slade, the South Wales Hunts slumped to 78-5 at lunch and, but for some missed stumpings, might have been worse off; however, Cuthbert (2-6) cleaned up the tail. New boy Allen ran out his skipper for nought but our guest, Pool, helped us to cruise to victory. The old practice of the Horlicks award was revived which was to have a dramatic effect on Kitson following his performance behind the stumps.

Thursday July 11 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Butterflies 174-9 dec (P M S Slade 6-23); Sherborne Pilgrims 178-7 (R A Rice 52)

A third day of sun was unbelievable and so was the exuberant start of Kitson - no byes let through and 21 runs when opening the batting! First though the batting of the Butterflies had to be endured; 78-3 off 30 overs at lunch seemed reasonable but with Saunders and Gent bowling three successive maidens at 3.00pm perhaps further explanation is unnecessary. However, Slade bowled well before the declaration at 4.05pm. With orders not to play any silly shots Rice and Kitson proceeded to come into tea at 60-0 off 14 overs. Despite the not-unusual alarms

(Allen causing another run out for nought we cruised to our fourth victory of the week with two overs to spare.

Sunday July 14 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 3 wickets
Old Tonbridgians 199 (R W Holmes 83; C Stone 6-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 200-7 (P J Hodges 87*; D C P Roberts 4-47)

After losing the toss our opening seam attack of Slade and Garrett soon found how flat the wicket was, and the Tonbridge openers experienced little difficulty in putting on a century opening stand. With Tonbridge taking lunch at 109-0 we expected to have a long afternoon in the field. However, the introduction of Stone immediately got the breakthrough and inspired a mid-afternoon collapse by the OT's who descended to 199 all out. Stone, despite having not bowled for months, produced an immaculate line and length and fully deserved the impressive figures of 17-4-26-6. Chris Ward, captaining the Pilgrims for the first time, applied the pressure at the right time and safe catching plus one run out all made for a good fielding performance.

Our innings started disastrously in the face of some hostile pace bowling and we descended to 3-3. Turner (22) and Stone (21) then hung on grimly until tea but, when Stone edged to the keeper and Turner was bowled shortly afterwards at 58-5, we were in deep trouble. The Tonbridge Cricketer Cup captain then very generously brought us back into the game, bowling five overs himself of 'Larry Lob' which was much to the liking of Hodges who helped himself to some cheap runs (Box-Grainger's figures were 5-0-43-0). With Hodges having played himself in, Evans now played a very sensible innings of 43 as the two put on 88 for the 6th wicket to take us nearer our target.

However the required rate was still over six an over and it was going to be down to the big hitting of Hodges to see us home. With Slade keeping his cool, and hitting the second ball of the final over to the boundary, we secured an exciting victory. Hodges' innings of 87 was one of the best of the season and it must be hoped that his talents can be seen in the Cricketer Cup in years to come. For the record, Tonbridge won the 1991 Cricketer Cup final a few weeks after this game.

Saturday August 10 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 5 wickets
Bluemantles 219-4 dec (R Wyatt 59*, S J D Yorke 54); Sherborne Pilgrims 220-5 (C Stone 88; S J D Yorke 5-60)

At 11.30am only seven Pilgrims were on the ground; as the captain was still struggling his way through Tunbridge Wells, Stone tossed up but called wrong and we had to take the field on one of the hottest days of the year, and, for the first time for most of us, with a lady umpire. The opening attack of Slade and Springfield soon found out how flat the wicket was and Slade suffered the unusual fate of twice being hit over his head for six. However, Slade persevered and eventually got his man thanks to a brilliant stumping from de la Hey. The Bluemantles' batsmen were then forced to work hard for their runs through steady bowling, particularly by Stone and Redfern, backed up by a good team fielding performance. Just before halfway the

Bluemantles had scored 219-4 off 59 overs and we expected to be set 250 but were pleasantly surprised with an early declaration.

However, right at the start of our innings Dr Mason managed to conjure some evil in the wicket (which wasn't there) as he guided a wide ball into gully's hands. This prompted Rice to unleash a violent attack upon the men from Kent's bowling; however, a blow to the foot brought his innings to a premature end as he had to retire hurt. This brought in Stone who batted with great assurance and class in making 88 before he asked to have the sightscreen moved and then saw that he had been just given out, caught behind, by the lady umpire.

Stone had put on 120 with the evergreen Redfern but from 176-2 we descended to 185-5, and with Rice unable to bat and only having 10 men (farming problems forcing Will Rydon reluctantly to withdraw late) this was effectively 185-7 and potentially a crisis situation. However, Garrett, having received Slade's blessing to go in ahead of him, then surprised most of the side by taking control of the situation and along with Matthews seeing us home to a five wicket win. A hard but well earned victory by the 10 Pilgrims on surely the best ground we play on.

Saturday August 18 v Hampstead at Hampstead - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 285-5 dec (M M C F Jones 101*, R A B Spink 72); Hampstead 286-4 (M Webber 82*, M Smith 67, T Farooq 67)

An amazing game of cricket in which we suffered from scoring our runs too quickly! On a very hot day the now bespectacled Jones won the toss and decided to bat, and then watched Spink and Levy put on 111 for the first wicket in 65 minutes. Spink, in particular, struck the ball with great power, hitting four sixes and regularly disrupting the tennis players who were situated over deep long on. However, the dreaded Nelson proved our undoing and we descended to 111-3 in the space of one over.

De la Hey managed to talk his way into number three, after Rix turned up an hour late (having allegedly been stuck in a tunnel), but failed to trouble the scorers. Jones then took over and, after lunching at 183 4, we were able to declare at ten past three at 285-6 with Jones having scored a very good hundred and Rix chipping in with a useful 42. Whilst we were all very impressed with our total, having only three frontline bowlers on a fairly flat track meant that we would always have to work hard to defend our score. The opening attack of Garrett and Ward bowled steadily but without much penetration and Hampstead's openers put on 74 for the first wicket.

The first bowling change brought on Mason who, despite having practised hard in the nets, bowled all over the place and with his final ball cleared the keeper Kitson's head by a couple of feet. One over of this was enough for Jones, who then allowed himself to be persuaded by de la Hey to let our Cricketer Cup keeper/batsman have a bowl. Levy and de la Hey then bowled steadily for the next 20 overs and, whilst Levy did take two wickets, Hampstead entered the final 20 overs needing only five an over with wickets in hand. One very difficult slip chance did go down which may not have helped our cause. We fought hard, but Hampstead deservedly won the game with an

over to spare, although they batted for 62 overs compared to our 47.

Saturday August 31 Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House - Lost by 6 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 131 (J Metcalfe 5-21); Honourable Artillery Company 132-4 (D Noyes 51*)

A dismal defeat and, for the very first time, a loss to the HAC. We lost the toss and were asked to bat on a green wicket of somewhat variable bounce, but generally we batted badly. When application and patience were required all the batsmen tried to smash the ball out the ground and paid the penalty. At lunch we were 92-7, and then only a last wicket partnership of 28 between Springfield and Garrett gave the bowlers anything to bowl at. Apart from Garrett, only Matthews managed to get above 20 in our poor total. Defending such a low score we needed early wickets but after conceding 18 in the first two overs we were always going to struggle. Springfield bowled well and we did manage to reduce the HAC to 81-3, but their captain, Noyes, won the game with a sensible and patient 50, which showed us all how we should have batted. Enough said!

Sunday September 1 v Cobham at Cobham - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 250 (R A Rice 89, R A Matthews 56); Cobham 176-7 (A J G Symondson 65; R P O Springfield 5-47)

On a very hot and humid day we lost the toss and were surprisingly asked to bat. Rice immediately set about the admittedly average Cobham bowling and, with help from Matthews, we were sailing along after an hour or so at 164-1. However, when Rice and Matthews were both out in quick succession the middle order let the heat get to them and we descended rapidly to 176-6. Isaac's only innings of the season for the Pilgrims, and his last as a single man, yielded three before he missed the unplayable one - i.e. it was straight. Potential disaster was averted by de la Hey (25*) and Garrett (26) who helped push the score up to 250.

As the game had been changed from an all day to an afternoon one, due to Cobham having problems with their caterers, we had just over two hours to bowl Cobham out. Whilst Springfield bowled fast and effectively in taking 5-47, and we did our best to get Cobham near our score (both Isaac and Kitson's names appeared on the bowling sheet and Isaac dismissed their top scorer!), they did not seem at all interested and the game fizzled out into a dull draw. It would have been nice to end the season with a win as we played all the cricket, but afternoon games do not give Pilgrims enough time to display all their talents - or do they?

1992

Played 18: Won 7, Lost 7, Drawn 3, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 3 v Keble College at Oxford - Won by 66 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 262-4 dec (M C Bennett 118); Keble College 196 (J W Good 53*;

P J Morton 5-64)

After winning the toss, the contrasting physiques of Bennett and Isaac strode to the wicket. As was to be expected, both batsmen took time to find their touch, but unfortunately Isaac had still not found his when he was bowled for nine. Aided by a number of dropped catches, our innings progressed without much trouble and Bennett continued his good form for the Pilgrims in recent years by scoring a hundred before lunch. After lunch, with orders to get himself out, he proceeded to hit the luckless Flint (1-106) for consecutive sixes before giving up his wicket. Thanks to his fine innings we were able to declare just before half time.

Our opening attack of Ewen and Garrett found that there was little in the wicket to help them, but Garrett did get one to rear up and have their opener caught behind. Keble's middle order batted very sensibly, if a bit slowly, but then the guile of one of our guests, Paul Morton, began to baffle them and, once their number three had run himself out after a fine direct hit from the boundary by Spink, we were well on top. So much so that Isaac was even able to bowl, but Keble had enough skill (and sense) not to surrender, and, alas, he remained wicketless. It was fitting that the game ended with Morton taking his fifth wicket.

Sunday May 10 v Old Whitgiftians at Croydon - Won by 3 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 211 (J M P C Turner 108*); Old Whitgiftians 208 (R Nowell 60; N H Peters 4-52)

Despite the damp day with intermittent drizzle, this ended up being a great game of cricket. Having won the toss, Rob Rydon decided to bat, but it was obviously going to be difficult against the new ball. Bennett soon found the Whitgift attack to be slightly more demanding than the previous week's and, despite one big six over mid-on, it was no great surprise when he was caught behind. Tweedale unluckily played on shortly afterwards, but Spink, deciding that attack was the best means of defence, helped Turner take the score up to 75-2 before he played one ambitious shot too many and was bowled.

Turner then had to watch with dismay as we lost three quick wickets and went to lunch in trouble at 96-6. After lunch Rydon played a skipper's knock, taking quick singles wherever possible, and putting on 36 with Turner before he skied to deep square; 132-7 but with a lot of overs left and Turner playing better by the minute; Rice batted sensibly for his 14, and helped Turner put on 51 for the eighth wicket. Numbers ten and eleven, despite making only one between them, hung around, not only for Turner to get his hundred, but also to get the score over 200. Only using 51 of our allotted 55 overs is hopefully something we will not make a habit of. Turner's knock was high class, surviving the new ball through good technique and choice of shot, and then holding the innings together in scoring over half our runs.

Any score over 200 on a slow wicket would take some getting, but the captain mentioned that he would have preferred to have some spin in his armoury rather than having to rely on seam for the whole 55 overs. We suffered a major setback

when, in only his second over, Slade tweaked a hamstring and had to leave the field and take no further part in the game. However, at the other end, Peters, making a welcome debut appearance for the Pilgrims, was helping reduce Whitgift to 33-4 after ten overs. One of his wickets was a truly marvellous gully catch by Rix who caught a full blooded sliced drive one handed about seven feet in the air.

At tea Whitgift were 89-4 off 25 overs, still needing 122, which was quite possible. The fifth wicket saw the hundred up before Garrett managed to produce a spell of 3-7 off six overs thanks to three catches behind the wicket by Tweedale. 136-7 and now 75 wanted off 14 overs. Good fielding and sensible bowling by Rydon left Whitgift at 183-8, needing 28 off the last three overs, and with Peters to bowl two of them, we thought we were safe. However, when the 53rd over went for 11, the 54th for three, and the first five balls of the 55th for 11, they were down to the last man having to hit the last ball for four to win the match. Fortunately he missed, was bowled and we had won a thrilling match. Most of all though the game was what it was intended to be, a warm up for the Cricketer Cup proper, and hopefully all the players learnt some lessons.

Sunday May 17 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 204-8 (J M P C Turner 112*); Radley Rangers 208-6 (A J H Murdoch 60, J B Hunter 50*)

This was a 50 over match and, after we had won the toss, Turner and Batchelar put on 60 for the first wicket relatively untroubled until Batchelar ran himself out for 17. Turner was carrying on his fine form from the previous week and at lunch we were 92-2 off 29 overs, with Turner 52. We were obviously going to have to increase our run rate after lunch but, if Turner could provide the anchor role, there was no reason why we should not score at least 220. Well, Turner did provide the ideal anchoring role scoring another superb hundred, once again carrying his bat. Unfortunately, however, with only 66 runs being provided by the other batsmen, we were grateful to extras at 26, being the second scorer and pushing the total up to a modest 204 off 50 overs.

On a good wicket we would obviously need an early breakthrough and this was provided by a hostile opening spell from Springfield, aided by good catches from Turner and Kitson, as Radley succumbed to 40-4. At tea Radley were 71-4 off 20 overs, still needing 138 to win off the remaining 30. After tea Tim Levy completed a fine spell of bowling (10-2-29-0) and would have had at least one wicket had the sun not prevented an easy catch being taken. When Garrett dismissed the dangerous Anderson with a real beauty, we must have become favourites to win the game. However, another dropped catch, coupled with some lax fielding, let numbers six and seven play themselves in and begin to make batting look relatively easy. In the end Radley reached our score without much difficulty and, whilst they batted well, it showed that we should have scored at least the 220 that was needed.

Sunday May 31 - Cricketer Cup first round v Downside Wanderers at Downside - Won by 3 wickets

Downside Wanderers 249-4 (A R Bernard 117); Sherborne Pilgrims 252-7 (R A Rydon 97*)

For the second year running we were faced by an England rugby centre - last year Jamie Salmon at Wellington, this year Simon Halliday. Winning the toss, Rydon decided to put Downside in on a hard wicket. Garrett bowled so steadily that only 22 runs were scored off the first ten overs; and with Blackburn and Slade 31 came off the second ten. In the 21st over, as Downside looked to accelerate, Bernard was dropped and two overs later caught off a no-ball. A sloppy session up to lunch allowed him to reach 68 and Poland 34 in a score of 120 off 34 overs.

Despite running Poland out second ball after lunch, the next nine overs saw three catches dropped and a possible run out missed while a further 60 runs were scored. Bernard reached his hundred (his sixth in the Cricketer Cup - more than anyone else) in the 45th over, watched by the first man of all to score a century in the Cricketer Cup, our own Bob Tozer! However, a much improved performance in the field restricted Downside to six an over during the last ten overs, and so left us a manageable target. Garrett with 1-39 off 11 overs and Slade 0-39 off 12 were the most economical bowlers.

A slow start: the first "run" was a wide in the fourth over, made worse when Turner was adjudged to be lbw in the 7th over with the score four. Frustration led to Batchelar having an unsuccessful slog in the 12th over with the score 16; the first boundary of the innings was not scored until the 16th over. Edwards and Jones found more freedom but, in the three overs before tea, first Jones was caught at mid wicket and then Spink at cover point. A tea time score of 65-4 off 25 overs was not encouraging, but when mid-off ran out Edwards with a direct hit immediately afterwards our chances dropped even further. A small recovery by Blackburn and Rydon added 64 runs in the next nine overs, but then two wickets fell in the 38th over.

Enter Garrett at 137-7 to join Rydon at 6.27pm with 17 overs to go and 112 runs required. Nine runs were scored in the next three overs followed by overs of 10 runs, 10, 8, 6, 8, 4, 13, 3 and 9 - just 27 more required off the last five overs. In an unbelievable atmosphere Rydon and Garrett took us to a famous victory with 11 balls to spare over a demoralised side which we had hardly looked capable of beating until the last quarter of an hour.

Sunday June 14 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 135; Hampshire Hogs 138-5

A poor batting performance by the Pilgrims saw no-one get over 30, and we laboured for 52 overs to score only 135. However, our bowlers worked very hard and the Hogs were reduced to 69-5 and, with another batsman retired hurt, we were in with a chance. Hodges kept one end very tight with a spell of 14-8-21-1 but Coney and Taylor saw the Hogs home to a fine victory. The fact that the game did not start until 11.50am but was over at 5.45pm must say something about our batting

performance.

Sunday June 21 - Cricketer Cup second round v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 5 runs

Marlborough Blues 206-7 (P R A Shone 59, C F Worlidge 58*); Sherborne Pilgrims 201

The Blues decided to bat on a pitch which Springfield found to his liking; he and Garrett bowling the first 15 overs for 31 runs and one wicket. Shone and Barker, however, made steady progress to lunch taken with the score at 91-1 off 33 overs. In the over following the interval, Shone reached his half-century with a six over square leg, but both batsmen were bowled within four overs.

Worlidge was dropped early in his innings and finally took ample revenge while wickets fell steadily at the other end. However, 15 wides did not help our cause, although our bowlers were otherwise acceptably accurate and economical - Springfield 1-36 off 12 overs, Garrett 2-44 off 10, Blackburn 1-31 off nine, Rydon 0-38 off 12 and Levy 3-51 off 12.

Our innings began with a great rush as it was obvious that Marlborough had only four class bowlers and the seven spare overs were being used up early. However, with Jones (25) and Tweedale (22) scoring 59 off the first nine overs that plan seemed to misfire, but then Makin changed all that and five wickets fell in the next ten overs while 23 runs were scored (Edwards was run out for nought, the third successive Cricketer Cup dismissal for him in that way). However, Blackburn (29) and de la Hey (27) batted on to the 38th over when de la Hey was caught mis-hitting to mid-on to make it 135-6. Rydon (22) helped Blackburn score 23 in the next five overs and then two wickets fell in two overs to bring Garrett to the crease with Rydon once more. Could they do it again? 20 runs off two overs boded well, but Rydon was ninth out, caught at the wicket in the 49th over with 25 still required.

Garrett farmed the bowling like the seasoned campaigner he now was with three runs in the 50th over, five in the 51st, eight in the 52nd, three in the 53rd and then - tragedy; six required from 10 balls. Garrett hit firmly towards square leg and Springfield assumed an easy run, but Garrett wanted two and so called "No" - too late; Springfield slipped and could not regain his ground at the bowler's end. An unfortunate end to another tremendous match but the lesson must be that with six batsmen getting into the 20's someone has got to stay and play a real innings or the result is almost inevitable.

Marlborough went on to beat Wellington by five runs in the next round before losing to Repton by four wickets in the semi-final.

Saturday June 27 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 7 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 123 (J D Ricketts 4-43); Sherborne School 127-3 (Ricketts 79*)

For the second successive year the Pilgrims failed to live up to their individual

reputations with just four batsmen managing to reach double figures. Too many failed to realise that one cannot return to play against the School without some serious practice - they are, by Commem, seasoned cricketers. Ricketts proved precisely that.

Sunday June 28 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Drawn
Marlborough Blues 228-9 dec (R P O Springfield 4-66); Sherborne Pilgrims 228-6 (R A B Spink 109)

Lough lost the toss and on a hot day it was no surprise that we would have to endure the midday sun. Not only this, but looking around our dressing room, seeing Lough and Garrett having to cover themselves with bandages, and with Spink having jet lag, made the omens none too good.

Our opening attack of Springfield and Ewen bowled well but, on a fairly fast wicket, the Marlborough openers put on 61 for the first wicket. Springfield got the first wicket through his newly found leg spin having tired of his pace bowling. We bowled consistently straight during the afternoon and reduced the score to 166-8, with five wickets being bowled and one lbw. It was frustrating that we let the last two wickets add 62. Our innings started badly with Mason and Rice both back in the pavilion with only 13 on the board. One wonders whether these two illustrious and long serving Pilgrims have actually ever managed to get into double figures at Marlborough!

Rix and Spink then batted sensibly in moving the score on to 122 before we lost our third wicket. Spink's jet lag was inspiring him to attack the bowling, and of Rix and Spink's partnership of 109, Rix made only 30. When Spink was finally out for a wonderful 109, 82 of these runs had been scored in boundaries. A great innings and well worth being there to witness.

His dismissal at 163 brought Lough in to join Charles Allen who had sensibly given Spink as much of the bowling as possible. Surprisingly though it was Lough who kept the score moving in getting a quick 31 before he was caught trying to go over the top. 206-5 and 22 needed off six overs. Allen now managed to take more of the bowling, but was having great difficulty in hitting the ball off the square. Not only this, but he became increasingly reluctant to run any singles. Kitson perished in trying to hit a boundary and we needed eight off the last over. Ewen managed an all run four and it ended up with two required off the last ball, with Allen facing.

A great chance for glory for the young man - where would he go? Over the top or open the face down to third man? The excitement grew as the bowler came up to bowl, but alas Allen played a defensive shot straight to mid-on for one and the game was drawn. When challenged as to why he had not tried to hit the ball slightly harder, Allen replied that he was so tired that he could hardly lift his bat and, after scoring 14 out of the 106 runs since he arrived at the crease, some may sympathise! A good and enjoyable game but Spink's innings deserved to win the game for us.

Sunday July 5 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets

Dorset Rangers 216-7 dec (D W Thorne 78; R P O Springfield 5-86); Sherborne Pilgrims 218-3 (J R Tweedale 97*, J E Pratt 60)

The Rangers laboured for 63 overs to score 216 before declaring with Springfield bowling well for a deserved five wicket haul, once again combining pace with his newly found leg spin. The Rangers attack was made to look very ordinary by Tweedale in making a classy 97 and Pratt, who scored a quick 60 before he got tired and ran himself out. It took us only 44 overs to get the runs and eight overs of the final 20 were still left when we achieved a comfortable victory.

Monday July 6 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 226 (J E Pratt 121; R C M Lowe 4-34); Old Blundellians 228-6 (Lowe 105*)

A disappointing morning's play saw us reach the interval at 121-5. Pratt, at three, had been in since the second over and had a sound 48 to his name. He received support from Mason (20) and Springfield (24) either side of the interval. An excellent last wicket stand of 50 in 31 minutes with Slade (15*) was marked by Pratt reaching a solid century - we hope the first of many for the Club. We had some early success as Blundell's fell away to 49-3 but Lowe, who had taken 4-34 in 18 overs in our innings, steadied the boat and then batted with authority. This was more than sufficient to steer them to a comfortable win.

Tuesday July 7 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 183-8 dec (C S Rix 58); Sherborne Town 180-6 (J A Perry 66)

Against steady bowling runs were at a premium and always hard to get, so that a declaration had to be delayed until Bagnall had hit Willows for 18 in two overs. Having dropped Perry in the fourth over, we rarely seemed in the hunt, although persistence paid even when the score became 144-6 with ten overs left. Thanks to Grellier (2-48 in 18 overs) those 40 runs were not obtainable and a close finish was guaranteed.

Wednesday July 8 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
South Wales Hunt 95; Sherborne Pilgrims 99-7 (J L Pexton 5-38)

Despite fielding six Shirburnians, Hunts found the fiery bowling of Knechtli and Bagnall hard to resist, and were soon struggling at 38-6. Madley, however, batted well to improve the position a little. The old stagers, Gent and Lough (24), put us within reach with one wicket down before Pexton caused a collapse that has not been unknown in Pilgrims cricket (88-2 to 91-7). Batting at number nine Stephens hit two successive fours to relieve the tension.

Thursday July 9 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 213-5 dec (R A Rice 62); Butterflies 36-0 - Rain

After a noon start Gent (26) helped Rice put on 36 for the first wicket, and we

reached lunch at 110-2 with Rice having completed a useful 50. Cuthbert and Garrett set about the bowling after the interval which enabled us to declare at 3.30 after 47 overs. The Butterflies made a sound start but as tea approached the rain began and continued for nearly 24 hours.

Friday July 10 v Rabelasians at Sherborne - Abandoned

Sunday July 12 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 4 wickets
Old Tonbridgians 272-4 dec (R W Holmes 181); Sherborne Pilgrims 274-6 (J R Tweedale 88*, R A B Spink 74)

The scores show how the bat dominated the ball but the onslaught that all our bowlers had to endure from Holmes had to be seen to be believed. Using a bat that had once been used by Graham Cowdrey, Holmes easily reached his hundred before lunch and hit the ball as hard as many of us have ever seen. His attack continued unabated after lunch when our cause was not helped by a leading bowler refusing to bowl. Once Holmes finally departed for a brilliant 181, Tonbridge were on target to set us over 300 but decided to dangle the carrot with a reasonable declaration.

Turner and Matthews put on 46 for the first wicket before Turner unluckily played on. At tea, with wickets in hand, we were still in with a chance and needed two players to get big scores. Spink was the first to oblige with a powerful 74, made up of 12 boundaries and, after his dismissal, despite slipping to 149-4, we still had plenty of batting to come. Stone and Tweedale put on 41 for the fifth wicket before Stone was stupidly run out. It was now that Tweedale, once again, showed what a good player he has become in scoring a cultured 88, and would surely have got a hundred had he not won the game for us. Whilst Holmes' innings for Tonbridge should not be underestimated, we scored our runs in 48 overs to Tonbridge's 59. A great victory.

Friday July 31 v Old Tauntonians at Taunton - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 191 (R A Rice 54; R J McCool 4-24); Old Tauntonians 192-4

We were outplayed in most departments of this game and the margin of defeat could have been more. Having won the toss and decided to bat, Rice took eight from the first over, but Batchelar was out to the first ball of the second. However, Rice went on to complete a fine 50 and at 80-1 we looked set for a decent score. Taunton then introduced McCool, not only a ringer for them, but also an ex-Somerset player, and he quickly reduced us to 99-5, with final figures of 13-4-24-4.

Cuthbert, de la Hey and Lyons all tried to further our cause by scoring 20s, but the final total of 191 was almost certainly 60 or 70 short of what should have been scored. Whilst we used seven bowlers, the Taunton batsmen found little difficulty with the wicket or the bowling, and, to be honest, the wickets we did get were down to the batsmen getting themselves out. Apart from the School game, this was the worst defeat of the season.

Saturday August 8 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 7 wickets

Bluemantles 185 (A H Vincent 64; J E G Boucher 4-41); Sherborne Pilgrims 186-3 (P A Treacy 66*)

We turned out a full side but this required the support of a few guests. Any thoughts that our bowling would be weak were dispelled by the discipline of line and length. Thus, a strong Bluemantles batting line-up was subdued and then whittled out. Boucher, on his debut for the Pilgrims, bowled with great skill. We had a strong batting side but still had to get the runs. In an opening partnership of 80 with Gray, Batchelar batted well and showed the form of which he is capable. Treacy dominated the bowling with powerful and aggressive strokes, whilst skipper Rice helped to guide us to victory with six careful singles.

Saturday August 29 v Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House - Cancelled

Sunday August 30 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 164-8 dec (W J Rydon 50*); Cobham 165-5 (R Boon 80)

This game was heavily affected by rain but ended up being quite exciting, going to the last over. The start was delayed until 1.20pm when we were asked to bat, and promptly descended to 17-4 with Spink and Rice both ending the season without troubling the scorers.

Tweedale and Rix did a brief rescue act before Rix's run out prompted two more wickets, and at 72-7 we were in real trouble. However, Will Rydon, in his only appearance of the season, put on 37 with Mason (16) and 55 with Garrett (20*), and fully deserved his 50.

Whilst some Pilgrims felt that we should have batted on for a few more overs, with rain still in the air, we had to keep Cobham interested if we were to have any chance of winning the game. When they were 37-3 things were looking hopeful but a stand of 101 between Tim Edwards (26) and Boon put Cobham back in control. We managed to dismiss both Edwards and Boon in consecutive overs, Boon run out thanks to a fine throw from Tweedale, but Jerry Edwards (18*), another Pilgrim, saw Cobham home.

Whilst all defeats are disappointing, this one was against a strong Cobham side. Most older Pilgrims, who remember the batting prowess of the Edwards brothers, will know that any side that has Jerry coming at number seven must be strong!

1993

Played 14: Won 5, Lost 6, Drawn 1, Tied 1, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 4.

Sunday May 9 v Old Whitgiftians at Croydon - Lost by 58 runs
Old Whitgiftians 236-8; Sherborne Pilgrims 178 (R A Rydon 68*)

Heavy overnight rain and persistent morning drizzle delayed the start of this Cricketer Cup practice - as a result it became a 45 over match. It was the first outing of the season for many and ended up as a disappointing one for most. Only Springfield and Rob Rydon managed to contain the Whitgift batsmen, whilst light drizzle made the ball slippery. Chasing 236 in 45 overs was always going to be difficult, and although Turner and the Rydons looked comfortable at the crease we never seriously threatened the target. Indeed, the losing margin would have been greater but for a sixth wicket stand of 46 by the Rydons with WJ contributing a useful 28. A damp and disappointing day.

Sunday May 16 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 7 wickets
Radley Rangers 149-9; Sherborne Pilgrims 150-3 (J M P C Turner 72)

The second practice match of 50 overs saw us lose the toss and take the field in damp and overcast conditions. Bagnall (2-23) and Ewen (1-38) soon began beating the bat and it was no surprise when the Rangers were 43-3. Their innings never got going thanks to good all round bowling, 14 of the 50 overs were maidens, backed up by solid fielding. Mention should be made of a class leg side stumping by de la Hey and Jones hitting the stumps for a run out. Gent was soon out to a wonderful reflex catch in the gully but Turner was getting into line and 44 was added for the second wicket. We still had a bit to do and were helped by a short stoppage for rain. We carried on in light rain, which did not help the bowlers, and Turner put on 96 for the third wicket with Haywood. Jones had to come in and get wet at the non-striker's end whilst a resounding victory was secured with 12 overs to spare.

Sunday May 30 - Cricketer Cup first round v Marlborough Blues at Sherborne -
Abandoned

Sunday June 6 - Cricketer Cup first round replay v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough
- Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 87 (S J Baillie-Hamilton 5-19, J Makin 4-21); Marlborough Blues 90-5

This first round match was postponed from the week before, when heavy rain prevented the two teams from ever taking the field in the morning. However, we allowed ourselves to be talked out of staging a curtailed game after lunch, the Blues sensing that their team would be bolstered in a week's time.

And so it proved; on a perfect day for cricket, but this time at Marlborough, it was the Pilgrims who lost the toss and were put in to bat. The first over gave a foretaste of things to come, as Matthews was bowled first ball by the Blues' quick bowler, Makin. Blackburn looked pugnacious but failed to deliver, unable - like Turner - to cope with the sheer pace of Makin. Perhaps the critical moment came when Jones and Spink, both of whom were batting assuredly, lost their way with their calling and Spink was run out by some distance. Jones batted gamely on for 34 but the dismissal of Rob Rydon with the score on 62-5 signalled the probable end to any hopes the Pilgrims had of reaching three figures.

At lunch, Gent - making an unforeseen Cricketer Cup comeback - and Bagnall were still at the crease. Marlborough did not, though, take long to remove the last wicket, Baillie-Hamilton finishing off what Makin had started, leaving the Pilgrims dismissed for a paltry 87, including four ducks. Rumours that a local witch-doctor had put the blight on a particular car carrying certain Pilgrims down to Marlborough were given little credence.

Before it might be thought that this was a batting display worthy of the national side, let it be said that the wicket was a bowler's one, and 120 would have posed many problems for the home team. Frankly, it was not good enough for a match of this importance: despite this, it should have been possible to bat for more of our allotted overs, given the ability in the top order.

Bagnall and Rob Rydon raised hopes of an improbable win when they took two wickets in as many overs, reducing Marlborough to 9-2 from three overs, but calm batting from Burrell carried the score gently on: with so many overs to complete the task, there was never any need for hurrying the match along. Will Rydon bowled tightly, but the lack of a genuine fifth bowler - Richard Springfield was sadly an injured spectator - meant that the Pilgrims were short of variety.

Interestingly enough, at the end of the 29th over, the scores were exactly the same as they had been in the Pilgrims innings: 75-5. Wry comments from Gent on the pitch about a quick maiden and then rain (which would have ensured a Pilgrims victory) were about as likely to happen as England were to win the first Test at Old Trafford. The anticipated rain never materialised, and the Blues cruised smoothly to a five-wicket win at 4.14, condemning the Pilgrims to more Cricketer Cup failure and, quite literally, an early bath. It is time the Cricketer Cup became a high priority for Pilgrims and not just another fixture: to win these matches, we really do need our best available side out in every round.

Sunday June 13 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 108 (P Dunn 4-18); Hampshire Hogs 110-3

This was a most embarrassing day as we turned up two short - not the way to treat the Hogs against whom we have had many enjoyable matches since 1931. Turner (18), Matthews (21) and Tweedale gave us a good start but 70-1 turned into a sad slump. Springfield (2-26) bowled the Hogs opener with his second ball but that was our only ray of hope. Molden and Gabb put on 69 for the third wicket to steer the Hogs to an easy win far too early in the afternoon.

Saturday July 3 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 228-6 dec (B D Atwell 78, G P Gent 67; S W Giles 4-55);
Sherborne School 232-8 (A S Cossins 90)

After losing the toss the sublime combination of youth and experience in the form of Atwell and Gent opened our innings. Gent was soon into his stride continuing his

good form of the season. With Atwell playing a sound supporting role they put on 124 for the first wicket with little difficulty. Gent was the first to go and the innings stumbled slightly with Ricketts and Bennett falling to Giles. At 170-4 Freeth (23*) joined Gillett and with good, and at times audacious batting, put on 50 in 36 minutes which enabled us to declare before half way. Our declaration was soon put under the spotlight when Slade had to leave the field with a bad migraine after bowling two overs. However, this forced us to get the spinners on early and we bowled 34 overs of Ricketts (2-39), Pugsley and Freeth. The School innings was based on a belligerent 90 from Cossins who took full advantage of the attacking field placings. The pendulum of the innings went backwards and forwards with 106-2 becoming 106-4, and 215-5 becoming 228-8 with three balls left before Robertson scored the winning runs to finish an exciting match.

Sunday July 4 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 122 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 249-8 dec (S Gillett 87, E J Pool 84; J Thomas 5-56); Dorset Rangers 127 (G P Gent 54; R A Bagnall 5-45)

After winning the toss we were soon in trouble at 49-4. The "experiment" of opening the batting with Springfield did not really work, although he made 11, but it was the failure of Bennett and Ricketts that was unexpected. We were rescued by a wonderful partnership of 156 by Gillett and Pool, both of whom deserved centuries. The Rangers innings was ruined by a deadly opening spell from Bagnall and Springfield. They never recovered from 17-4 and it was only a spirited 54 from Gent which took the match into the final hour. Bagnall fully deserved his five wickets, Springfield and Ricketts (2-22) being the other bowlers used.

Monday July 5 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 274-3 dec (P J Hodges 110, P R Saunders 78*); Old Blundellians 275-2 (Y Tillekeratne 146*, M G Beard 59)

This was an amazing match that was over by 6.15pm after 550 runs had been scored for the loss of only five wickets. Bagnall, captaining the Pilgrims for the first time, started well by winning the toss but then got talked into allowing Garrett to open the batting. He must have been as surprised as everyone else when Garrett helped Hodges put on 81 for the first wicket, but also relieved that he missed the elusive 50. When Garrett was out Hodges and Saunders continued to show disdain for the Blundells bowling putting on 141 for the second wicket. Hodges had forecast that he would score a century and his 110 was a dominant knock. After his dismissal Saunders carried on attacking and we were able to declare at half time with what we all thought to be plenty of runs. How wrong we were!

After Paddy Knechtli had dismissed one of the openers, Tillekeratne (who we later found out had not seen the inside of a Blundells classroom and was on the fringe of a Sri Lankan first class side) completely dominated the innings. Following an early chance he reached 50 by tea, and after the interval treated all our bowlers with contempt. Bagnall wisely did not bring himself on to bowl and after the match agreed that the Horlicks had to be awarded to him for an over-generous declaration. It was

his second award, but undoubtedly not his last.

Tuesday July 6 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Cancelled

The cricket week was earlier this year which led to a misunderstanding with the Town, who expected to play us on the 13th.

Wednesday July 7 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 136 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 254-7 dec (T A Batchelar 87; J Lee 5-74); South Wales Hunt 118

The Hunt, fielding six Shirburnians, were once again put to the sword in convincing fashion. Cuthbert won the toss and should have been happy with a score of 123-3 from 32 overs at lunch. Our innings was based on a fine 87 from Batchelar which would have been a century but for a fatal lapse of concentration. He was ably supported by Hodges and Saunders. The Hunt's innings started with a superb catch at slip by Rix off Paddy Knechtli's (2-17) first ball. Wickets fell steadily to Slade (2-22), Saunders (2-15) and Keatinge (2-30) in his first match for the Club.

Thursday July 8 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 217-8 dec (S Gillett 79; G Coren 4-45); Butterflies 174-8 (B G Blythe 110*; P R Saunders 4-49)

Another toss won allowed us to see Bagnall trying his hand as an opener. Sadly he lasted less than an over which allowed Batchelar and Gillett to put on 49 for the second wicket. Batchelar (6) got little of the strike and it was frustration that caused his downfall. Gillett continued to provide the backbone of the innings and when he was out Rix helped ensure we could set a reasonable target. Of the seven batsmen who got into double figures only one went on to get 50 - in this respect 217 was a disappointing total. The Butterflies innings was based on a very good unbeaten century from Blythe, who had played for Loughborough in the UAU final in June. We were able to use seven bowlers, five of whom took wickets, with the left arm spin of Saunders being the most successful. The Butterflies were only batting ten and, whilst we had three balls at their last man, Blythe's innings deserved to save the match.

Friday July 9 v Rabelaisians at Sherborne - Won by 118 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 241-7 (G P Gent 63, A Willows 63); Rabelaisians 123

Morning rain prevented a start until well after lunch so we agreed to a 30 over match. Having won the toss for the fifth time in succession, we were soon in our stride with Gent showing the way by not allowing the bowlers to find any rhythm. He put on 60 for the second wicket with Gillett and 81 for the third wicket with Willows. The innings accelerated as it progressed which is shown by 58 in the first ten overs, 82 in the next ten, and 101 in the final ten. The Rabelaisian innings was never allowed to achieve any momentum as Springfield sent back three of the first four in quick succession. This enabled us to toss the ball a little higher and even Gillett managed to get a bowl. The Rabelasians read his bowling for what it was worth and he went wicketless. Slade (2-31) finished the day by bowling the last man, as he has done so

often over the years.

Saturday July 10 v Little Durnford Fonthill at Little Durnford - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 205-5 dec (K J Pool 70*); Little Durnford Fonthill 207-5 (R Thompson 91, E J Pool 55*)

This was our first visit to this lovely ground and we brought weather to match the surroundings. An afternoon fixture arranged at relatively short notice required several guests to complete our side, and it was the guests who scored the majority of our runs off 41 overs. A reasonable declaration gave us time to get Little Durnford out, but we only got half way before they got the runs. A most enjoyable afternoon.

Sunday July 11 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

The OTs were playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup: they beat Harrow Wanderers on run rate in a rain-affected match and lost to Old Cliftonians in the final by 75 runs.

Saturday July 17 v Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House - Cancelled.

Friday July 30 v Old Tauntonians at Taunton - Cancelled

Saturday August 7 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 6 wickets
Bluemantles 152 (P L C Knechtli 4-29); Sherborne Pilgrims 156-4 (M C Bennett 69)

A beautiful summer's day at the Nevill, eleven Pilgrims on the ground and the omens were good. When Paddy Knechtli took the first three Bluemantles wickets, all caught behind by Tweedale, and the score was 28-3, things looked even better. Shortly after, a Knechtli bouncer most unfortunately hit their captain, Nigel Wheeler, and he had to retire to hospital. He was able to return to the match but regrettably not in time to bat. This did not help the Bluemantles' cause and tight bowling from Ewen (1-24), Will Rydon (1-40) and Simon Knechtli (2-18) meant we were only chasing 152. Bennett and Turner (19) gave us a good start with 60 for the first wicket but the spinners came on and we were soon 77-3. Morton joined Bennett and by lofting the ball into the outfield they added 58 for the fourth wicket. Bennett was out with 18 still required and this left Morton to put the finishing touches which left him one short of a well deserved 50.

Sunday August 29 v Cobham at Cobham - Tied
Sherborne Pilgrims 205-9 dec; Cobham 205 (D A Gordon 96; J R Pearson 4-24)

Having won the toss several of our batsmen played themselves in but failed to score enough. Only Isaac and Jones did themselves justice, the latter in his last innings for the Club before going to Australia for two years. Thanks to a last wicket stand of 18, with Springfield to the fore, we reached the psychological 200 figure which we felt should be enough. We soon removed one of the Cobham openers and, although the second wicket did not fall until 63 were on the board, matters still appeared under

control.

However, Gordon and Phillips put on 102 for the third wicket to bring Cobham right back into the game. We thought we had Gordon caught at the wicket early on but this was soon forgotten as he began to unleash square drives which went to the boundary at alarming speed. He continued to dominate all our bowling and with the score at 201-4 it was only a question of whether he could get his hundred before Cobham won. Singles were turned down to help him in his quest and this resulted in an amazing finish. Pearson, who had opened our bowling but come off after two overs with a pulled muscle, persuaded Garrett to let him bowl the last few overs.

With two overs left the scores were level, Cobham with five wickets in hand and Gordon on 96. With all the fielders in to save one, Springfield bowled five dot balls in the fading light before bowling Gordon, having a slog off the final ball of the over. The last over was drama - Pearson bowled number seven with the first ball, the third ball produced a catch in the gully and the fifth ball a run out. The Cobham number eleven was not on the ground to face the last ball as he had left to go to work. So it was a tie - for only the second time in our history, the first having been against the Town in 1959.

1994

Played 11: Won 5, Lost 3, Drawn 3, Cancelled 4.

Sunday May 15 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 5 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 105 (R C B Henson 4-13); Radley Rangers 106-5

On a damp and overcast day, we were happy to see the covers on when we arrived but were very surprised to find the wicket we were actually to play on was not the wicket being covered! After losing the toss and not surprisingly being asked to bat, it was soon obvious that batting was going to be extremely difficult and after only five overs we were 12-3. With the ball regularly flying off a length all the Rangers bowlers were enjoying the conditions far more than our batsmen, only three of whom managed to reach double figures. The only real innings of substance was played by Julian Pratt, who showed good technique and great patience in making 35.

To have a chance of winning the game we needed to take early wickets and we did manage to reduce the Rangers to 7-2. However, sensible batting from Gurney and Anderson (29), despite some tight bowling from Pratt (2-18 off 9 overs), saw them home by five wickets. Whilst it would be wrong to say that the game was decided on the toss of the coin, batting was much easier after lunch.

Sunday May 29 - Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors at Sherborne - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 136 (R A Rydon 64; N C W Fenton 4-37); Rugby Meteors 140-6 (Rydon 5-24)

If ever there was a game in which one player deserved the accolade of man of the match, this was it. Rob Rydon, claiming a five wicket haul and a fine 64 into the bargain, demonstrated the ancient art of leading from the front. Even the bit-part performance was played out by a Rydon, Will chipping in with a solid 22, mainly in support of his younger brother, and a brilliant throw to run out the Meteors' captain.

But despite Rob's heroics, the match was lost. Arguably it had been lost when the first four batsmen to the crease had departed, with just one run to their collective credit. The scoreboard made dismal reading: 2-4. Batchelar - who got a very good delivery - Turner, Gillett and Pratt had all departed. Blackburn and Rob Rydon had a bit to do if the match was going to reach lunch, let alone tea.

The ship was steadied, but Blackburn (12) got out when it looked as if the stand would realise a good deal more. Spink looked in good touch, but fell for 14, leaving the innings precariously balanced at 71-6. As it has been in the past, the fate of the Pilgrims hung on the batting abilities of the brothers Rydon. The left-right combination was still unsettling the Meteors' bowling attack, and slowly the total edged towards 100, and further.

Rob's dismissal proved to be essentially the end of the Pilgrims' challenge, as the last few wickets fell for only a handful of runs more, de la Hey and Garrett both failing to score. Perhaps the one consolation was that Bagnall's proud record of never having been out in Cricketer Cup matches stands intact, if not completely safe. There's always next year, though!

136 never looked likely to be enough: the pundits were speculating that 170-80 would probably have been enough, perhaps more since the element of movement which had assisted the Meteors at the start of play was gone (this does beg the question as to why the Pilgrims chose to bat first). It was a good recovery, nonetheless, from the upper order collapse. A note of caution: the London car, deviating through Salisbury, admittedly, failed to score more than one run. Next year, Rupert really must lay on an early-morning train.

The Pilgrims' total looked like being passed without undue concern as the Meteors' opening pair set off very comfortably, although Bagnall could justifiably have felt aggrieved at his lack of fortune. But then, with the score 65-0 the man of the moment chose to take a hand. In his first over, Rob Rydon struck, Bagnall pouncing a skier; and in his second he struck again. Suddenly the Meteors, minus their opening pair who had looked relatively safe, were vulnerable.

A third wicket and then a fourth fell to Rob (assisted by an excellent catch from de la Hey) before brother Will added his ten cents and threw down the non-striker's stumps from an acute angle to dismiss the fluent Meteors' skipper. When Rob claimed his fifth wicket to leave the Meteors at 96-6, the impossible looked possible: the Pilgrims (or, rather, the Rydons, as they had now been renamed) might win.

But Rob's bleeding toe was causing pain, and allied to the fact that he had bowled nine overs on the trot, the Meteors' hard-hitting Grinonneau smashed his side home to a four wicket victory, the Pilgrims' bowlers being unable to pierce his defence. The Meteors were relieved; as for the Pilgrims, they must fight another day.

Saturday July 2 v the School at Sherborne - Won by 86 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 216-5 dec (R A B Spink 65, T G Rankine 65); Sherborne School 130

The Pilgrims were fortunate to be able to field a particularly strong side for the game against the School this year. The batting line-up was particularly formidable, with Ricketts and Pratt in the middle order and strong batting almost to number 11. In true Pilgrims fashion, the innings started slowly and then collapsed to 25-3 after the first hour. The arrival of Rankine, playing some fine strokes on the offside, calmed the innings and his partnership with Spink took the score to 118-3 at lunch, the responsibility of the captaincy resulting in an uncharacteristically circumspect performance from the latter. With the loss of Rankine soon after lunch, the innings once again lost its momentum and it was left to Pratt (29*) and Ricketts (20*), who both struck the ball with great power, to add quick runs at the end.

In response, the School got off to a slow start, faced with the hostile pace of Knechtli and Pexton. With the exception of some solid strokes from their captain, Hargrove, there was little evidence that the School were prepared to attempt to reach their target of 217. Frustrated by such obstinate batting on a good pitch, the Pilgrims resorted to a long spell of spin bowling from Ricketts and Pratt. When this failed to encourage a more positive approach, it was left to an extremely fiery and uncompromising spell from Costeloe to finally overwhelm the resistance of the School middle order. Pexton returned to remove the tailenders to complete a comprehensive victory in a disappointingly one sided match.

Sunday July 10 v Rabelaisians at Sherborne - Won by 2 wickets
Rabelaisians 158 (R C A Garrett 4-39, R A Bagnall 4-47); Sherborne Pilgrims 160-7

Upon winning the toss captain Charles Rix took the unusual step of inviting the opposition to bat on a slightly damp wicket. With the Rabelaisians 58-1 after 14 overs he was probably beginning to doubt his decision, but the introduction of Garrett helped cheer the captain up when he removed the top scorer, Williams, and also the dangerous Dan Thorne who was guesting for the opposition. The Rabelaisians took lunch at 104-4 and it did not take Bagnell and Garrett long after the interval to finish the innings off.

A target of 159 was always going to be quite hard work but Geoff Garrett (21) and William Hargrove, both making their debuts for the Pilgrims, batted sensibly in helping us get to 123-4 and to appear to be cruising to victory. Hargrove then, most mystifyingly, hit the ball straight back to the bowler and called for a single and was run out by about 18 yards. Two more quick wickets meant that we were in a bit of trouble but the experienced Robin Leach, making his one appearance of the season,

showed all his experience in guiding us home.

Monday July 11 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 241-8 dec (J D Ricketts 84); Old Blundellians 200-7

The Pilgrims batted first on a sweltering July day, with Rankine continuing his run of form for the Club to score 41. Hodges failed to get going and Spink appeared incapable of playing a defensive stroke. It was left to Rankine and Ricketts, the latter showing some of his true class, to take the score to a respectable total. Rankine was finally out with the score on 146-4, Ricketts going on to make a fine 84. Pratt did not trouble the scorers, but Wingfield Digby (28*) and Costeloe (15*) produced quick runs at the end, enabling the declaration to be made at 241-8.

The Blundellians' early batsmen made little attempt to reach the total, despite showing plenty of ability and never being far off the required run rate. On such a flat pitch the Pilgrims toiled hard for wickets, Costeloe once again showing real pace on occasions and Pratt bowling tidily to take 2-25. Ironically it was only once the game was beyond them that the Blundellians middle order started to score freely, but by then it was too late to prevent the game dragging on to reach a tame draw.

Tuesday July 12 v Sherborne Town at Sherborne - Won by 59 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 238-3 dec (G W Garrett 123*, P J Hodges 51); Sherborne Town 179 (A R Willows 77)

After winning the toss we were given a sound start of 79 by Geoff Garrett and Charles Allen (29). Allen looked to be on the verge of beating his highest score for the Pilgrims but he missed the straight one. However Garrett continued to bat very solidly and we reached lunch at 127-2. After lunch, Garrett was joined by Hodges and they added 109 for the third wicket at which point captain Saunders was able to declare. Garrett's unbeaten hundred, in only his third game for the Pilgrims, was the result of great concentration and wise choice of shot, whilst Hodges' 50 was the result of a few more adventurous shots, one of which led to his downfall.

The Town's reply was centred on a fine knock by the School's coach, Alan Willows, although we were able to attack the other end and only two other batsmen managed to reach double figures. The wickets were evenly shared by the bowlers, apart from Bagnall who was beginning to show signs of not enough sleep. Special mention must be made of the bowling of a new Pilgrim, Jeremy Costeloe (2-24), who generated great pace and hit the Town's captain, Baker, on the head first ball with a vicious bouncer. Baker was unable to carry on batting, but fortunately was seen drinking beer after the game. A vote of thanks to Will Hargrove for keeping wicket for the third day in succession, despite having not kept since prep school.

Wednesday July 13 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 6 wickets
South Wales Hunt 244-9 dec (G Meggett 98, A Steele 61; P M S Slade 4-49);
Sherborne Pilgrims 246-4 (T G Rankine 101*)

The South Wales Hunt, captained by Pilgrim Richard Madley, were happy to win the toss and bat but were soon reduced to 59-4 by fierce and straight bowling from Slade and Costeloe. The score should have been far worse but for some abysmal slip fielding, with nobody appearing capable of holding a catch. Indeed, the catch taken by Hodges at first slip actually came off Allen's chest at second slip! A slight revival for the Hunts was ended by Slade and we lunched very confidently with the score at 112-5. After lunch Meggett was joined by Steele and the game took a decisive turn. Meggett, having edged most of his runs before lunch, began to bat more assuredly and Steele batted sensibly and showed glimpses of how he had once played representative cricket.

Having expected a gentle afternoon session, we played as if we all had suddenly been affected by sunstroke. Bagnall was again unable to get a wicket, but once Costeloe had stopped Meggett reaching the hundred he deserved, and making the Hunts 198-6, surely now we would wrap up the tail? However, after Costeloe had run out Steele, Springfield contrived to bowl leg side full tosses, one of which was despatched very nearly onto Merv's car, and helped the Hunts to declare at 244-9.

In a state of shock, we realised that we would have to score at more than five an over if we were to win a game which at lunch some had felt a formality. However, a sound start of 43 by Hodges (23) and Saunders (25) helped us reach 60-2 off 14 overs at tea, leaving us half-an-hour plus 20 overs at about six an over to win the game. The youth of Geoff Garrett and Torben Rankine added 90 in quick time for the third wicket, and despite Rob Smithson failing, we won an exciting game with an over to spare thanks to a marvellous unbeaten hundred by Rankine. This was apparently Torben's first ever hundred, made in front of his father and having kept wicket for 59 overs for the whole of the Hunts' innings!

Thursday July 14 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 51 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 201-6 dec (P J Hodges 59, F M J Costeloe 52*; W Taylor 4-63); Butterflies 150 (P M S Slade 6-42)

After a particularly heavy night, when most of the Pilgrims had stayed up very late to watch the World Cup semi-final, captain Garrett decided that it was in the team's best interest to bat. However, a slightly damp wicket resulted in batting being difficult and we stuttered to 72-4 at lunch with the captain more than a bit concerned; 72-4 soon became 74-5 and the captain being even more concerned. We were then rescued by a fine stand of 89 from Phil Hodges and Jeremy Costeloe, who both made use of the wicket drying out to play very straight. When Hodges fell to the hard working Taylor, Costeloe carried on the positive batting and reached a well deserved half century, his first for the Pilgrims.

The Butterflies' innings was never allowed to get going thanks to a lethal opening spell from both Hargrove and Slade. Hargrove, enjoying being able to bowl rather than keep wicket, deserved his two wickets and Slade carried on his fine form from the day before, bowling fast and straight. At 67-7, whilst resting Slade, Atwell came on and tried to buy a wicket or two but only succeeded in being hit for a number of

huge sixes. It was entirely fitting that Slade returned to finish the tail in impressive fashion with Rankine taking his fourth catch behind the wicket. A fine end to a great week with four wins and a draw over the five days.

Sunday July 17 v Old Tonbridgians - Lost by 63 runs

Old Tonbridgians 225-2 dec (J Lazell 63, M Hardcastle 56, B Ward 50*); Sherborne Pilgrims 162 (J E Pratt 62; J Frome 4-54)

Tonbridge had no hesitation in batting upon winning the toss as the wicket looked its traditional bowlers' nightmare. The supposedly fiery opening attack of Knechtli and Costeloe found the Tonbridge batsmen able to treat any ball bowled with consummate ease and, indeed, this ended up being true of all our bowlers. As in 1992, we lunched with Tonbridge over 120 without loss and a very long afternoon in prospect. However, a very early declaration, after only 43 overs of batting gave us plenty of time to get the runs.

Despite losing Rankine early to an atrocious attempted sweep, tea was taken at 61-1 and we still had about 35 overs left to get the runs. Paddy Knechtli running himself out shortly after tea did not bode well and nor did the early dismissal of Hodges. A stand of 42 between Costeloe (26) and Pratt gave us hope but the quick dismissal of these two saw the end of resistance, despite some hearty blows from Garrett (22*) at the end. Pratt was our only batsman who took advantage of the good batting conditions, but he was one of three Pilgrims actually caught by Pilgrims who were substituting for Tonbridge.

Pratt was brilliantly caught by Rob Corlett as one of these subs who was making his debut for the Pilgrims. An interesting debut too - eight wides in his first over, then a wicket, talking himself up to bat at four, making a huge single and then helping us lose the game by catching our top scorer! Overall a fairly resounding and disappointing defeat, all the harder to take when one remembers that this could have been the Old Tonbridgian 2nd XI as their 1st XI was playing in the semi-final of the Cricketer Cup on the same day!

Saturday August 6 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 250-6 dec (R W Fawcett 106); Bluemantles 230-6 (D R C Gale 62, R R C Baraimian 51)

A fine day at Tunbridge Wells saw us win the toss and elect to bat. Despite the early loss of Nic Coward and Matt Bennett, we scored quickly against the Bluemantles attack. Richard Fawcett on his debut for the Pilgrims scored his first hundred and with useful contributions from Will Hargrove (24), Will Rydon (16*) and skipper Richard Matthews (27*), we generously declared at 250-6 scored off only 47 overs.

The Bluemantles innings started well from our perspective, Rix and Coward picking up sharp catches in the slips to have the home side 37-2, but their middle order proved to be strong with Baraimian and Gale both passing 50. The Bluemantles required 120 from the final 20 overs with seven wickets in hand. However, just when

the match appeared to be going their way a wicket would fall and the game remained finely balanced. The bowling, especially from Will Rydon (2-79), remained very tight and the fielding was outstanding. Gradually the required run rate increased and, with wickets continuing to fall, we could easily have turned out victorious. However, a draw was a fair result - Bluemantles ended up 20 runs short with six wickets down, both sides having played to win throughout this enjoyable fixture.

Sunday August 28 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 106 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 264-6 dec (M W Ford 118*, J D Ricketts 92; S Singh 4-81); Cobham 148 (P C Allen 59)

On a somewhat autumnal Bank Holiday weekend there were two quite notable statistics about this Pilgrim side. First, despite only being 24, Bagnall, the skipper for the day, was the oldest Pilgrim playing; the other remarkable fact was that he was only the eighth Shirburnian to arrive despite being at the ground 50 minutes before the start of the game. The signs looked good and this trend continued as we won the toss and elected to bat first.

Singh, the Cobham opening bowler, looked pretty sharp as the first ball of the day whizzed straight past Atwell's outside edge. The second ball was even straighter; centre stump cartwheeled, 0-1.

After this early setback, Geoff Garrett (18) and Marcus Ford managed to get us through to the twelfth over before Garrett surrendered his wicket with the score on 45. There then followed an excellent partnership of 150 between Ford and Ricketts which completely turned the game around; the batting was quite devastating. From being 79-2 at 12.55, the somewhat jaded Cobham team came off the field at 1.25 with the Pilgrims score reading 165-2 at lunch with Ford on 78 and Ricketts on 63.

Cobham might well have wished that they hadn't spiked Ricketts' drinks at lunch because he proceeded to smash four of Singh's first five balls right out of the ground. He was then caught off the last delivery of the over, having scored a savage 92 runs which included eight sixes and six fours.

Despite only minor contributions from our middle order we were still able to declare at 3.00. Marcus Ford ended up with an unbeaten, chanceless 118. It was remarkable that this was his first ever hundred; he played as if he bats like that every week and it was a brilliant innings.

Our bowling was not as strong as the batting. However, it was still too powerful for Cobham who were unable to put up with the pace of Scott Stevens and the varied off-spin of Julian Pratt. Stevens' figures of 1-28 from 12 overs did not accurately reflect the true effectiveness of his two hostile spells. It was left to the other bowlers to reap the rewards. Bagnall took 3-11, Pratt 3-40 and Gillett 2-0 from only seven balls. Despite a third wicket partnership of nearly 100, Cobham's demise was very rapid and they were soon all out for a meagre 148 from 47 overs with only the home team's Australian import scoring more than 50. The Cobham skipper remarked

afterwards that our fielding had been excellent with some very keen diving about. Batchelar, fielding in the covers, was particularly sharp and de la Hey did well not to concede any byes.

Although the home side were certainly weaker than normal, this was a very strong Pilgrims performance from what was undoubtedly the youngest ever team with an average age of just over 22. Would it be dangerous to say that this bodes well for the future of Pilgrims cricket?

1995

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

Sunday May 21 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 5 wickets
Radley Rangers 157-9 (J E Pratt 5-27); Sherborne Pilgrims 159-5 (B D Atwell 65*, F M J Costeloe 50*)

Some good tight bowling by all the bowlers in this 50 over match restricted the Rangers to 79-4 off 32 overs at lunch - an excellent rate which gave us a psychological advantage. Julian Pratt (5-27 off his 11 overs) in particular kept the Rangers in shackles to the end. Despite the loss of three early wickets, Ben Atwell and William Hargrove (20) righted the boat and Jeremy Costeloe continued the good work with a partnership of 99, which made this look an easier victory than it really was.

Sunday June 4 - Cricketer Cup first round v Repton Pilgrims at Repton - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 179-8; Repton Pilgrims 183-3 (M J C Jerman 61*, H J W Wright 53*)

Once again the Pilgrims' showing in the Cricketer Cup was less than perfect. Despite having assembled a more than competent side, with several playing regular cricket of a good standard, the combined talents failed to come up with the consistent performance required to beat a side who were finalists in this competition two years previously.

Rob Rydon won the toss and elected to bat. This was a decision that might well have been reversed if Rob had considered the batting disasters of 1993 and 1994, and that our victory against Downside in 1992 had come as a result of a run chase. He might also have been reflecting on his choice of options when Turner, Ricketts and Atwell were all back in the pavilion with only single figure scores to their names.

This was not so much the fault of the batsmen concerned, although they all played a part in their own downfall, as a tribute to Repton's tight bowling and the movement achieved off the pitch. On an overcast morning, the decision to bat first was a brave, but ultimately a reckless one.

Gillett (23) and Hargrove (28) steadied the ship, the first boundary eventually coming in the 18th over, but the acceleration was not forthcoming. Gillett looked as if he was about to cut loose, but then gave his wicket away. Rydon once more had to play a captain's innings if a decent score was to be attained. Sherborne lunched on 91-4, with both batsmen on scores in their early twenties. A total in the region of 220 looked to be a realistic target and one which Repton would have to work to achieve.

Hargrove fell shortly after lunch, as Rydon continued to look the most cultured batsman the visitors had on show. But the needless run-out of Pratt put all the pressure back on the captain. He succumbed for 44 to a skied catch at long-on. Yet, a poor score was upgraded to a respectable, if still eminently gettable, one by some staunch hitting on the part of Knechtli (27*), ably supported first by Costeloe, and then, inimitably, by de la Hey. 179-8 was not perhaps an ideal total, but given the circumstances, could have been much worse in our allotted 55 overs.

The match was thus finely poised as Repton began their innings. Their progress was slow, if unspectacular, keeping up with the required run rate of around three an over. Costeloe bowled a tight line, while Rydon's spell before tea was at times unplayable. The crucial statistic was, however, that at the interval, Repton had lost only the two wickets for 53 runs, with their best batsmen lurking in the middle order; Costeloe and Pratt being the wicket-takers. Stubbs (26) fell to a diving catch by Pratt at square cover off Ricketts with the score on 83, and still all to play for.

Mark Jerman, the better of the twins, was now at the wicket with Hedley Wright, who had played against Sherborne the last time these two sides met in this competition. This was a partnership that had to be broken early, but the wicket was not forthcoming. Atwell dropped what would have been a sensational diving one-handed catch at square leg, whilst a leading edge off Pratt, which might have ballooned anywhere, fell to safety. By the finish, both batsmen were in good touch and having little difficulty in dispatching the ball: their pacing of the innings was finely judged and Wright struck the winning runs in the 52nd over to complete the hundred partnership.

It was undoubtedly disappointing yet again to witness a comfortable defeat for the Pilgrims. But there are no clear-cut solutions, except for the possibility that we employ a professional cheerleader, to save Stuart Gillett's voice. Perhaps we just enjoy the playing of the game too much, rather than the winning.

Sunday June 18 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 8 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 113; Hampshire Hogs 114-2

This was a disappointing performance on what should have been an enjoyable day on a lovely ground in glorious sunshine. We elected to bat but struggled to a lacklustre 113. John de la Hey made a crafty 28 but only Julian Pratt (25) and Tom Batchelar (15) gave any support. Sloppy dismissals and poor running between the wickets resulted in a target which was never going to trouble the Hogs. One felt that more attention was being paid to the Rugby World Cup semi-final between England

and the All Blacks than the match in hand. This was all the more embarrassing bearing in mind the hospitality shown to us by the Hogs which included a splendid lunch.

Saturday July 1 v The School at Sherborne - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 209; Sherborne School 213-6 (E A Bellew 54)

After losing the toss the Pilgrims lost a wicket in the very first over and were soon 15-3 with our top three all back in the pavilion. Cossins and Pratt then steadied matters with a partnership of 63 which was followed by another healthy partnership of 72 between Cossins and Rankine. However, at lunch we were only 164-5 and despite having on paper a strong batting side, it appeared that a lot would depend on Cossins remaining at the crease if we were to post a decent score.

With Jackaman, Cossins and Hargrove all falling quickly after lunch, it was left to the old timers, Gent and Garrett, to squeeze the score past 200. However, we were all out in the 55th over and our score was a good 40 runs short of what was needed. For the Pilgrims to have any chances of winning the game we would have to restrict the School's scoring rate and put them behind the run rate.

The School batted steadily despite losing an early wicket, but at no great pace and it became clear that the game could well end up being close. The Pilgrims bowled 37 overs of spin through Julian Pratt and William Worrell and ended up bowling 14 more overs than they faced. In the last 20 overs the School needed under five an over and were well on course until tight bowling and fielding from the Pilgrims resulted in two unnecessary run-outs. With three overs to go the School needed 24 to win with six wickets down and all results were still possible. However, under pressure it was the Pilgrims who cracked with some loose bowling and then a silly four overthrows when another simple run out beckoned. However, this was a well deserved win for the School with no fewer than four of their batsmen scoring over 35.

Sunday July 2 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Cancelled

Saturday July 8 v Little Durnford Fonthill at Little Durnford - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 137 (W P Hargrove 53); Little Durnford Fonthill 139-7

Raising a side for Saturday matches becomes more and more difficult with the ever-increasing demands of leagues; we were three short on this occasion. The Pilgrims batted rather slowly at first until William Hargrove took command with a very good 53; however, he had little support until there was a late flourish from Patrick Gent (25). With eight fielders our score was never going to be enough, although at 83-6 they could have been in trouble, but we were unable to sustain the effort or guard the wide-open spaces.

Sunday July 9 v Marlborough Blues at Sherborne - Cancelled

Monday July 10 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 226-7 dec (W H Wingfield Digby 64*, N I Gavin-Brown 50); Old Blundellians 172-7 (A Giles 56, N Vallence 56; R H F Pugsley 6-56)

This game marked Julian Pratt's debut at captaining the Pilgrims and he started badly by losing the toss and we were asked to bat. A solid if slightly slow opening partnership of 77 between Nick Gavin-Brown and Tim Percival appeared to have given us a good base. However, a middle order collapse saw us descend from 93-1 to 106-5 at lunch and with some serious re-building required. Our saviour was William Wingfield Digby who in sharing stands of 51 with de la Hey (23) and an unbeaten stand of 53 with Slade (22*) enabled us to reach respectability in declaring at just gone 4 o'clock, although we had batted for 75 overs.

The Blundellians were to have about 50 overs to get the runs and despite a very tight opening spell by Slade, the Blundellian openers suffered few alarms and started the final 20 overs with all wickets in hand and only 110 needed. However, the first over of the final 20 saw Hugh Pugsley remove both openers, one to a fine running catch by Springfield. Pugsley then reduced the Blundellians to 162-7 with eight overs still remaining but the game petered out to a disappointing draw with only 10 runs being scored in the last nine overs.

Tuesday July 11 v Fettesian Lorettonians at Sherborne - Lost by 100 runs
Fettesian Lorettonians 172 (J R S Lloyd 53*; F M J Costeloe 5-61); Sherborne Pilgrims 72 (J R S Lloyd 7-19)

This fixture was against new opposition who were touring the West Country and what a rude shock the Pilgrims received. Early on things looked good with Costeloe ripping through the upper order after Rix had won the toss for the Pilgrims and inserted our northern opponents. Shortly after lunch, with the score at 96-7, talk of an early victory was heard being discussed, but sensible batting combined with some Pilgrims going to sleep enabled the last three wickets to add a further 76 runs.

A score of 172 should have been easily within the Pilgrims grasp particularly as we had plenty of time. However, Costeloe had shown earlier in the day that there was a lot in the wicket with the new ball. After Gavin-Brown was out early to a loose shot, the Pilgrims were quickly reduced to 30-4 by the raw pace of Lloyd. Only Hargrove looked remotely capable of handling Lloyd's pace and indeed he was the only player to reach double figures. Once Hargrove fell, again to Lloyd, we quickly subsided from 61-5 to 72 all out with Lloyd leaving our innings in tatters. A resounding, comprehensive defeat but one in which the Pilgrims should accept that the opposition played the game considerably more competitively than we did, and that we will need to play much harder in future if we are to compete.

Wednesday July 12 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 272-3 dec (B D Atwell 113*, W P Hargrove 52); South Wales Hunt 275-7 (D Ricketts 166)

After our dismal defeat the previous day, hopes were high against the South Wales

Hunt, who had not previously beaten us. When captain Rice won the toss we were privileged to watch a fantastic innings from Ben Atwell who scored a chanceless hundred. He was ably backed up by Hargrove and Rix and indeed all the batsmen were able to score more than 20, apart from the captain. Rice declared after only 52 overs obviously wanting enough time to bowl the Hunts out.

Rice, nor the rest of the Pilgrims, could have been expecting to see a batsman of the class of Ricketts (a regular player in league cricket in Wales) who immediately showed how our score was by no means invincible. It became obvious that we had to attack the other end to Ricketts, but stands of 42, 93, and 45 with Ricketts contributing 124 out of these 180 runs brought the Hunts to the last few overs needing only 20 or so to win. Paul Grellier did manage to dismiss Ricketts with only eight required in the final over but unfortunately number eight won the game with consecutive boundaries. An exciting game with 550 runs scored but Rice won the Horlicks for giving the Hunts 12 overs more than us to get the runs.

Thursday July 13 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
Butterflies 164 (C Davis 51*; R H F Pugsley 4-15); Sherborne Pilgrims 165-3 (B D Atwell 63*)

After losing the toss and being invited to field, Springfield quickly reduced the Butterflies to 20-2 and when Ward removed the dangerous Blyth (who had scored a century against the Pilgrims before) the Butterflies descended to 74-6 at lunch. After lunch Pugsley reduced the Butterflies to 115-9 but once again the Pilgrims were unable to apply a quick coup de grâce and a last wicket stand of 49 made most laboriously in 16 overs, enabled us to have a reasonable target to chase.

Having failed to score 172 two days earlier, would the Pilgrims bat well enough to secure the first victory of the week? An opening stand of 36 between Percival and Hodges got us off to a good start and then Rankine and Atwell saw us comfortably home with Atwell carrying on his fine form. A comprehensive victory with the Pilgrims scoring the runs in under half the overs that the Butterflies faced.

Friday July 14 v Rabelaisians at Sherborne - Won by 26 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 144 (O Paine 4-14, S C Ewen 4-29); Rabelaisians 118 (F N C Spicer 4-34)

With many leaving Sherborne after the Butterflies game, the remaining Pilgrims managed to recruit half their numbers shortly after closing time at the Digby Tap only 12 hours before the start and your captain was confident that those Pilgrims playing would do their stuff. However, when your correspondent had to come to the wicket with the score at 43-5 he was more than a bit concerned. Shortly after lunch, the Upper witnessed the rare sight of a hat-trick as the Pilgrims descended to 58-8 and in real trouble. However, Garrett, ably supported by Spicer, a master at the School, managed to turn the innings round with a fine stand of 82 for the ninth wicket and it was unfortunate that neither managed to reach 50.

Any aspirations that the Rabelaisians had of scoring the runs easily were quickly quashed by Spicer who reduced them to 22-5 helped by Dan Thorne, playing for the opposition, falling to Garrett for the second year. However, a seventh wicket partnership of 28 and an eighth of 47 enabled the Rabelaisians to get within striking distance. When your correspondent dropped their top scorer he began to sweat but luckily Torben Rankine, playing his last game for the Pilgrims before making his international debut, managed to secure the last wicket for an exciting victory.

Sunday July 16 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

Saturday August 12 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 6 wickets
Bluemantles 243-5 dec (J Butcher 84, O Hutton 65); Sherborne Pilgrims 244-4 (W P Hargrove 97, J E Pratt 68)

Unusually for a very popular game, we only managed to raise nine players which made the resulting win even more credible. On another wonderful pitch we decided to bowl first with the hope of restricting the Bluemantle's to a reasonable score, which, in view of only nine fielders, we managed to a certain extent. Julian Pratt bowled tidily on a pitch not suitable to bowlers and Andrew Palmer bowled well at the end to claim three wickets.

Our innings depended very heavily on the top four since our batting looked somewhat frail after them. Rix and Bennett put on a useful opening stand but both departed with the score on 32, thus leaving a huge burden on Pratt and Hargrove. We realised it could be our day when Pratt was dropped first ball and the resultant overthrow went for four. After that both batsmen played with considerable skill and after Pratt was out for an excellent 68, Will Hargrove continued to dominate the bowling, ably assisted by Andrew Palmer. Nearing his well deserved hundred Will was unfortunately bowled - unfortunately because it seemed only he had noticed the bail had been dislodged. Anyway, Palmer and Morton soon finished the match, and what had seemed an unlikely victory was complete.

Sunday August 27 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 67 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 239-7 dec (E P J F Lyons 63*; D McDaniel 6-58); Cobham 172 (H Lee 59*; R A Bagnall 5-50)

As in 1994 the Pilgrims fielded a young side for this traditional August Bank Holiday cricket extravaganza; there was one exception - Ed Lyons was drafted into the team for his experience and it proved to be a wise choice.

We lost the toss and the opposition decided to field first due to the rather overcast chilly conditions unsuitable for flamboyant batting. Despite the weather, the Pilgrims endeavoured to bat quite well with a cautious opening few overs followed by some enjoyable calypso cricket. At 56-0, Pratt and Rice were starting to look dangerous when Rice received a somewhat unfortunate lbw decision. The next hour was rather interesting as the Pilgrims continued to play every stroke known to man, most of which are not to be found in any coaching manual. Although there was a great deal of

entertainment involving a flourish of boundaries, we also managed to reduce ourselves to 120-6. Pratt, Jackaman, Rix, and Atwell were all out playing attacking shots. The in-form Hargrove, with all the family watching, strode to the crease in confident mood, but his first ball was far too straight and rather convincingly bowled him.

At this stage Lyons, joined by de la Hey, decided to play properly and the two of them had an excellent stand of 119 runs. De la Hey was dismissed for 46 looking for the extra four runs before the declaration. Lyons was masterly and ended up undefeated on 63. The two of them batted extremely well to get us out of a potentially very sticky situation and gave us quite a handy score which was always going to take some getting.

Cobham's batting, as in 1994, was not really very good. With this in mind, Bagnall decided to open the bowling, downhill and downwind - captain's prerogative. Despite batting extremely well in their first 15 overs, the home team managed a spectacular collapse in the five minutes just before tea; having been 41-0, they lost four wickets for four runs in the space of just 14 balls. It was unfortunate that this flurry of wickets effectively ended the contest as the remaining Cobham batsmen were not up to the task of scoring the remaining runs.

After tea there followed the inevitable spell of spin bowling in an attempt to get the home side to play shots, score runs and subsequently, lose wickets. There was really only ever going to be one outcome and eventually Cobham were all out for 172, with Lyons taking the last two wickets to cap his man of the match performance. Bagnall took five wickets and Pratt 2-16 from nine testing overs.

So once again Cobham were defeated. Although it is always good to win, it should be noted that several Pilgrims had travelled quite considerable distances in order to appear in this game. It was probably quite a good job that the pre-match meeting the night before had been so long and thorough otherwise their journeys might have been in vain.

1996

Played 10: Won 2, Lost 4, Drawn 2, Abandoned 2, Cancelled 3.

Sunday May 19 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Abandoned
Sherborne Pilgrims 8-1 - Rain

Sunday June 2 - Cricketer Cup first round v Haileybury Hermits at Haileybury - Lost by 62 runs
Haileybury Hermits 262-6 (N J C Gandon 66, A S Lewis 55, N Anderson 52);
Sherborne Pilgrims 200 (W P Hargrove 60; M S Hogue 5-26)

Maybe there should have been relief that the game (nearly) went the whole distance. Given the propensity for collapse and an early finish in the cup games of the last few

years, it was perhaps surprising that the match did not finish until nearly 6.45pm. But the result was depressingly familiar: a comfortable victory for our opponents.

This year had been, optimistically, labelled as the 'start of a new era' for Pilgrims cricket. Bagnall's first two balls suggested otherwise. Eight runs conceded, followed by eight off Garrett's first over, and the tone had been set. And all this on a wicket that should have been giving plenty of assistance to the seam bowlers.

It was hard not to feel sympathy with the new captain, Ricketts. He had called correctly and opted to field against a home side that was self-confessedly lacking a fifth bowler and more than four front-line batsmen. It should have been a difficult morning for Haileybury, but the Pilgrims's seam bowlers let their captain down badly. Between them, the four seamers bowled 31 overs; 172 runs came off those overs - a run rate of well over five an over, which was just not good enough. Pratt, in particular, and Ricketts himself bowled tightly in the last third of the innings, but by then the damage had been done and Haileybury were in a position to dominate the match.

Ricketts had ever greater cause to rue the glaring missed chance - a fairly simple catch at first slip - off Garrett in the second over; Lewis was yet to score at that stage, and his 55 runs were to come off just 40 balls. But one dropped catch must not be allowed to disguise the fact that our bowling should have been so much better. Indeed, our fielding was wholehearted and saved a good many runs (in stark contrast to Haileybury's poor showing), with one good catch in the deep by Hargrove and a stunning low catch by Ricketts at extra cover late on, to go with a neat stumping by de la Hey. Gillett, however, will not remember his day in the field with any satisfaction.

Haileybury lunched on 183-2 with 18 overs still left to bowl, and a target of 300 should have been within reach, but the Pilgrims' much improved effort in the field afterwards showed what might have been. 262 was a tall order, but not unattainable, given that the wicket was generally predictable, and given the depth to which the Pilgrims batted.

Following the vogue, Bagnall was sent in to open as a pinch-hitter. (A rare first was recorded here, Bagnall opening both the batting and bowling. Dare one say, 'Never again'?) What was required was a swift start, but the pinch-hitting never materialised and Turner became bogged down to such an extent that one sensed a Test match innings was in the offing.

Both openers perished for single-figure scores, which brought a pivotal pair together. Atwell looked in supreme touch, his timing as fluent as ever, scarcely looking troubled, while Hargrove was belligerent and powerful. They were taking calculated risks with their running, but at tea, on 58-2 and with the rate accelerating, there was every prospect of reaching the Haileybury score. The critical moment came when Atwell called for a sharp single that was just about on; Hargrove sent him back late and Atwell was on his way for 37. He said afterwards he did not feel as though anyone was going to get him out. It certainly looked that way from the boundary. The

disdain with which the bowling was being treated had augured so well.

But with Rydon, the cup stalwart, on his way to the crease, hope was still very much alive, and after a slow start, he was beginning to increase the tempo when another run out, a poor piece of calling from Hargrove, put him back in the pavilion for 14. This time, Hargrove looked mortified and visibly lost concentration. The next ball he faced he tried to smash through midwicket and was bowled for an excellent 60. The game was slipping away.

Much now depended on the captain, at 141-5 and with the run rate at just under six an over. Ricketts looked accomplished and compact but, paradoxically, was unable to find the boundary, and although Gillett gave plenty of support, the target grew ever steeper. Once Ricketts was out, the match was all but gone. It was nice to make the 200 mark, but the wasteful bowling of the morning session had taken its toll.

It is hard to know where improvement might be made to the Pilgrims line-up for next year. Ricketts was an excellent captain, doing what he could with his attack, and setting a wonderful example in the field, where he was surprisingly agile. Both spinners bowled well (and perhaps on the day there might have been a case for Atwell turning his arm over), while there was some good batting on show.

Certainly the inclusion of Phil Hodges would have made a difference, if he had been able to play, but ultimately this game was lost by the seam bowlers. Haileybury's Hogue showed that all that was necessary was to keep the ball up to the bat and bowl straight: five for 26 tells its own story. All too rarely did the Pilgrims quartet follow that road. And again, we look to next year for solace.

Sunday June 16 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 282-6 dec (J R Tweedale 197); Hampshire Hogs 283-7 (W P Gunyon 109)

On a very hot day Will Hargrove won the toss and had no hesitation in deciding to bat. We obviously hoped to get off to a good start but did not expect to lunch at 183-0. After a slow start, James Tweedale dominated all the bowlers in scoring his century before the interval, and Charlie Allen gave excellent support. Tweedale hit 29 boundaries, including 10 sixes, and it was a pity that he could not reach his double century. As he tired, the later batsmen were unable to score quick enough for an early declaration, and the captain decided that 300 would be too many. So the declaration came after 56 overs.

Our opening attack of Bagnall and Hargrove dismissed numbers two and three, but the other opener, Gunyon, was obviously a good player and would require some removing. The first sign of potential problems for the Pilgrims was the sight of de la Hey coming on as first change, and later seeing Gillett on as the sixth bowler. The Hogs continued to score steadily through Gunyon, and later from a quick 47 from Bristow. Dropped catches and some indifferent fielding did not help our cause. Despite needing 126 in the last 20 overs the Hogs were always up with the rate. At

250-8 the match was evenly poised but the 9th wicket saw the Hogs home with two overs to spare.

An excellent match that should really not have been lost after Tweedale's great innings, but the heat and, perhaps with hindsight a declaration an over or so too soon, coupled with the dropped catches, proved just too much for the Pilgrims.

Saturday June 29 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 188-6 dec; Sherborne School 125-9 (A D Nurton 4-33)

The Pilgrims were put in on a slow wicket and were in some trouble at 45-3. The innings was rescued and then built on by Pratt, Ambrose and Hattam so the declaration gave the School plenty of time to get the runs. After the School had lost early wickets it became clear they would not win. The Pilgrims bowled a lot of maidens but in spite of the regular fall of wickets were denied victory.

Sunday June 30 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Dorset Rangers 201-9 dec (R Morgan 75, L Cook 53); Sherborne Pilgrims 202-6 (W H Wingfield Digby 71*, G P Gent 52)

The Rangers won the toss and, after an early wicket from Bagnall, Cook and Morgan made the Pilgrims bowling look very ordinary with a stand of 135. This was broken by an excellent catch at mid off from Garrett, which started a mini collapse with a further three wickets falling for only five runs. Tight bowling from Nurton and Warren kept the Rangers in check and it was the last pair who nudged the score over 200.

The Pilgrims started badly, with Tweedale out in the second over, but a sparkling 52 from Gent got things going. After a slight wobble at 154-5 William Wingfield Digby guided us home with an accomplished unbeaten 71.

Sunday July 7 v Marlborough Blues at Sherborne - Cancelled

Monday July 8 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Lost by 156 runs
Old Blundellians 298-5 dec (K Gray 164*, S M P Patidar 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 142 (D W Thorne 59)

After winning the toss Blundellians had little difficulty in putting together a large score with Gray carrying his bat. The Pilgrims started well with 55 for the first wicket, but then wickets fell at regular intervals. Thorne was the only batsman to play himself in and work for his runs.

Tuesday July 9 v Fettesian Lorettonians at Sherborne - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 186-8 dec (D W Thorne 77); Fettesian Lorettonians 190-8

This was a most exciting game played on a somewhat difficult wicket. We won the toss and were indebted to Thorne for a fine innings which ended with a flurry of boundaries - he was too tired to run in spite of the cloudy and cool day! The total

should have been over 200 but 167-4 had quickly turned to 186-8 in a few overs. A sporting declaration meant that the Pilgrims would have to bowl the Scotsmen out, and this nearly happened. After a steady start, with the first four batsmen all getting 20 or more, they required 57 off the last 20 overs with wickets in hand. Tight bowling from Warren and Wingfield Digby (2-18), supported by good fielding, got the figures to 38 off ten and then 20 off five. Wickets had been falling and panic began to set in, but our visitors always seemed to have one over in hand which was proved when they scrambled home in the last over.

Wednesday July 10 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Lost by 32 runs
South Wales Hunt 248-6 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 216

Thursday July 11 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 171 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 302-4 dec (G D Reynolds 111, S W D Rintoul 58); Butterflies 131 (Rintoul 5-26)

The Butterflies won the toss and must have regretted electing to field. The Pilgrims had a strong batting line up and the runs came at seven an over with fine striking from Reynolds and Rintoul. The excellent display of batting was followed by tight bowling from Hargrove (2-15), Rintoul and Morton: this cramped the Butterflies and none of their batsmen managed to stay and play a long innings.

Sunday July 14 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled

Friday August 2 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Cancelled

Sunday August 25 v Cobham at Cobham - Abandoned
Sherborne Pilgrims 43-1 - Rain

After eight overs, which included a breezy 23 from Rice, rain was the winner.

1997

Played 10: Won 8, Drawn 1, Lost 1, Cancelled 3.

Sunday May 18 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Cancelled

Sunday June 1 - Cricketer Cup first round v Old Malvernians, at Sherborne - Won by 3 wickets
Old Malvernians 146; Sherborne Pilgrims 148-7

Cricket, and sport in general, is often more about attitude and commitment than about individual skill and ability. A team with a professional, disciplined approach can overcome more talented, yet more disparate outfits. This three-wicket victory by the Pilgrims - a first win in the Cricketer Cup for five years - had "attitude" written all over it.

It was no coincidence. Team selection was more considered, those who took the field were picked because they were playing regular cricket, not because of their performances on the Upper in their last year at school. This was a balanced XI, with depth in both batting and bowling - and with some excellent fielding to match.

Comfortable in the knowledge that he had batsmen able to chase a total, Ricketts inserted the Old Malvernians after winning the toss. The toss, though, was not crucial. What swung the match in the first instance was the tight bowling and enthusiastic ground fielding of the Pilgrims, preventing the visitors from ever running away with the game.

Both Garlick (making a welcome and overdue first Cup appearance) and Garrett pursued a steady line, and Garlick found early reward with a wicket in the third over. But it was the contribution of the change bowlers, Wingfield Digby and Rydon, that ensured that the Pilgrims would have only a minimal total to overhaul.

Rydon, so reliable in this competition, purveyed hostile swing bowling to collect three for 21, while Wingfield Digby maintained a nagging line that also yielded three wickets. The vital strike was Rydon's dismissal of Wileman, the Malvernians' opener who was on the staff of Nottinghamshire in 1996. Wileman had begun to flourish, offering some fine shots on both sides of the wicket, when he played on.

Continued accuracy, not least from Ricketts's leg-spin, ensured that the potentially powerful lower order - the Malvernians No 9 is his club's regular opener - did not play havoc with the Pilgrims' careful early work and the final total of 146 left five overs still unbowed.

This was an eminently achievable target, but older Pilgrims recalled how, in the last meeting between the two sides in the Cup, the teasing left-arm spin of Ashworth had undone them. Well as Ashworth bowled this time, the greater application of the home team was instrumental in keeping the innings on track for victory.

Much of the credit for that must go to the patient opening pairing of Tweedale and Hodges, who put on 49 for the first wicket and laid the foundations well. Hodges in particular played some languidly well-timed shots, one straight down the ground towards Westbury that was especially memorable. Atwell continued the good work - one sumptuous cover drive almost matching Hodges's best effort - before the first wobble occurred.

With tea approaching, a score of 80 or 90-odd for two at the break looked likely. Then Leeke, who looked comfortable, and Hargrove both perished for single-figure scores. Mindful of sad Pilgrims collapses of the recent past, there were those, this writer among them, who thought that another defeat was looming.

The loss of Atwell soon after tea did nothing to dispel that, nor, too, the dismissal of Rydon a little later. But Ricketts, playing with patience and care - attributes that could equally have been applied to his measured captaincy in the field - nursed first

Jackaman and then Wingfield Digby through to a solid three-wicket victory. Only at the last did he allow himself latitude, pulling Smart powerfully over midwicket for four to cheers that were as much in relief as in exultation.

Sunday June 15 v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford - Won by 6 wickets
Hampshire Hogs 212; Sherborne Pilgrims 213-4 (G W Garrett 59, M J E Jackaman 50)

As last year, this game was both popular and close. Spencer Ewen, captain and match manager, not to mention his friend Rob Brook, never made it to the match after a minor car accident. Explanations involving a wedding reception the previous night were given. In any event, the Pilgrims had 11 players regardless, and the game began on time with the Hogs winning the toss and deciding to bat.

The Pilgrims had four wicket-keepers in the team and only three bowlers. Hargrove and Bagnall opened the attack, with little pace but at least accuracy. Wickets were shared evenly, with the openers claiming three apiece and Tweedale and Atwell gaining two each. The Hogs batted steadily, with James, who scored 83, their best batsman. The final total of 212 was no easy one to chase, on a slow track not conducive to strokeplay.

The Pilgrims' response began badly. Tom Batchelar's innings started and finished with the same delivery, although it was unquestionably the best golden duck witnessed by those present. One School House man was replaced by another, and together Garrett and Jackaman proceeded to repair the damage, both scoring fifties before falling to Westbrook. Their good work was not wasted, however, with Pugh, De la Hey and Rix all contributing good runs towards a satisfactory victory just after 7 o'clock. Needless to say, the Hogs, as always, were excellent hosts.

Sunday June 22 - Cricketer Cup second round v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 21 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 149; Radley Rangers 128

An annual "friendly" between the two sides had been rained off in May with little warning - eight Pilgrims had travelled - and so it was with some trepidation that the Pilgrims travelled again, considering the rain that had fallen and the forecast for more. Radley, though, remained dry virtually through the day, apart from an isolated storm at about 4pm for 30 minutes.

Before the toss, the captains agreed that a 40-over match would be sensible and the Pilgrims were duly inserted. The first ball of the match was a wide, as was the first ball of each of the first four bowlers; this was to be a telling factor, for Radley bowled 16 wides and three no balls. Despite losing three quick wickets, the Pilgrims scored quite freely (Rankine 42) until the tenth over at 46 for three, when the spinners Nash and Martin-Jenkins began to operate.

Overs 19 to 22 saw just two runs scored and 25 to 30, nine runs. However, the

shackles were broken and Ricketts, the captain, batting at No 7 (24 not out) was able to lead a late spree despite two run-outs. The Pilgrims were finally all out for 149 off 39.3 overs.

The Rangers must have been confident that this was very gettable and started steadily with Hollis scoring 40. Garlick in particular bowled well - his first ball was four wides and the next scoring ball off him was at the beginning of his fourth over. Martin-Jenkins at No 3 tried to push the score on but was unconvincing, especially against the evergreen reverend, Wingfield Digby.

At tea, after 20 overs, Radley were 64 for two (at which stage Sherborne had been 81 for three). After the extended 40-minute interval for rain, the umpires offered a further delay, but both captains agreed to continue (one wondered if Sherborne were wise, as at that stage they could have been declared winners!).

A number of half-chances and further steady progress by Eadie (27) and Hollis (finally leg-before to Wingfield Digby) put the likely result in Radley's favour, although the required scoring rate had risen to over 6 by the 34th over (Ricketts's ninth) which went dot, dot, bowled, wide, bowled, wide, dot, dot!

Further wickets in the next two overs suddenly shifted the balance and a run out on a second run in the 38th with 28 still required was the death-knell; the second and third balls of the 39th over brought proceedings to an end with catches at midwicket and deep mid-off. Radley were all out for 128 with Ricketts and Wingfield Digby taking three wickets each.

Saturday June 28 v the School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne School 222-7; Sherborne Pilgrims 170-8

Parting with tradition, Hargrove inserted the School on an overcast and cold Commemoration Saturday. A young and fit Pilgrims side fielded extremely well and managed to limit the School to 222 on a low and slow pitch. Fradgley, with 60, and Adams (53) were the Pilgrims' chief tormentors; the wickets were evenly spread around, with Searson, the most effective bowler, gaining three. Lyons, the nod towards age and experience, took two, while Clarke and Will Wingfield Digby picked up one each.

The Pilgrims' innings never really got going, essentially because of tight bowling and good fielding by the School; Rankine stood out from the general mediocrity in scoring 41, but it was Adams for the School who rounded off a sound overall performance by taking four for 22 to add to his fifty earlier in the match. The Pilgrims denied the School the satisfaction of a win, though, holding on with two wickets intact for the draw, some way off the School's target.

Sunday July 6 - Cricketer Cup quarter-final v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 4 runs
Old Tonbridgians 209; Sherborne Pilgrims 205 (B D Atwell 55)

This was only the second time that we had played for a place in the semi-final - the first had been in 1980. The late arrival of Garlick gave Ricketts a difficult decision to make if he won the toss; perhaps fortunately he had no such decision to make - Tonbridge decided to bat on a wicket that had green patches at one end.

It cannot have been often that a Cricketer Cup side has taken the field with a 60-year-old, two days into retirement, amongst them. Bagnall found opening the bowling with Wingfield Digby difficult and failed to use the conditions as he should; it was Hodges who broke the first-wicket partnership in the ninth over when Sale was caught off the shoulder of the bat at second slip.

Owen-Browne batted calmly throughout the morning and with Walsh seemed to be building surely for a respectable total; however, just before lunch, Walsh was caught at mid on and so after 36 overs Tonbridge went into the interval well placed on 125 for two and 19 overs to bat.

However, Tonbridge wasted their chances - the Kent-contracted player, Ford, was caught by Freeth at square leg two overs after lunch and Owen-Browne at long on, slogging, in the 40th over for 57. A brilliant Atwell direct hit ran out Hollins, another contracted player, and Tonbridge were 145 for five. A small recovery as Tonbridge tried to up the run rate was halted by two Atwell catches at extra cover (182 for seven in the 50th over); the captain ran out No 9 from midwicket in the 53rd over, a caught-and-bowled in the 54th and a Bagnall catch on the last ball of the innings.

Garlick had bowled straight through from lunch, taking two for 40, Wingfield Digby two for 31, Ricketts two for 53 but Jim Freeth was the pick of the bowlers, with one for 31 off his 11 overs. A very good performance but even so, what might have happened if Garlick had been present at the start?

Ricketts decided to lead from the front and opened with Rankine. One or two rushes of blood made the heart stop, but after 20 overs, 54 without loss put us in the driving seat; the 21st over yielded 15 runs before Rankine was caught at slip off Ford, the slow left-armers first ball. In the 24th over, Ricketts was caught at cover hitting a short ball uppishly and suddenly we were 71 for two after 25 overs at tea.

Tweedale attacked after tea, scoring 30 in five overs before being caught at slip off a short ball, Hodges rapidly followed skying a catch to extra cover, irresponsibly. Hargrove and Atwell accumulated over the next 11 overs before Hargrove was run out - 142 for five (at the same stage, Tonbridge were 146 for five). Jackaman hit a long hop to square leg and so realistically it was up to Atwell and Wingfield Digby to stick together; 25 runs came in five overs when suddenly Wingfield Digby was run out and all seemed lost (39 required off six overs).

Atwell, it seemed, had to farm the bowling. However, Bagnall had other ideas - 11 runs came in the 51st over, three runs and a bye in the 52nd, but then tragedy struck; Atwell hesitated on a second run and was run out for a high-class 55.

Even so, four runs were scored in the 53rd over and 12 off the 54th, leaving seven to score off the final over. Bagnall played a dot, snicked 1, Garlick hit 2 but was caught off the fourth ball when the batsmen crossed. Enter Freeth, with four to win (if we still had only nine wickets down) off two balls. Bagnall missed the first and was bowled by a full toss off the final ball - he had scored 27 off just 24 balls.

A great match which left us wondering what might have been - especially when Tonbridge bowled out Uppingham for 115 a fortnight later to win the semi-final by seven wickets, but lost the final to Bradfield.

This had been a very good campaign, but we need to find batsmen who can hang around and score more securely - what we might have given for Stuart Rintoul, who was busy with Dorset during all three of our games.

(The match scheduled for July 6 was the away fixture against Marlborough Blues, which was cancelled on account of the Pilgrims' involvement in the Cricketer Cup.)

Monday July 7 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Old Blundellians 181; Sherborne Pilgrims 183-6 (D W Thorne 67)

Having fielded a weaker side against the Old Blundellians in recent years, it was a great pleasure for the captain to be able to leave out two of the previous day's Cricketer Cup players and still feel confident of a strong performance by the Pilgrims. Hodges and Tweedale were duly rested and sent to the golf course while the rest were sent into the field by the Old Blundellians' stalwart, Ted Crowe.

Pexton bowled with good pace and accuracy and had soon accounted for both Blundellian openers, but the wickets then dried up as Patidar accumulated runs in two good partnerships with Murrin (29) and Akerman (44). Just as things were starting to look less easy for the Pilgrims, the Old Blundellians decided to throw it all away. Murrin was needlessly run out and Patidar surrendered his wicket to the steady Andy Searson, who had the unenviable task of the "uphill, upwind" spell of bowling.

Bishop then produced the figures of the day by taking three wickets in three overs bowling down the hill. The most laid-back man on the pitch positively blew away the opposition's middle order; but Crowe came on to declare that his team were short of players, a lame end to proceedings.

A target of 182 for victory should never have caused anxiety, but Pilgrims do not play without plenty of drama. Searson and Pugh opened the batting and looked to be going steady before Searson was run out for 11. That brought Dan Thorne to the crease, apparently intent on ending the contest by tea as he cracked the ball to all parts of the ground. Thorne made it all look deceptively easy, batting brutally for a rapid 67. His generosity was noted when he ran down the wicket, missed the ball by a mile and was stumped. He was heavily fined for his deliberate attempt to allow others to bat.

Pugh had run himself out during Thorne's whirlwind innings, scoring a handy 33. Hargrove put on a few runs with Longman before the famous local landowner and wealthy farmer was deceived by a very straight ball and was bowled. Pilgrims were by now diving for the pavilion, but Hargrove and Will Wingfield Digby re-established control and put on 46. Hargrove's dismissal was followed quickly by Costeloe, bowled without scoring in a vain effort to win the game in boundaries.

The captain was then spotted sprinting to the pavilion from the scoreboard (not for the first time); after a few glares at the incoming Costeloe and the outgoing Bristow, it was decided that the cavalier approach could be abandoned in favour of winning the match. Bristow and Wingfield Digby thereby guided the team home to a four-wicket win.

An unconvincing start to the week, but it was a win, most importantly, and it proved to be just the beginning of a very successful few days, both on and off the field.

Tuesday July 8 v Dorset Colts at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets
Dorset Colts 149 (R H F Pugsley 5-51); Sherborne Pilgrims 155-6 (J D Pexton 50)

The Pilgrims assembled on the Upper in true club style, some playing Frisbee, some rehydrating, others dying a slow death from what has become known as Bagnallerosis, all admiring the rather physical warm-up of the Dorset Colts. Eventually Hodges stumbled out to the middle to meet a Shirburnian, Andy Searson (later to redeem himself for appearing for the opposition). Hodges called correctly and decided to field - apparently for no better reason than it was Tuesday.

Having played in some "tedious" matches on the Upper, with the first priority being not to lose, Hodges' second act as captain was to inform his troops that it was win or lose, and definitely not draw. The response was positive, it seemed.

Pexton and Bagnall opened the bowling, with great skill and perseverance on a typical Upper pitch with little bounce or movement. Pexton in particular found the right line and length and secured an early wicket. The Colts' second-wicket pairing put together a good stand in terms of runs scored, but never looked fully at home. The entry of Pugsley into the attack saw the class act of the day, aided by some interesting field positions that Hodges claims were devised specifically for the Upper. Anyone who plays for the spin - a sin roundly criticised by both Stone and Willows over the years - will fall to Pugsley, whose skill is line and flight, but certainly not spin.

At the other end, there was constant change. Costeloe bowled a variety of deliveries with no luck but a great deal of amusement. Ben Bishop then came off his "Michael Holding" run and bowled with great heart, removing, among others, Searson, who looked tentative, was worse after some "jovial banter" from the unforgiving Pilgrims and was overcome by it all.

While Bishop was bowling tightly, Pugsley was accumulating the wickets, exerting

pressure on the batsmen by making them play at every delivery, with an array of close fielders stifling their strokes. The Colts determined on a policy of hit or hope. It was mostly hope. Apart from Hicks, who entertained with a slog or two, the Colts folded and were all out for 149.

In reply, the Pilgrims began - as often - badly. Wingfield Digby played a loose shot and was soon back among friends regaling all and sundry with past endeavours. Hargrove fared no better and was good only for being the butt of jokes about his stomach. Pugh at the other end batted well for 23 but ultimately went rather softly.

Pexton's innings was entirely typical. Those who have not seen Pexton in bat have missed genuine entertainment: he hits the ball cleanly, stylishly and correctly most of the time. At all other times he slogs; defence is what other people do. Tweedale was playing well when he lost concentration, allowing Bristow to join the expansive Pexton.

Bristow, short and compact, with a tight technique, proved the perfect foil to Pexton. These two won the game for the Pilgrims with some excellent batting that ruthlessly exploited any misdirected bowling. This allowed Costeloe, who came in with the match all but over, to win the contest in great style, with a lofted six back over the bowler's head.

Hodges, as captain, was pleased that his team had showed a keen representative side what "real cricket" was all about, and with some style.

Wednesday July 9 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 60 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 250-5 dec (P J Hodges 100*, J R Tweedale 72); South Wales Hunt 190 (R A Bagnall 5-35)

Pilgrims know how to celebrate and, maybe because of our lack of intimate knowledge with at least one of the twin imposters, we celebrate victory as a long-lost friend. On Wednesday morning, the Pilgrims having enjoyed a fabulous Tuesday and a good deal of Wednesday already, were up against the South Wales Hunt.

While feeling ever so slightly tarnished, the team was ready for action and again under the stumbling captaincy of Hodges, who was unable to call correctly two days running, which saw the home team inserted. Pugh and Bristow opened and had to face a defector in the shape of Pexton. However, Pexton had been placed under the "protective" wing of one Rupert Bagnall for the previous night, and, as the initiated know, Bagnall's wing is a dangerous place to be. Consequently Pexton bowled like a drain, and already the strategies of Hodges and Bagnall had won the day's first battle.

Pugh was the first to fall, playing a strange shot after a textbook start. Thorne entered the fray, but the exertions of the day before had taken their toll and he expired early through exhaustion. This allowed Tweedale to the crease with plenty of time to build an innings. With Bristow, he put on 48, most of which Tweedale was responsible for,

playing at the top of his effortless game. Bristow's dismissal for 35 allowed Hodges to prove, in his ever modest words, to the assembled throng that, for those who had not seen him play, that he could, and for those that had, that he still could.

Both Hodges and Tweedale are batsmen who prefer hard and fast tracks with plenty of opportunity for back-foot shots; the Upper has not often been a happy ground for either. But for one brief afternoon, both players were on top. When Hodges came in, Tweedale had a thirty-run start; Hodges beat him to 50. Both men were dispatching the ball by and large to wherever they pleased, so it was a surprise when Tweedale lost concentration and holed out for 72, ending what Hodges described as the most enjoyable partnership he had ever had on the Upper. The captain went on to three figures without offering a chance.

By half-past three, the Pilgrims had 250 on the scoreboard and Hodges, confident that his bowlers could perform, declared to give his team time to bowl the Hunts out. Opening was young Ed Square, who had been in action for Dorset Colts the previous day, and found recovery from the evening revelries harder to handle, and Bagnall, whose ability to survive any evening is legendary. Bagnall was in inspired form, recalling his salad days as a whippy bowler, including a spell in the Caribbean when he was still 18 that saw off Combermere. This performance of five for 35 on an unresponsive pitch, uphill, after a lot of Worcester sauce, must rank as one of his best.

The scorecard shows that Ricketts, for the Hunts, scored a big hundred. But had Bagnall's bowling been rewarded when the batsman was dropped on 15, it would have been over by tea. Costeloe bowled without any luck, but Ewen, taking over at the Pavilion End, showed his ability to bowl straight and move the ball away from the batsman. His one wicket was scant reward for a skilful, competitive and hardworking spell.

Bagnall, having removed two batsmen early, tired, which allowed Pugsley to slip into the same groove as the day before. His three for 28 off nine overs - including the under-the-weather Pexton without troubling the scorers - was crucial, allowing Hodges to vary his attack at the other end.

Bagnall returned to the fray and finished the game off with three wickets in three overs. Ewen finally picked off Ricketts and the Pilgrims had won by a comfortable margin. Hodges had completed a rare double - two wins in two days under his leadership, and was heard waxing lyrical about quick, aggressive batting and attacking bowling, with the fielders giving nothing away. (Not dissimilar to the way he used to declaim his Barge-yard cricket prowess while at the School, in fact.) He did, however, make the valuable point that it is sometimes forgotten by Pilgrims sides that in order to win, you need to play as a team, and during this Week, for whatever reason, the Pilgrims were a team, both on and off the pitch.

Thursday July 10 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 99 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 300-2 dec (W H W Bristow 111*, W P Hargrove 101*, J R

Tweedale 66); Butterflies 201

The last game of the Week was a dominant display by the Pilgrims. The Butterflies elected to field on winning the toss and the Pilgrims made them regret it on what was the best pitch of the Week. Hargrove was able to declare 20 minutes before "half-time" with 300 on the scoreboard.

Bagnall opened the innings with Bristow and could only sit back and watch batsmen fill their boots for most of it; he departed with just 12 to his name. Tweedale dominated the second-wicket partnership, scoring 66 but falling with the score on 108. This brought Hargrove to the crease and both he and Bristow were not to be parted, running up almost 200 for the third wicket, batting very well and pacing their innings nicely.

The Butterflies began brightly, with Horne showing some fine shots on his way to 54, leaving Hargrove to sweat at the tea interval lest his target prove too small. Frustration set in for the home side after tea as the wickets stubbornly refused to fall, despite the slowness of runs being accumulated by the Butterflies. With patience, though, the bowlers eventually broke through and the Butterflies were bowled out well short of the Pilgrims' score. Wickets were spread around, Bagnall taking three, Hodges and Warren two each.

This was a superb finale to a very successful Week in which four centuries were scored overall and all four games won.

Friday July 18 v Fettesian Lorettonians at Ashted - Cancelled

Sunday August 24 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 6 wickets
Cobham 143 (R A Bagnall 6-62); Sherborne Pilgrims 144-4

When your correspondent arrived at the ground, having enjoyed a relatively pleasant drive around the M25, he was surprised to find that Bagnall, captain for the day, was hoping that his car might contain more than only one player as the Pilgrims were three short. However, eight sturdy Pilgrims took the field after losing the toss, prepared to give their all.

The opening attack of Bagnall and Garrett started with consecutive maidens and Bagnall soon reduced Cobham to 11 for two. In helpful conditions, the ball continually beat the bat and after 20 overs Cobham were struggling at 70 for five - even the introduction of the veteran Lyons kept runs to a minimum. Bagnall, after 11 overs (taking four for 42) of impressive seam bowling, realised that his resources were slim ... and so opted for his own brand of left-arm spin (thereby hogging the bowling). Somewhat improbably, he ended up with six for 62 in a fairly dismal total of 143 to which Cobham laboured in 42 overs.

The Pilgrims' reply started with four wides but Geoff Garrett was caught close to the wicket in the second over. Allen and Pugh then moved the score onto 48 before the

former missed a straight one and was leg-before. Immediately afterwards Pugh was caught and bowled. At 52 for three, with only eight batsmen the score was effectively 52 for six and the Pilgrims were in some trouble. Enter Lyons, who steadied the boat along with Jackaman, who made an undefeated 40, and, despite Lyons getting tired and departing shortly before the close, the Pilgrims completed a six-wicket victory (admittedly assisted in no small measure by 42 extras).

Great joy at winning the match was tempered slightly in the bar when it was revealed that Cobham had put out their second XI. 1998 will involve Cobham's first XI and - hopefully - 11 Pilgrims.

Reports by Rupert Bagnall, Rupert Garrett, Patrick Gent, Robert Hands, Will Hargrove and Phil Hodges.

1998

Played 11: Won 4, Drawn 3, Lost 4, Cancelled 2.

Sunday May 17 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Lost by 15 runs
Radley Rangers 171; Sherborne Pilgrims 156 (R D Stormonth-Darling 5-68)

Having sent out a considerable number of invitations to potential Cricketer Cup players and persuaded Justin Ricketts to come and watch this fixture in his capacity as captain and selector, it was extremely disappointing that we fielded a side containing not only Ricketts, but also a majority of "usual suspects". The idea of this fixture is for any Pilgrim who really believes that he is good enough to play in the Cricketer Cup to come and prove a point to the selectors.

The captains agreed to hold a 50-over game and our hosts won the toss and duly elected to bat. Hargrove and Garrett opened the bowling with some effect and restricted Radley to 39 for two at the end of their 12-over spell; the wickets were shared. They were replaced by Bagnall and Ward. From the College End, Chris Ward bowled an excellent spell of medium-pace and his figures of two for 16 from eight overs were an accurate reflection of his miserliness. Bagnall at the other end was purveying dross and therefore Radley did manage to score quite freely to reach 84 for four at the halfway mark. Rob Gurney was the chief accumulator for the home team, making 46 before he was bowled by Andy Searson, but thereafter Radley steadily lost wickets as the captain shuffled his bowling around. At lunch, with Radley on 126 for six, it was agreed that Atwell and Dowdall should "give it some air" afterwards, so that our target would be about 200 and our batsman would have a stronger test. Thank goodness that only Hunter, with 37, managed to capitalise in any way on our generosity.

Dowdall took two wickets, Atwell (somewhat incredibly) one, and a run out left Radley on 171 all out in just short of 46 overs. Bagnall apart, our bowlers had done a very good job and in tandem with the fielding, which was equally keen, it meant that the outcome of the game seemed almost inevitable.

After some lengthy discussions between Ricketts and Bagnall, it was decided that, without telling the opposition, we would try to win the game in only 40 overs, therefore setting ourselves a stiffer run-rate target. Application was the key word, panic was the response. Searson, Atwell and Dowdall all went cheaply and when Warren was dismissed for 17, the Pilgrims were seriously struggling at 29 for four in the fourteenth over. Will Hargrove then came to the crease and batted with an excellent combination of controlled aggression and mindful defence. His 49 runs came in only 14 overs and contained six fours. The only problem was that during his partnership with first Tweedale and then Harrison, only eight runs were scored at the other end. It is further testament to Hargrove's innings that the rest of the side only hit the boundary line five times.

Hargrove's dismissal brought in Ricketts to join Harrison and the two of them looked very comfortable, nudging the ball into gaps and putting on 28 runs in the next six overs. Ricketts then tried to play the finest of late cuts through the vacant slip area. The only thing he omitted to do was get bat on ball and he was bowled by Stormonth-Darling, who was well into his 14-over spell of apparently mesmerising medium-pacers. Garrett, Ward and Harrison managed to push the score along a little further, but eventually Garrett became Stormonth-Darling's fifth victim, leaving the Pilgrims all out for 156 in 47 overs.

This was obviously a less than satisfactory preparation for the first round of the Cricketer Cup. But it illustrated clearly the problems that face the Pilgrims in their attempt to improve their poor Cup record: there were at least five players in this team - and the Cup XI - who know that they are not really good enough. They would happily make way for other, better Pilgrims, but until those men make themselves available, the "usual suspects" will continue to turn out and gratitude will be forthcoming for that.

Sunday May 31 - Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors at Rugby - Lost by 79 runs
Rugby Meteors 227-8 (R R Montgomerie 51); Sherborne Pilgrims 148

To celebrate 30 years of The Cricketer Cup, the organisers published a small booklet detailing statistical highlights of the competition. It will have come as no surprise to knowledgeable Pilgrims to have discovered that, of the 32 teams who have graced the Cup, Sherborne are languishing in twenty-eighth position, having achieved a 26.2 per cent ratio of victories - a pitiful 11 wins from 42 matches. Fortunately, despite this year's result, we are not (yet) in danger of slipping down towards the Old Westminsters (13.9 per cent), who prop up the table.

But it makes the point forcefully enough, that our performances in the competition have been patchy at best. Needless to say, the Old Tonbridgians lead the way, with a staggering 74.5 per cent win ratio of matches played - a percentage which will have been boosted by their win over Rugby in the 1998 final.

To lose to the eventual runners-up may not seem like a poor outcome, even if it was in the first round; and, indeed, after last year's heroics, perhaps the sense of anticipation was inflated overmuch, making the defeat harder to bear. But the old Pilgrims faults resurfaced again this year, which was disappointing, to say the least. The bowling was substandard and the fielding less urgent than in the 1997 campaign, while the batting never reached simple mediocrity.

The day promised much; continuing the sensible selection policy of the previous year, Justin Ricketts assembled a competitive team that lacked only one of his intended XI, Charlie Warren getting a call from the Oxford Authentics that might not have come his way again. Crucially, that loss was to deprive the Pilgrims of their recognised opener - a problem that has haunted Cricketer Cup games in the past, and would do so again.

But all turned up on time, despite a minor alarm over Atwell's whereabouts, smartly turned out and ready to get to grips with a good Rugby pitch. Ricketts won the toss and decided to insert the Meteors, hoping to capitalise on the slight moisture on the turf and the overcast conditions. With a Northamptonshire county batsman and one of the Cup's most prolific scorers opening up for the home team, this seemed sensible - if one or both of these could be dismissed early, there would be great optimism.

The problem was that the Pilgrims bowlers were unable to oblige. Rydon, who never bowled all that badly, had little luck in his first spell, closing with excellent figures of 6-2-10-0. Yet had there been tighter bowling from his supporting pace-bowling cast, the first session might have been very different. Garrett began with two fours taken from his first over and rarely threatened, conceding 37 from seven overs; Bagnall found absolutely no rhythm and was removed from the attack after just two overs, with 18 taken from them.

And by then, Montgomerie and Umlers had put down first roots, Umlers surviving a hard chance to Ricketts at slip off Rydon in the fifth over. It was not until the introduction of spin, and the captain's leg breaks, that the breakthrough was made - and with 75 on the board in good time, the Rugby innings was on course for a big score. It was Haileybury 1996 all over again, and already the match looked to be slipping away.

That it did not was almost exclusively down to some outstanding spin bowling from Ricketts and a tight line from Dowdall, making his Cup debut. Andrew Wingfield Digby was useful if not always threatening, and Rydon bowled bravely at the death. Yet a glance at the Rugby scorecard tells the story: all batsmen except Leaver, who appeared only for the final over, reached double figures, and most scored at a good tempo. Montgomerie was the only man to make 50, and therein lies the tale of why Rugby failed to make the 300 that at one stage seemed inevitable.

Ricketts finished with figures of 12-3-27-3, bowling in three spells and with much skill and no little control. His captaincy in the field was again almost faultless, and it was depressing that he should have done so much but been so unable to reap the

rewards of his industry because of the sloppiness of others. All that said, however, and this spectator certainly believed that a target of 228 - after all, only just above four an over - was attainable.

Here it was, though, that the lack of a genuine opener showed. Rydon, whose best contributions in this competition have come from the middle order, went in first with Atwell and was back in the pavilion by the first ball of the third over, unable to get to grips with the unfamiliar role and the accurate bowling of Fenton and Pugh. One potential matchwinner lost and only six on the board. Atwell and Tweedale both looked comfortable and fluent before each departed to the straight bowling of Pugh, the former cutting to gully and the latter leg-before.

This brought Hodges and Ricketts together in what was undoubtedly the key partnership. It has been remarked before how Hodges owes the Club a big innings in the Cup, and it seemed as if 1998 was to be the year, as he reminded those on the boundary how he has power and timing in abundance. Ricketts accumulated well, and together they moved the score on from 43 for three to 85. And then disaster. With tea at the end of the over, Hodges played a grossly irresponsible shot - shades of Gower in Australia in 1990-91 - and was bowled. Suddenly, from a position of some optimism, there was little apparent prospect of a Pilgrims revival.

Thus it proved, Ricketts struggled on, with limited support at the other end, until, in trying to force the run-rate, he was stumped for 43. A few lusty blows from Wingfield Digby apart, that was that. Once more, the Pilgrims had been bowled out well short of the 55 overs, and with little chance of making the required total. The contribution of the Meteors' bowlers should not be overlooked, though: Fenton was naggingly accurate (9-3-16-1) and Leaver thoroughly difficult to score off (7-1-15-1, and with only singles taken from him).

And so Rugby proceeded on through the competition to the final at Roehampton, leaving Pilgrims to wonder for the umpteenth time what might have been. Unlike past years, on this occasion there is only one excuse: under-performance on the day. Ricketts carried his team virtually single-handedly this time round; it does not take much to realise that if a few batsmen had chipped in with substantial contributions and if one other quick bowler had remembered the virtues of line and length, then it might have turned out otherwise.

Having begun with statistics, let's finish with a few quiz questions. i) Name our sole centurion in the Cup; ii) Name the only Pilgrim to have scored a half-century and taken five wickets in the same match; iii) and guess which is the only school in the competition not to have produced a county cricketer that has been a member of their team during the 30 years of the cup's existence? Answers (correct then) at the end of the year's reports.

Sunday June 14 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Cancelled, rain

Saturday June 27 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 170-5 dec (A N P Searson 53); Sherborne School 112-7

On what was a particularly cold and wet day, the very young Pilgrims side, led by Charlie Warren, the 1997 School captain, decided to bat. The innings began in less than ideal fashion when Ambrose was bowled by Edlmann for nought. Pugh and Goodeve-Docker then put on 66 for the second wicket before the latter perished to the slow left-arm bowling of Duncan Reece-Smith. A further two runs were added before Pugh was bowled and the Pilgrims were tottering at 68 for three. It seemed that the wise words of Mike Nurton and Alan Willows from not-too-distant schooldays about getting in line with the ball had been swiftly forgotten.

Warren was next to fall, for only seven (surprising in view of his later scoring exploits), which brought Andy Searson and Mark Simon together in a valuable partnership of 85 that, considering it included three interruptions for rain, was some effort in concentration. Simon made 42 in an unorthodox innings that contained three fours and a six on a large and damp outfield. With his wicket, Warren declared, leaving Searson unbeaten on 53 - a well-constructed and vital half-century played with great responsibility. The School, in tough fielding conditions, never made it easy and stuck to their task well.

The Pilgrims began their stint in the field well with three of the School's batsmen, arguably the best three in their side, back in the pavilion with only 13 runs on the board. Newbury, with two, and Hargrove were the successful bowlers. Fegen and Reece-Smith brought the School back into the match with a careful partnership of 57, but three more quick wickets gave the Pilgrims renewed hope with the School 85 for six - this time, Dowdall, with two, and Fradgley the men responsible. With ominous clouds, the Pilgrims had to strike quickly if they were to win. But the School lost only one more wicket and batted out the time that was available to secure the draw. This was a highly competitive game played in good spirits in trying conditions. The Pilgrims need to play hard cricket in this fixture because victory in recent years has been hard to come by; the last time that the Pilgrims prevailed was 1994, the year that one Will Hargrove led the School.

Sunday July 5 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 76 runs
Marlborough Blues 239 (T Sheehan 91); Sherborne Pilgrims 163

Because of rain and our involvement in the third round of the Cricketer Cup last year, this fixture had not been played for several years. It was, therefore, felt imperative that this game was not unnecessarily cancelled, despite the fact that both captains were only able to muster eight fit men. Bagnall, having won the toss, was rather dismayed to realise that the Pilgrims had only three recognised batsmen and reluctantly asked the Blues to bat.

Their innings of 239 was dominated by some gloriously fluent strokes from the opening batsman, Sheehan, who scored 91. Our admiration for his innings was swiftly terminated when it was discovered that the reason for his getting lost on the way to the ground was because Marlborough had not been responsible for his

"schooling". At the other end, he was well supported by four consecutive innings in the twenties before Pexton and Hargrove polished off their two last batsmen for ducks. Pexton and Goodeve-Docker both bowled well but without any luck, and thus the testing target of 240 confronted the Pilgrims.

Now just who were those recognised batsmen? Well, it is still a mystery. Only de la Hey batted with any grit, scoring 36 during a dogged two-hour stay. Scorer, with 26, and Pexton, 25, also batted with some assurance, and Bagnall's wicket remained intact at the death. That apart, the Pilgrims display was inept and de la Hey's dismissal resulted in the visiting team still over 70 runs adrift.

Monday July 6 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Blundellians 244-3 dec (A R Giles 117*, R Brown 85); Sherborne Pilgrims 238-7 (C C M Warren 127)

Despite continuous drizzle throughout the day, this game got under way at 1.35pm, both teams having already enjoyed an excellent lunch. Blundellians had received a comprehensive beating in the corresponding fixture of 1997 and it was no surprise to see their opening batsmen eating considerably less than the Pilgrims bowling attack. The home team were subsequently plundered for 244 runs in 44 overs, taking only three wickets in the process.

The Blundellians captain, Giles, scored an excellent unbeaten century and was well supported by Brown, who registered 85 in a second-wicket partnership of 162; however, they could hardly have failed to fill their boots. The Pilgrims bowling was dreadful and the fielding even worse. Only Bagnall was not smashed to all parts of the ground, taking two for 34 from 12 overs. His dismissal of the Blundellians No 4 brought about the declaration and thus a very pink swollen cricket ball was handed back to the umpire. A somewhat bemused Pilgrims team returned to the pavilion to prepare to bat; the captain walked in and the door was closed behind him. The rest of the week was considerable more satisfying.

Having wiped away the tears, Warren and Searson opened the batting and began what proved to be a tremendous fightback. When Searson was first out in the fifteenth over with the score on 67, a solid platform had been built. Hodges joined Warren and the two of them batted beautifully in putting on 110 in just 14 overs. At this stage a further 67 runs were required off only eight overs, but with eight wickets still in hand. Tweedale and Warren then knocked off 52 in five overs, the latter reaching his hundred in the process. It was a fantastic innings by Warren and his 127 runs were amassed in only 35 overs.

Unfortunately both batsmen got out in the same over and the Pilgrims were left requiring 19 from the last three overs. Wickets fell and so the victory target was seven runs away as the game was finally concluded, after just 37 overs for the Pilgrims innings. It is never easy for two new batsmen to come in and force the pace and, on reflection, a draw rather than a Pilgrims win was a fair result.

Tuesday July 7 v Dorset Colts at Sherborne - Won by 4 wickets

Dorset Colts 187-9 (T Hicks 60; A N P Searson 4-45); Sherborne Pilgrims 189-6 (E T Elliot-Square 60*; A Hatch 4-41)

The Pilgrims agreed to play a 55-over game to help the Dorset Colts to acclimatise for the competition that they play in. Hodges was keen that the Pilgrims were not to be cannon fodder for the representative side to practise upon and he was determined that the agreement to fix the number of overs would be the last help that the Colts received.

Bagnall and Elliot-Square bowled an impressive opening spell. Straight, aggressive and accurate, the first two Colts batsmen were dismissed for 22 runs with 12 overs gone. This brought to the wicket Warren, shuffling slowly, gasping for air or water, and looking a pale shadow of the formidable centurion of the previous day. Dropped on nought, a leading edge into the vacant outfield for a single, his misery was soon ended when he dribbled a catch to Searson. All the bowlers, with the exception of Hargrove, bowled a good line and length, which allowed a tight field to be set. The medium pace of Andy Searson proved perfect for the conditions and his four for 45 was an excellent performance. The combination of tight bowling and keen ground fielding meant that the Colts always felt under pressure and dissolved in the face of the Pilgrims effort.

A total of 187 should have caused no problems for a talented Pilgrims batting line-up, but an excellent seam attack, led by a remarkably quick 16-year old by the name of Britten, about whom we may well be hearing much more in the future, allied to some indifferent batting, saw the Pilgrims in trouble at 88 for five. At this stage the captain was a little agitated, never having tasted defeat when leading the Pilgrims, and never enjoying the taste of defeat at other times in his career; but the threat of this bitter pill was removed by some outstanding batting by Searson and Elliot-Square.

Searson's was a brave, cerebral innings. He obviously found the pace of Britten difficult, but he got into line and worked the ball about in a gritty, determined fashion. Had he been out early and the tail exposed to four or five overs of Britten, defeat would surely have been the Pilgrims' lot. It wasn't to be: while Searson grafted, Elliot-Square played a beautifully controlled innings of timing and placement. Both men showed excellent temperament in accumulating runs and getting the job done: this outstanding partnership secured victory, with Elliot-Square unbeaten on 60. It was a superb game of cricket and one in which those who played can look back upon with pride.

Thursday July 9 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets

Butterflies 148; Sherborne Pilgrims 150-3 (C C M Warren 70*)

Having had a day off the previous day, the Butterflies were rather pleased to hear that the Pilgrims had only managed to keep out of the pubs of Sherborne until about 3pm. Closing time, Raj Pooth and poker resulted in 11 wrecks arriving at the Upper in

differing states of alcoholism shortly before the 11.30am start.

Hodges captained the side as Bagnall was unable to speak and was struggling even to walk. Revenge was swift as Hodges won the toss, inserted the Butterflies and asked Bagnall to bowl up the hill until ten minutes before lunch. Bagnall's pathetic attempt at collapsing after his first ball of the day was met with disdain from Hodges and it was only when the bowler's buckets of alcoholic sweat started to make the wicket hazardous that he was finally allowed to retire from the attack. Hargrove had been relieved of his duties as the other opening bowler after six overs of trash had been dispatched for 38 runs by the gleeful Butterflies batsmen. Once Hargrove had been removed, normality was resumed and the Butterflies unfortunately revealed a desperate lack of ability and application. Thorne, Dowdall and Hodges all took wickets while Searson and Bagnall both garnered three each as the visiting team were reduced to a poor score of 148 all out from 52 overs.

The Charlies, Rix and Dowdall, opened the reply with 26 steady runs before the introduction of Rowland-Clark, who had the unfortunate attribute of bowling straight, accounted for Rix. Dowdall soon followed with the score on 42, leaving the biggest Charlie of them all, Warren, to bat with the biggest Pilgrim of them all, Thorne. In just 18 overs, the two of them knocked off all but two of the required runs. Thorne got tired on 39, but Warren, knowing that Longman had come in to join him, farmed the strike and was left not out on 70 as the meagre target was attained. The only other highlight of a one-sided contest was Rix's catch. Having not caught one all week, being hit on chest and ankles in his previous efforts, it was to everyone's amusement and shock when he held on to one of the most difficult chances of the week.

Friday July 10 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 144 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 300-1 dec (J R Tweedale 176*, D W Thorne 69*); Dorset Rangers 156 (C E Dowdall 4-26)

The last morning saw the weather cloudy and limbs weary. The Rangers captain inserted the Pilgrims and play began at 11.45am. Scott and Tweedale opened, batting solidly on a pitch that offered little help to the bowlers. Tweedale in particular looked "in the mood" and played well on both sides of the wicket, off both front and back foot. The opening partnership of 132 was broken when Scott edged a late cut to the wicketkeeper off the bowling of Foulston, the Rangers' best bowler. This wicket brought together Thorne and Tweedale shortly before lunch. At the break, the score was 143 for one, with Tweedale 90 not out. After lunch, both batsmen set about the bowling in ruthless fashion. As a result, Hargrove was able to declare just before the halfway point, Tweedale compiling a superb 176 and Thorne on 69, both unbeaten.

Alistair Hatch, having opened the bowling against the Pilgrims for the Dorset Colts on the Tuesday, bowled a superb opening spell with good pace and swing. He could easily have taken three or four wickets; as it was, he had to settle for only one, Henderson caught at fourth slip by none other than Tweedale. The Pilgrims attack continued to bowl tightly, taking wickets at fairly regular intervals. One wicket in particular showed how good a day Tweedale was having; in an attempt to run out the

striker running to the bowlers' end, he missed the stumps with his throw but the ball travelled up the wicket in time to run out the non-striker who was ambling back in what he thought was total safety.

The other wickets fell to various bowlers, although none to Pat Gent, who bowled a good spell from the Pavilion End, containing four successive maidens. Note must be taken of the first recorded spell of left-arm orthodox bowling on the Upper by tour guru Bagnall. The last wicket fell with four balls remaining as Dowdall, who ended with excellent figures of 11.2-2-26-4, bowled Foulston. This was a fitting end to a superb week: only the weather could have been better.

Sunday July 12 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Cancelled, rain.

Tuesday July 21 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 4 wickets
Old Cliftonians 211-8 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 214-6 (N D Macpherson 70)

During a summer of indifferent weather, we were lucky in some respects to get a game at all; the weather threatened all day and delayed the start, but it did allow the Pilgrims time to despatch the Cliftonians with great elan, a sweet feeling for the match manager, Hodges, himself a Bristolian. The two captains agreed that the home team should bat and to general surprise, the Pilgrims found a wicket completely lacking in any sort of pace, bounce, movement or incentive to bowl. Historically the Clifton wicket has been a decent surface; either the weather or the new groundsman had contrived to make matters other than they used to be.

Bagnall opened the bowling, bowled like a drain, was taken off. Lyons took over, bowled worse. Elliot-Square's back went, Bagnall came back on and got three quick wickets bowling the same dross that he had started with. At the time, it looked like an inspired gamble on Bagnall - but in truth it was born more out of desperation. At the other end Richard Trotman was bowling quickly and accurately with no luck. The batsmen could not get bat on ball and it seemed as though Trotman could not buy a wicket, so Costeloe came on and took three for 38 from 13 overs in an excellent spell. That was about the end of any joy in the field for the Pilgrims. Continuing to attack amid some appalling batting, the Pilgrims were unable to finish their opponents off. One Cliftonian, who scored 44, must have used up about five years' worth of luck in one day. Their eventual declaration was too late and gave us about an hour and 20 overs to get 211.

Determined to make something of the game, the orders were to give it a go. This Tweedale and Macpherson did magnificently. Tweedale knocked the ball about imperiously until he fenced at a wide one and was caught behind. Warren kept the momentum going, supporting Macpherson, whose innings was the outstanding one of the match. Nick Macpherson has not been seen in Pilgrims colours since he left the School and it took a chance meeting between his father and Hodges to find his whereabouts and entice him to play.

Macpherson hit 70 in 57 balls to all parts of the ground with a borrowed bat and laid

the foundation for the victory, which was secured by Elliot-Square batting properly while the rest slogged, and rather fittingly the winning four was hit by Bagnall, who does so much hard work for the Pilgrims. This is the first time since 1983 that the Pilgrims have played the Cliftonians: it is an excellent venue and will hopefully continue for years to come.

Sunday August 9 v NPL Teddington at Teddington - Drawn

Sherborne Pilgrims 245-5 dec (S R C Knechtli 70, C C M Warren 59); NPL Teddington 210-9 (M Champion 148; P L C Knechtli 6-38)

A new fixture for the Pilgrims looked to be an intriguing match, laced with rivalry as Bagnall, Atwell and Hargrove play for NPL on Saturdays and both Clarke and Patrick Knechtli have done so in the past. Mark Champion, the NPL captain, won the toss and elected to field. The Pilgrims openers scored with good pace on what was a solid track. Warren was the first to fall for 59, in the 22nd over, with the score on 106. Simon Knechtli was next out, for 70, having looked very comfortable and playing some lovely strokes. Tweeddale added his own rapidfire 42, Hargrove 17 and Wingfield Digby 18. Bagnall declared the innings closed when Wingfield Digby was run out, leaving Charlie Allen stranded on 18 and the Pilgrims totalling 245 for five off 47.4 overs. NPL used seven bowlers and fielded well, gaining two run outs.

The NPL innings began badly as Paddy Knechtli took three quick wickets, all bowled leaving Champion and Keay at the crease with the score 17 for three. Champion proceeded to rise to the challenge, taking time to play himself in against the sustained attack of Knechtli and Clarke. Keay finally fell to Knechtli for 13 as Tweeddale took a good catch at third slip. The next four batsmen fell for scores of 2, 1, 1 and 2 respectively but all managed to stay with Champion for some time while he managed to manipulate the strike. Simon Knechtli bowled well, at a lesser pace than his brother, but was naggingly accurate, mixing in the odd bouncer; he was rewarded with two wickets. Bagnall, Lyons and Wingfield Digby also bowled, with Lyons' ability to drag the lower order into strokeplay valuable. Champion was eventually out for 148, victim to Paddy Knechtli, but by this time the game was well into the final ten overs. The last two NPL batsmen saw the game out for a hard-fought draw still some 35 runs short. Hargrove had kept wicket for only the fourth time and little improvement was evident (he was NPL's second top scorer, in the byes department). The remarkable fact of the innings was that Paddy Knechtli had removed all the top six NPL batsmen, rounding off a profitable day for the family.

NPL were superb hosts on a great day; lunch from the local Indian at 1pm was especially enjoyable and to be encouraged in the future. It should be noted that for those of us who play with NPL every week, Champion was unbearable for weeks afterwards, but it was worth it.

Sunday August 16 v Cobham at Cobham - Lost by 3 wickets

Sherborne Pilgrims 207-8 dec (J D de la Hey 61*); Cobham 209-7 (B Hunt 70)

On a warm, sunny afternoon, the Pilgrims met to play Cobham on a different ground

from past fixtures. The Pilgrims had among them a manager in the form of an injured Bagnall and three wicketkeepers (Kitson, Wheatley and de la Hey). Hargrove won the toss and elected to bat on a solid-looking pitch. The two wicketkeepers who were not going to be behind the stumps opened the innings. It was a slow start because of good bowling from the Hunt's father-and-son combination, who between them went on to bowl 27 out of the 46 overs.

The first wicket (Wheatley) fell with the score on 16, and Allen followed with the scorers untroubled, both victims of the younger Hunt. Kitson and Thorne pushed on, the latter scoring a rapid 25 containing six fours (to avoid any running) before falling to Hunt Snr. Kitson was then bowled for a useful 39. Hargrove pushed the scoring along but perished pulling a ball straight to mid on, Clarke following soon afterwards. This brought together Clive Wood and de la Hey for a partnership of 50 that was manufactured from clever deflections and good running. Wood was finally out for a commendable 19, to be replaced by Pexton, who batted in his normal cavalier high-risk fashion for another useful 19. Hargrove declared with de la Hey on 61, a superb innings with shots off both front and back foot, excellent placement and manipulation. The younger Hunt had been the pick of the Cobham bowlers with figures of 15-5-31-2.

After an excellent tea, the Cobham innings got off to a quick start. Newbury and Pexton opened the bowling on a pitch that did not offer much to the seamers. Newbury struck first, dismissing Jones for eight, caught at extra cover. Hunt Jr joined Patel and these two moved the score on to 61 before Dowdall bowled Patel for 21. Newland, the Cobham captain, now joined Hunt and they added a further 59 to put the home side in a commanding position. Hargrove disposed of Newland, but at 120 for three, the impetus was with Cobham.

Hunt batted very well for his 70 (including 11 fours) and did most of the work required to get his team to victory. After his dismissal, the Pilgrims battled hard to sneak a draw, with ten needed off the last two overs and seven off the final over. But a four through point won the game with one ball to spare. The Pilgrims bowled too short on a pitch that required disciplined line and length; it offered more to the slow bowlers, where the ball didn't quite come on to the bat, reflected in the figures of Dowdall and Hargrove, who both snared two wickets. Several dropped catches did not assist the cause and it was, ultimately, a disappointing performance with which to end the season.

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The Club wishes to pay tribute and offer heartfelt thanks to Mervyn Brown, who retired as the head groundsman at the end of the 1998 season. Over the years, "Merv" has produced many wickets and his help to countless generations of Pilgrims has been greatly appreciated. During the 1998 Week, the task of laying on lunches and teas was shouldered by Cath Hamilton, to whom the Club - and particularly the players who widened their waistline at the expense of some fielding agility - is most grateful.

Reports by Rupert Bagnall, Robert Hands, John Hargrove, Will Hargrove and Phil Hodges.

Answers to Cricketer Cup questions i) Bob Tozer (1967); ii) Rob Rydon (1994); iii) Yes, Sherborne.

1999

Played 16: Won 9, Drawn 2, Lost 5, Cancelled 2.

Sunday May 9 v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 178-9; Marlborough Blues 180-6 (G W Barker 67)

Having perished at the first round of the Cricketer Cup in 1998, despite the valiant efforts of the previous year (a four-run defeat at Tonbridge in the third round), the fixtures secretary decided that an additional warm-up game was required if the Pilgrims were to approach the main competition with enough practice behind them. It was therefore agreed that the Marlborough Blues game should be moved from its previously meaningless date, being the Sunday before the first day of the Week.

Fifty-two invites were sent to ascertain interest in participating in the forthcoming first round and nine of the 16 respondents duly arrived for our first trial match at Marlborough. Cricketer Cup rules were agreed between the skippers and with Marlborough fielding nine of their proposed competition team, a hard-fought game was anticipated.

Having been inserted, Charlie Warren and Will Hargrove opened the batting, the latter offering to replace Atwell, whose South American influence results in him not being able to function before lunch in early May. The Pilgrims got off to a flying start, scoring 31 from the first seven overs, including a fantastic square cut for six by Warren off the nippy Radcliffe, which thumped into the Pavilion side bank.

Hargrove fell to a cavalier shot off Hey, the other opening bowler, in the eighth over with the score on 33. His dismissal was compounded by Hey's final analysis of 6-0-50-1, including 12 wides and a couple of amusing overs when he couldn't remember how to release the ball. Tweedale came to the crease having scored a hundred the previous day, but he found Ratcliffe slightly more testing than the Purton opening attack. His attempted third ball late cut was gladly accepted behind the wicket and the score was 39 for two.

Warren continued to bat gloriously while Atwell nudged away his early-season stiffness and the score cruised to 69 in the next five overs before Warren was adjudged leg-before to the left-arm spinner Thicknesse in the fourteenth over. A familiar story was beginning to unfold as the friendly Pilgrims were one by one allowing their companions a chance for time at the crease. Atwell and Preston, the latter playing his first game for the Pilgrims for eight years, both perished for single-figure scores, leaving the middle and lower order 34 overs to boost the score from its

lowly tally of 89.

James Scorer and Paddy Knechtli batted together for a dozen overs but could only put on 17. Will Wingfield Digby looked badly out of touch and it was no surprise that the score subsided to 114 for seven by the 39th over. Nick Peters, making a welcome return to Pilgrims cricket after too long away, and Bagnall then batted sensibly around Charlie Dowdall, who played a watchful and increasingly fluent innings that resulted in a second-highest score of 25 not out. Dowdall's timely knock pulled the score up to 178 for nine at the end of the allotted 55 overs, a total some 40 runs short of what was required on a slow wicket, but one that had appeared out of reach earlier in the day.

Peters and Knechtli opened up for the Pilgrims and soon proved that the Blues were going to have to graft for their victory. Apart from seven offside wides, Peters bowled a nagging line and length while Knechtli looked really threatening at the other end. The latter deservedly accounted for both openers and Marlborough were struggling at 38 for two in the eighteenth over.

The bowling continued to be extremely tight with Dowdall and Bagnall keeping the home batsmen quiet, but no further wicket fell as the score progressed towards the hundred mark. With overs running out, the pedestrian Guy Barker decided to try for one big over; unfortunately for Bagnall, he whacked 18 off the bowler's last six balls and the game had swung decisively.

Preston eventually accounted for Harris (38) and Barker, whose innings proved to be a match-winning 67, but the remaining batsmen were required only to amass an additional 37 runs for victory. Preston and the excellent Knechtli both struck again, but Marlborough's target was finally reached in the 52nd over with the home side winning by four wickets.

With the exception of Hargrove, who was awful, the bowling attack had looked extremely promising, and clearly Hargrove was waiting for another day. Warren apart, much batting practice and a tightening of technique was needed if the Pilgrims were to approach the Cricketer Cup with any sort of confidence.

Sunday May 16 v Radley Rangers, at Radley - Won by 6 wickets
Radley Rangers 256-8 (J W M Dalrymple 101, J T A Martin-Jenkins 69*); Sherborne Pilgrims 257-4 (J R Tweedale 119*, J D Ricketts 103*)

When your correspondent arrived at 11am, expecting to be twelfth man (while supposing that he would end up playing), he was amazed to find nearly ten Pilgrims already changed and busy at work in the nets for this second Cricketer Cup warm-up match. After watching some fearsome bowling by Paddy Knechtli, he looked forward to a gentle nine holes of golf with Bagnall. However, a few minutes later he found himself fielding at second slip once the Pilgrims had inserted Radley Rangers with Morton still not having arrived.

A fiery opening spell by Peters and Knechtli reduced the Rangers to 13 for two, which would have been three had Morton not dropped a sharp chance at slip as soon as he had arrived. Dalrymple, the Radley 1st XI captain for 1999 and someone about whom more would be heard later in the season, and Hollis took the score to 87 before Preston had the latter caught trying to hit over the top.

Martin-Jenkins arrived at the crease to join Dalrymple, who began to hit the Pilgrims bowling to all parts of the ground en route to compiling a fine hundred before lunch - a partnership of 85 in only 13 overs. Just before the interval, though, Dalrymple, who had already been dropped again by the hapless Morton, swung across the line to Freeth and was bowled. 172 for four off 36 overs was a sound base for the Rangers but tight bowling after lunch by Ricketts and Freeth, and straight bowling in their return spells by Peters and Knechtli saw only 72 runs added in the last 15 overs, and despite an anchor innings of 69 by Martin-Jenkins, Radley were restricted to 256 for eight.

After the Pilgrims' abject batting in this fixture in the previous season, nothing was taken for granted, but surely captain Ricketts would have hoped that his batsmen could get close to a run-rate of less than five an over. Yet after Morton's day had turned worse, bowled for nought, and Macpherson and Will Wingfield Digby had also lost their stumps to Henson, things were looking none too rosy at 36 for three after ten overs. While Tweedale and Preston steadied matters, at tea the Pilgrims were 74 for four off 22 overs with another 183 still required.

Fortified by the break, Tweedale and Ricketts - both of whom got off the mark with boundaries - took the game by the scruff of the neck and proceeded to accumulate wonderful unbeaten centuries; Tweedale's took 155 balls and Ricketts a lightning 112. Ricketts ruined Henson's bowling figures (8-0-32-3 became 12-0-84-3), including four massive sixes, three of them in one over. It was a most dominant display of batting and the shellshocked Rangers left the field in the 48th over after conceding 52 runs off 28 balls.

Sunday May 30 - Cricketer Cup first round v St Edward's Martyrs at Sherborne - Won by 75 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 214-9 (B D Atwell 89; O M Slipper 4-32); St Edward's Martyrs 139 (J D Ricketts 4-22)

This was a thoroughly competent start to the year's Cricketer Cup campaign. The margin of victory was justly merited in what was essentially a fine team performance on a damp day on the Upper. What is more - not something that has been true of Pilgrims' games in the past - the home team looked the more professional side, both in attitude and preparation. It boded well for the games to come.

Ricketts won the toss and opted to bat, a sensible choice in view of the excellent batting wicket and the virtual certainty of rain, even in the form of light drizzle, that would reduce the pace of the ball off the square and make runs harder to come by later in the day. That was highlighted graphically by the dramatic decline in Atwell's

strike rate before and after lunch: before the break, he was scoring freely (74 runs off 111 balls), afterwards, he struggled for any fluency in compiling runs and became so bogged down that his dismissal for less than the century that he deserved was almost inevitable.

But it had been Atwell and Charlie Warren's opening partnership of 99 in 21.3 overs that laid the foundations for victory - and, in the end, proved decisive. The swiftness with which they gathered their runs, allied to judicious running (for the most part), set the tone in the morning when the best of the weather was in evidence. Warren always lived a little more dangerously while Atwell added to his collection of fifties on the Upper with little difficulty.

Few other Pilgrims batsmen matched these two; as the tempo needed to be raised, the pitch was getting progressively harder to score runs from. Most got started - Ricketts in particular - but none went farther than 23; credit, though, to the Martyrs' bowlers for sticking to their task despite some occasionally woeful ground fielding. But a total of 214 for nine looked eminently competitive in the conditions.

Just how hard it was to score runs became apparent immediately when the St Edward's opening pair scratched around for what seemed like half the innings. Their stand yielded a paltry 31, and it was a merciful relief when Smith got out. Never did the visiting team find any gear other than first, with the notable exception of Drake-Brockman, whose clean hitting - ably supported by Wethey batting at seven - briefly threatened to make a contest of it. The latter's dismissal, however, was the beginning of the end, and just after 7pm, the final wicket tumbled.

Sunday June 13 v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford - Lost by 4 runs
Hampshire Hogs 280 (M T C Allom 135; R A Bagnall 4-86); Sherborne Pilgrims 276 (W P Hargrove 67, J R Tweedale 67; M McCowen 5-40)

This was a fantastic game of cricket played on a really hot day at the Hampshire Hogs' picturesque Warnford ground. The Hogs won the toss and chose to bat on a wicket that frequently yields plenty of runs. The Pilgrims' hopes that the tranquil setting might lead to a quiet relaxing morning in the field were soon blown away by the hitting of Allom.

The fixtures secretary clean-bowled his counterpart in the first over, but it was about the only ball that dominated the bat in the entire morning session. Allom, who had been seen lying prostrate before the start after his exertions at a wedding the previous day, decided to take his hangover out on the opening attack and so it was that the Hogs were 101 for one in the eleventh over. Bagnall went for two enormous sixes straight back over his head as Allom quite simply swung his bat at anything that pitched in his half of the wicket; it was savage.

Bagnall resorted to slow left-arm in desperation and the enforced tactic immediately worked as Lloyd-Jones, rather stupidly expecting the ball to turn, played outside a straight one and was adjudged leg-before. At the other end, Nick Macpherson, an

excellent left-arm spinner at school, was asked to try and remember his forgotten craft. Despite his protestations about "only batting these days", he bowled pretty well and went for 59 from his seven overs, a miserly spell for the morning session. He persuaded his brother Toby to catch his first wicket, Findlay Hughes (a Pilgrim) for a scratchy three, and then, rather more importantly, got Allom to sky one to Colin Keatinge. The score at this stage was 169 for four from a mere 23 overs and Allom's personal tally, 135; an incredible knock.

After lunch Pexton, who had refused to bowl earlier, and Keatinge turned it into a "normal" game of cricket and the Hogs' middle order had to work for their runs. The opposition was reduced to 191 for seven and suddenly the Pilgrims were in business. The Hogs' tail soon put an end to that as Hughes' younger brother, batting down the order because he was to open the bowling, played aggressively for 44 of the 89 runs that the last three wickets yielded.

The substantial total of 280 had been posted in just 46 overs, so while slightly daunted about chasing such a target, there was plenty of time. The Pilgrims got off to a poor start with Newbery being dismissed in the fifth over for eight with the score on 22. This brought Nick Macpherson to the wicket to join Hargrove. Their partnership of 91 in 19 overs was dominated by good placement and fantastic running between the wickets, and not only was it good to watch, Tweedale and Goodeve-Docker followed suit in the same manner. Macpherson was caught in the deep for 40, Hargrove bowled for 67, but this seemed only a minor setback as the Pilgrims batsmen galloped after the imposing target.

At 235 for three in the 45th over, Goodeve-Docker was out for a well-constructed 29, which left the revised target as 46 from ten overs, with Tweedale batting effortlessly at the other end. Unfortunately the complexion of the game changed the very next over, when Tweedale was controversially given run out for 67 when he looked to have comfortably completed another quick single.

At this stage the opening bowling pair of McCowen and Hughes had returned to the attack and could smell a collapse. The Pilgrims were rather obliging. Wingfield Digby, Toby Macpherson and Bagnall could muster only six at one end as James Pexton tried, in vain, to steer his team to victory. He batted in his usual insouciant manner, crisply striking the ball through extra cover before he, too, was run out for a spirited 23. With six runs needed off the final over, Keatinge got the second ball away for two, but was bowled by McCowen two balls later, the bowler's fifth wicket, and one which left the Pilgrims four runs short.

A disappointing collapse, but with 556 runs scored in the day for the loss of 20 wickets, no one could deny that it was a stirring game of cricket.

Sunday June 20 - Cricketer Cup second round v Old Merchant Taylors' at Sherborne - Won by 9 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 171 (J D Ricketts 67, J R Tweedale 53); Old Merchant Taylors' 162 (S P Ducat 64, A J Brand 57; W P Hargrove 7-9)

Andrew Wingfield Digby's career in cricket extends back over a number of decades and has involved a wide variety of fixtures. But after mature reflection in Skipper's later in the evening after the conclusion of this match, he pronounced it "the most extraordinary game I have ever played in". There have been dramatic collapses by one side in a match in this competition before - and Pilgrims have often been that side - but rarely have there been two, of almost identical nature, which set up a stunning finish that would have been staggering at any level of the game.

The day began in unmemorable fashion. Twenty minutes' rain over the Upper at breakfast time was never actually threatening and the game began in good time - with Old Merchant Taylors' warming up like a true club team (they compete in the Thames Valley League), winning the toss and inviting the Pilgrims to bat. First ball was short and punched through the covers by Warren; second ball was of good length, wide of off stump - no stroke, violent in-ducker, clean bowled. Enter Leeke to join Atwell, a partnership that promised good things until the bowler, Thompson, found Atwell halfway down the wicket alongside him and ran him out easily for a cameo 16. Ricketts was determined to dominate the bowling and encouraged Leeke to do likewise until the latter gave short fine leg catching practice in the thirteenth over with the score on 53.

But by lunch Ricketts, now partnered by Tweedale, had displayed some fine strokeplay and had moved the score to 149 for three, from 35 overs. With fully 20 overs still to bowl, a big score looked in the offing, particularly desirable since the rumour was that OMTs were a better batting side than bowling. This scenario took a setback when Ricketts was bowled by Thompson in the third over after lunch for a solid 67. But with some batting still to come, it was by no means a disaster. Posting a big score looked much less likely two overs later, with Hargrove (two balls), Rydon and Wingfield Digby (three each) all not causing much concern to the fielding side.

At 163 for seven, much depended on Tweedale if the total was to breach 200, but the feeling from the boundary was that he thought he was about to be left high and dry: net result, an uppish cut and a catch to cover five runs later. Peters and Jackaman scraped three runs between them, while Freeth never faced a ball. Seven wickets had fallen for ten runs from 50 balls, with still 9.2 overs of the allotted 55 available.

OMTs began brightly, despite losing Baxall to an express delivery of Rydon's in his second over. Brand, their captain, joined Ducat and they played steadily through to tea almost exclusively against seam bowling - Freeth and Ricketts together bowled just two overs before the interval, which was taken after 25 overs with OMTs well placed on 90 for one. Ten overs later, Ricketts was at his wits' end, both batsmen looking comfortable and both having reached their fifties.

What followed reminded older observers of the story concerning Ray Illingworth, when leading Leicestershire, who brought on Jack Birkenshaw in a hopeless situation - the result was that Birkenshaw took four for six and won the game, with the

accompanying press headlines lauding Illingworth's inspired captaincy. What the former England captain had actually said to Birkenshaw was "lob 'em up, Jack, t'game's boogered". Ricketts accordingly tried Leeke (four runs and a wide off one over) and then handed the ball to Hargrove, who was only playing because Rintoul had cried off with a damaged wrist.

Hargrove had been chuntering away in the scoreboard area within the hearing of the retired senior pro for some time and he came steaming down the hill only to be belted by the OMTs captain high to deep mid-off where a grateful Ricketts took a comfortable catch. At 135 for two, the ball was still very much in the visiting team's court, though. Jaggard had been waiting with his pads on for two and a half hours, and one might say he was unlucky even to touch the next ball through to Jackaman. Three down. Hargrove's second over followed a similar pattern, two consecutive balls taking wickets - one bowled, the other caught behind (141 for five, and now it was getting interesting).

But Hargrove was not done yet. In his third over, Ducat fell into the same trap as Tweedale and cut to cover. Hargrove had taken five wickets for four runs from 14 balls and the OMTs required 24 runs with four wickets in hand. Retrenchment was in order for the faltering visitors: Walter and Knowles duly buckled down against Freeth (who completed his 12 overs for 32) and Hargrove. Having scored just 12 runs in eight overs, Hargrove had Walter caught behind and Knowles ran himself out as the run-rate ground to a halt. The thought did occur to some that OMTs might even run out of overs (they needed 12 off the last five).

Rydon came back to account for Sapra and then Thompson hit the first ball of Hargrove's ninth over straight to Ricketts at mid-off to complete a most improbable victory. Hargrove, just three weeks after getting married, ended with the incredible figures of 8.1-3-9-7. This is the second-best analysis in the Cricketer Cup's history, only Uppingham's Ashworth (8 for 42 in 1991 against St Edward's Martyrs) bettering it.

For the Pilgrims, two players scored 120 runs, two others 34 and the rest managed six between them, with 11 extras. The OMTs innings was even more unlikely, with two players scoring 121, the other nine just 21, with 20 extras. A nine-run victory with 17 balls left - as close as that. Needless to say, OMTs did not come to Skipper's afterwards, missing not just Wingfield Digby's words of wisdom, but also the slow recovery of the Hon Secretary from near heart failure. It was a shame that there were so few Shirburnians and OS present to see this extraordinary contest - thanks to the eight who did watch some part of it; with around 20 followers, OMTs put us to shame.

Saturday July 3 v Sherborne School at Sherborne - Won by 3 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 180; Sherborne School 177 (P G Gidney 56, T R Dowdall 52)

With the School playing more and more limited overs cricket, it was decided that this game at Commem. should follow the same format of 50 overs. There was a comment before the start of the game by the School coach, wondering whether the fixture

should be played at the beginning of the season so that the Pilgrims would consist more of the Cricketer Cup side and therefore be more valuable experience for the boys. Touché.

The School won the toss and elected to field. Bristow and de la Hey, the grandfather of this side, opened the batting. It was a shame that Bristow was out cheaply, having been in decent form before the match. Thankfully de la Hey and Pugh built a solid platform and were just beginning to accelerate when they were both dismissed, to leave the Pilgrims on 56 for three. Scott and Shearer then took up the gauntlet, the latter in particular playing well, when again the Pilgrims handed wickets to the opposition, a silly run-out being the best of the lot. Newbery, opening bowler in his days at the School, had declared himself a batsman beforehand. He did not have much chance to show his new-found skills, and if you had to be a bat you might wish to retire to his ownership. One of the top six should have gone on to make more runs, but yet again the Pilgrims were floundering at 101 for six.

Enter Charlie Dowdall, who smashed a belligerent 29 before falling at the last hurdle seeking quick runs, his only consolation being that his brother did not remove him. The tail chipped in with useful runs before losing Edlmann to another run-out, the third of the innings, with the score on 180. Par for the course was probably 200, with a score of 220 realistic on an improving wicket. Thomas was the pick of the School's bowlers, taking a firm grip of the game early on.

In reply the School lost Adams without troubling the scorers, inexplicably fending a long hop from Edlmann to a gleeful Scott at square leg. Ambrose opened the bowling at the Pavilion End with his leg-spin and restricted the flow of runs, although Tom Dowdall batted extremely well, suggesting that perhaps the Dowdall brothers can become the Waughs of Sherborne. *[Editor's note: although the author was referring to the twins who have done so much for Australia's cricket over the past 15 years, he was clearly unaware, or had forgotten, that there has been a Waugh of Sherborne in the past - Alec, who was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer in the 1910s before the First World War robbed him of his enthusiasm and his best years.]*

At 79 for two, you would have thought that the School might have been cruising, but Reece-Smith had other ideas and, backed up by Charlie Dowdall and some extremely competitive fielding, brought the Pilgrims back into the game. Newbery then bowled a fantastic spell, finding great rhythm and control to maintain the pressure.

It all boiled down to the final over, with nine to win and Gidney, on fifty, batting fluently after being slow early on. Two off the first ball - the deep cover fielder contriving to make a tight single into a comfortable two without misfielding the ball. Gidney smashed the second ball gloriously for four through extra cover and looked destined to play the role of hero. Sadly, the next ball he ran himself out. The fourth ball was adjudged a wide down the leg-side (Newbery joining the World Cup-wide fever - ever one to follow the fashion). Unfortunately the last two batsmen had turned into a pair of lemmings, Rees run out by de la Hey off the wide.

Cricket at its best. Should the School have won? Definitely. Should the fixture be moved? Definitely not. Pilgrims cricket is like the curate's egg, painful for those in the same team but always a great spectacle - bring on the entertainers!

Sunday July 4 - Cricketer Cup third round v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 1 wicket

Radley Rangers 225 (J W M Dalrymple 77; P L C Knechtli 4-46); Sherborne Pilgrims 226-9

After the exploits against Old Merchant Taylors', there seemed little prospect of this quarter-final match being a rival for drama. How wrong can you be? In the end, it took a good dose of luck, a great deal of nerve, and a crucial moment of misjudgement by the Radley Rangers captain to allow the Pilgrims to advance to their first appearance in the last four of this competition.

Two years ago the same two sides met in the second round and played through some inclement weather in a reduced-overs contest. On arrival in Oxfordshire, it was not long before the threatening clouds overhead began to leak and the prospect of a delayed start was very real. Fortunately the rain relented and, although play eventually ended just after 8pm, there was only one other interruption during the day, around tea-time - and no overs were lost.

Ricketts won the toss and inserted the Rangers on a sound track. MacDowel fell early to a straightforward catch by Hargrove off Knechtli but Bellhouse (who was dropped in the third over by Andrew Wingfield Digby) and Dalrymple - who had left the College only a day earlier - proceeded in contrasting styles well past the 50 mark. Dalrymple looked a class act: comfortably the best batsman on show for the home side, he attacked with relish and played some delightful shots in front of the wicket. Hargrove (again) was the man to make the initial difference, removing Bellhouse's bails with the first ball of his fourth over and then trapping Martin-Jenkins leg-before with the first ball of his fifth over, starting an unhappy day for the Radley skipper.

Reed struggled pitifully for half an hour for just six (two scoring strokes from 31 balls) before Ricketts ended his misery by persuading him to sky a catch to the substitute, one R A Bagnall, who was actually on the pitch for almost the whole innings because Rintoul was suffering from food poisoning. With the home side lunching on 113 for four after 34 overs, the morning session was very much the Pilgrims'.

It got better soon afterwards, too, as Rydon and Ricketts took a wicket apiece to push Radley back to 130 for six, with Dalrymple an aghast observer from the far end, watching his colleagues give their wickets away. Enter wicketkeeper Dearden, who soon got stuck in and played a valuable little innings, scoring 38 off 44 balls in good time, making an excellent foil to Dalrymple, who had - unaccountably - not been given the lion's share of the strike. Given that he made 77 from 121 balls, it seems not unreasonable to suggest that had his colleagues been more intelligent, he might well have made the century that his performance deserved.

Some lusty hitting by Nash bolstered the Radley total to a not-quite-adequate 225, Knechtli returning to mop up the tail, and Ricketts snaring Dalrymple (the eighth wicket to fall) with a well-judged catch by Wingfield Digby out on the backward square leg boundary. It looked a good enough wicket for 250 to be a respectable score, but the Pilgrims were unhappy not to have finished their opponents off when the chance was there. Ricketts manoeuvred his troops well, but no one bowler was genuinely incisive and the ground fielding could have been a little bit snappier.

But it was a confident pair of Rintoul (at last able to represent the Pilgrims in this competition) and Warren that began the reply. Rintoul looked in effortless touch, dispatching the bad ball with elan (although he was dropped in the eighth over at slip) and racing to 33 before Van der Gucht broke his defences with a more than useful ball. Atwell soon followed, two balls later, muttering low oaths about the sportsmanship of Dearden behind the stumps. Leeke and Warren consolidated well, however, with both playing positive shots and running hard.

The rain returned during this partnership, which unquestionably worked in Radley's favour, as the outfield slowed up and rain did get onto the wicket, as the umpires looked to ensure that 20 overs were squeezed in. On resumption, Leeke, who as ever had made batting appear quite easy, and again looked set for a big score, went trapped by Goldsmith leg-before. Warren had departed in Goldsmith's previous over to a smart stumping for a workmanlike 45. But at 115 for four, as Radley had proved, there was still a way back.

It did not feature Ricketts, who was inexcusably run out, nor Hargrove, who played too ambitious a stroke to Goldsmith and was bowled. Tweedale, though, was in control and playing competently, and was now joined by Rydon, who cannot have had a more fortunate innings in his distinguished career than this one, but who rode that luck magnificently in the denouement.

This pair came together in the 36th over with the score at 145 for six and the run rate creeping ever upwards. Nine overs later, they had added 40 to the score and Tweedale got himself out, caught off Dalrymple's persistent, if not always threatening, bowling. But the key moments - as it turned out - had already happened. Martin-Jenkins, who had done more than most to get Radley to this stage of the tournament, made three critical errors of judgement. He dropped Rydon at a deepish mid-off in the 39th and 41st overs, both easy chances. Immediately after this second error, he inexplicably brought himself on to bowl. In three poor overs, he conceded 20 runs and allowed the Pilgrims to gain confidence after being battered by the accuracy of Goldsmith - who bowled superbly with three for 36 from 12 overs - and the wiles of Van der Gucht. He was to drop a third, much more difficult chance as well, but the damage had been done.

So with Tweedale's departure, 41 runs were required from a little more than ten overs. Wingfield Digby was caught in the deep for eight: 24 needed from exactly four overs. Jackaman was given run out - an unbelievably bad decision given the state of the game and the fact that he was well in, the umpire beguiled by the brilliance with

which the bowler diverted the throw onto the stumps - for two: 12 still required from 15 balls. The fifth ball of that 53rd over was vital; Rydon, still able to see the ball well enough despite his uneven innings, hammered it back over the bowler's head for a glorious six, nerve still intact.

Five runs from two overs and the balance had surely swung back to the Pilgrims, albeit with just the one wicket in hand. Nash then bowled an excellent over, conceding a single to Rydon and a wide. Three from the last over, to be bowled by Dalrymple, Rydon on strike. Dot, dot, single. Two needed from two balls (although one would technically have been enough because the Pilgrims had lost fewer wickets). Dot, dot and then, in the brilliant late-evening light, Knechtli memorably slammed the ball through the extra cover area for two (Rydon urging him to come back for the second to make absolutely sure) and a roar from the Sherborne part of the pavilion.

Another entertaining game of cricket against Radley, played right to the wire, and it put the Pilgrims into the semi-finals of the Cricketer Cup for the first time. Bagnall had identified such a target as the minimum for the season in his book, and his efforts were well rewarded. If there was to be disappointment against Bradfield, it had been a great run.

Sunday July 11 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 44 runs
Old Tonbridgians 205-8 dec (A T Hunter 59); Sherborne Pilgrims 161 (R C Kemp 4-49)

Having lost the toss on a bright, warm, sunny day at the always immaculate Head, the Pilgrims were asked to field, potentially for quite some time. The Tonbridge innings started well, nudging their way to 48 before the fall of the first wicket, to Hargrove. The young Pilgrims side fielded well with only a couple of exceptions. After a surge from the seam bowlers, Hargrove and Edlmann, and an inquisitive spell from Morton, the day settled into an onslaught of flat, turnless off-spin from Warren and Dowdall. Just the type of slow but not really slow bowling that Shirburnian "spinners" seem to specialise in. The highlight of the day in the field was a superb stumping by de la Hey off Dowdall to remove Hunter for 59. Warren at the other end had a wonderful first few overs with early figures of 6-5-2-2 which slowed the Tonbridge innings considerably. Eventually at 205 for eight the declaration came, after 61 overs.

The Pilgrims reply started well with a little assistance from the Tonbridge opening bowler, whose first over was 15 balls long and cost nine runs (a maiden bar the extras). De la Hey continued his good work with a well-timed and well-run display, amassing 48 before being caught off the bowling of Kemp, who was to record a vital four for 49 from 13 overs. The rest of the upper order all made a start - Shearer a stylish nine, Scott a good 14 and Bristow a promising 28 - without any of them going on to produce the match-winning innings. Hargrove was unlucky with a toe-end going into the ground then landing down on the stumps while he was still wondering what had happened. Following this, the end came quickly despite the shot of the day by Dowdall, a six over long-off that would have comfortably cleared the sight screen. The last four wickets fell for just one run.

Having fought well for the first three-quarters of the day, the capitulation was disappointing - but with the Week in Sherborne just around the corner, soon forgotten.

Monday July 12 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Drawn
Old Blundellians 259-4 dec (A R Giles 103); Sherborne Pilgrims 208-9 (J R Tweedale 122)

The week started with the traditional fixture against an Old Blundellians side strengthened as usual with several ringers from the Devon League. The Pilgrims had youth on their side: six tour virgins, eager to impress, joined ranks with several other young(ish) Pilgrims to make what looked a strong side.

The Blundellians won the toss and batted first on what was a decent pitch. Bagnall and Edlmann opened up and bowled tightly, gaining reward with an early wicket. This brought Perera, a Canada international, into bat, and it was immediately plain that he would punish anything wide of off stump - something not readily heeded by the Pilgrims attack. Fradgley replaced Edlmann, who was suffering from sore shins, and bowled at a lively pace without greatly troubling the batsmen.

As lunch drew near, with the game stagnating, Bagnall decided that it was time for Tim Clark to bowl his first over since leaving the School. Having lost weight and pace, but not the run-up, he bowled one of the worst overs ever to have graced the Upper. Putting it down to rustiness, Bagnall gave him one more. But alas, the rigmarole was repeated and so to spare him further embarrassment and the close fielders serious injury, Edlmann returned. Meanwhile Jim Warren was brought on at the other end and promptly removed Perera for 44.

At lunch, the visiting side had scored 103 for two with Giles, last year's centurion, unbeaten on 35. The post-lunch performance was less than impressive, allowing the Blundellians to plunder 156 in just 27 overs. Giles completed another century without ever batting particularly well, and, assisted by some lusty blows from Akerman, the innings was declared closed on 259 for four at roughly the halfway stage.

The Pilgrims began their response confident that victory could be achieved. This soon became less likely once Charlie Warren had lost his stumps in the third over with the score unchanged from 0. This brought Tweedale to the wicket and allowed him to play a quite superb innings, woefully let down by a succession of batting partners. Tweedale compiled 122 from a total of 161, the score when he was the fifth wicket to fall. From that point on, the Pilgrims were struggling. This was reinforced after a couple of needless run-outs and an ugly swipe from Edlmann to be bowled as the ninth wicket. Bagnall and Jim Warren were able, with aplomb, to see out the innings and claim the draw.

Tuesday July 13 v President's XI at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets

President's XI 149 (W P Hargrove 5-26); Sherborne Pilgrims 150-5 (J E Scorer 52*)

The Pilgrims won the toss and inserted the President's XI on an overcast morning. Fradgley and Edlmann opened the bowling brightly. Butler and Warren, however, were equal to the task and saw off the new ball without alarm. Indeed, when the first wicket did fall, it was not without good fortune: with the score on 40, Warren tickled finely for what he thought would be several runs. This would have been the case if it had not been for a sensational catch by Ben Scott, diving full-length to his right. Hargrove removed Butler in his next over to bring Thorne and Tweedale together. Nor did they last long; Goodeve-Docker lured Thorne into a false shot and Hargrove trapped Tweedale leg-before (somewhat dubiously).

Between these two dismissals, Goodeve-Docker also had Nurton caught in close; Hargrove removed Jim Warren to leave the President's XI reeling at 77 for six, with the distinct possibility of their being bowled out by lunch. Peters and Wingfield Digby then set about proving that it wasn't all that difficult to bat until the over before the interval when Fradgley struck, bowling Peters to bring the lunch score to 98 for seven.

Afterwards, the Pilgrims lacked the killer instinct, allowing Wingfield Digby and Kitson to score freely. Three overs after the reintroduction of Fradgley and Hargrove, however, it was all over, a total of 149 achieved and Hargrove with figures of five for 26 - a great effort considering his exploits the previous night.

The Warren brothers opened for the Pilgrims, faced with the contrasting attack of Peters and Bagnall. The former bowled with genuine pace and swing; the latter has never been known to have either, but kept it tight. The brothers were clearly struggling in the deepening gloom; Peters produced a beauty to remove John Warren, who could only deflect the ball behind to protect his good looks. It seemed inevitable that Peters would have a hatful until he strained a hamstring, much to the Pilgrims' good fortune.

It was thus plain sailing for the Pilgrims, with the exception of Charlie Warren, who seemed completely out of sorts. Not even the short break for rain could save him and it was a great relief to everyone concerned when he finally slipped over and was run out. Somehow he had scored 32 out of a score of 82 for two. With Scorer proceeding steadily at the other end, Scott came in and hit a brief 27 before missing a straight one. Scorer did the rest, finishing on 52, while Pugh and Goodeve-Docker missed out.

This was a game full of good humour and spirit but most importantly it highlighted the popularity of the Week, with 19 Pilgrims of many ages participating.

Wednesday July 14 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Drawn
South Wales Hunt 194-9 dec; Sherborne Pilgrims 161-8

A dark and dank day saw a strong South Wales Hunt side win the toss and choose to bat. Hargrove, whose side consisted of many bowlers, selected Peters and Elliot-

Square to use the new ball. Both bowled well, restricting the batsmen but without that vital bit of luck. A change at both ends saw two quick wickets, more a matter of cumulative effort from the opening bowlers than any wonder-balls by Clark or Hargrove. 42 for no wicket was now a far better 44 for two with the Hunt captain, Ricketts, back in the pavilion - a good thing as he has scored two centuries against the Pilgrims in the past.

Wickets fell steadily but the Hunt managed to get a few partnerships moving along; the game looked to have swung the Pilgrims' way at 157 for seven but the Hunt fought well to make a very fair declaration at 194 for nine from 53 overs. Eight bowlers were used, among them Tweedale, whose performance reminded everyone why he must not bowl for at least another year.

The Pilgrims' opening pair of Goodeve-Docker and Saunders strode to the wicket confidently, although word had got about that the Hunt's opening bowler was a little faster than perhaps one might have liked. Ali, the bowler in question, was later discovered to have played for Pakistan A. He was also left-arm over, to make matters more complicated, and it took one, maybe two, balls for the batsmen to summon helmets. The only man enjoying it less than the batsmen was the wicketkeeper, 26 yards back and suffering that familiar low bounce of the Upper.

The openers were brave, committed and resolute in putting on 58 before Saunders fell leg-before for 23 - to the other opening bowler, as so often happens. Morgan soon fell, as did Goodeve-Docker for a well-earned 32, constructed over 100 minutes. From here, five wickets fell at regular 10-15 run intervals, no one getting less than three or more than 13. Tweedale remained, looking arguably the most confident against Ali, scoring 31 not out (asking the question as to why Hargrove batted him at eight); Peters kept him company at the other end but the target was never in reach and the Pilgrims finished some 30 runs short at 7.15pm.

Thursday July 15 v Dorset Colts at Sherborne - Lost by 144 runs
Dorset Colts 294-4 dec (C Holcombe 112, C C M Warren 73); Sherborne Pilgrims 150 (S W D Rintoul 88; T Sharpe 5-36)

Hargrove's miserable run with the toss continued (three failures in five days) but things did not start so badly for the Pilgrims in the field, breaking the opening partnership at 33 after a good bowling start by Hargrove and Fradgley. This brought Holcombe to the crease and he was a long time going, striking the ball cleanly, mostly in front of the wicket. The second wicket went down at 116, Dover falling for 46, but the pace of the innings had been well set, those runs coming in just 27 overs.

The seminal partnership of the innings came together for the third wicket, with Pilgrim Warren joining Holcombe. In the past, Bagnall's wiles had conspired to reduce Warren's effectiveness, but this time Warren survived, although it needed a simple catch to be dropped by Hargrove off Rintoul to set things in motion. The bowling was not poor but the Colts' batting was just too good. Warren was finally run out by Ben Scott for 73 and Holcombe perished after a deserved century, but the score they had

amassed was imposing, to say the least. Charlie Dowdall had been the most economical of the home team's bowlers, with analysis of 11-1-37-0.

The Pilgrims' reply faltered from the start and at 69 for six was looking embarrassing before Stuart Rintoul rescued matters with a classy 88, more than all the rest of his team-mates combined. Sharpe had figures of five for 36 (having taken four for 15 with the new ball) and did more than most to ensure the inevitable (and heavy) Pilgrims defeat well before the close. Credit to the Colts despite the Pilgrims' poor showing: they were determined and dominant.

Sunday July 18 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Cancelled

Cancelled because of the Pilgrims' involvement in the Cricketer Cup semi-final.

Sunday July 18 - Cricketer Cup semi-final v Bradfield Waifs at Sherborne - Lost by 36 runs

Bradfield Waifs 272-5 (R M F Cox 130, J R Perkins 79); Sherborne Pilgrims 236-8 (J H K Adams 56)

For the first time in the competition's 33-year history, the Pilgrims had reached the last four. One fairly comfortable victory and two wins born of great team spirit and doggedness had resulted in a semi-final appearance on the Upper against the might of Bradfield Waifs.

The Pilgrims made three changes from the quarter-final team, with Garlick, Freeth and Adams (who had left the School not three weeks earlier) coming in for Rintoul (Dorset commitments), Wingfield Digby (christening his grandson) and Hargrove (omitted despite his second-round heroics); Peters was also unavailable, thus denying the Pilgrims the chance of fighting former first-class fire with that of the opposition.

Mark Nicholas, the former Hampshire captain and now TV pundit, won the toss and elected to bat; the home side took the field expecting a hard morning, but looked eager after an earlier net session, fielding practice and team talk from Ricketts. After six overs, Garlick and Knechtli seemed to have settled into a good rhythm with only one boundary conceded, that by another former Hampshire man, Rupert Cox. At 22 for no wicket from eight overs, the game-plan of containment was certainly working.

Garlick was replaced by Rydon at the Pavilion End after conceding seven from each of his previous two overs, while Knechtli continued to toil without luck at the Westbury End. His seventh over saw the pendulum swing decisively away from the home team as Cox, having struck one boundary in the over, was completely squared up and nicked the ball to Atwell at slip; the chance was spilt and Cox ended the over with another handsome four.

Rydon temporarily lifted the gloom by having the dangerous Bridgman well caught by Warren for 24 in the over; this left Bradfield on 60 for one from 15 overs, but even at

this stage, the spectators were wondering how much the Pilgrims might suffer for their generosity. Perkins joined Cox at the crease and the pair added 174 for the second wicket in 34 overs. Adams, for two overs, Freeth and Ricketts, with much longer spells, all tried in vain to stem the flow and containment became increasingly difficult.

Perkins looked the more attacking player while Cox seemed to play a tip-and-run game, not even worrying about boundaries. Their running between the wicket was outstanding - only occasionally did it border on the rash and even then the ball failed to hit the stumps from direct throws. Cox scored his 50 from 60 balls, Perkins soon followed from only 71 and as the partnership proceeded and the overs diminished, so they could both afford to take more risks and open their shoulders - which is exactly what they did.

The Pilgrims' bowling was certainly not poor and the only criticism could be that occasionally the ball was bowled on both sides of the wicket, but not that often; the batting was brilliant and the gaps in the field were found too frequently for there to be any semblance of fortune. If there was a fault, it could have been that our outfielders were too deep, thus allowing the batsmen to return for a second constantly, where a closer position or quicker fieldsman should have prevented it from happening.

Garlick returned to the attack in the 49th over and immediately accounted for Perkins, who had made an excellent 79. Cox had already reached his hundred, a superb innings containing only six boundaries. In his next over Garlick bowled Came first ball but that just brought Mark Nicholas to the wicket. Fifteen runs came from the next three overs before Knechtli cleaned out Nicholas with a cracking ball. Unfortunately a further 19 came from the final two overs and not even the inevitable run-out of Cox for a fantastic 130 could detract from the enormity of the task that lay ahead.

At 3.40pm, Charlie Warren and Jimmy Adams strode to the crease with the task of making a substantial dent in the Waifs' final total of 272 for five from their allocated 55 overs. There was very little bat on ball at the beginning of the innings, but thanks to 13 sundries from Denning and Oscroft, the Bradfield opening bowlers, after eight overs the score was 22 for no wicket; exactly the same as the Waifs.

While Adams was slowly starting to push the ball into the gaps, Warren was struggling. With his normal fluent strokeplay having deserted him, it was no real surprise to see him out in the eleventh over, trying to force Denning away; even less surprising, Cox took the catch and Warren's innings of 6 from 35 balls came to an end.

This brought Atwell to the crease with the score at 30 for one, knowing that he and the Pilgrims debutant at the other end had an enormous job to do to keep their team in the contest at tea. Atwell scored two from his second ball and, having watched Adams block out a maiden, struck the first boundary of the innings in the fourteenth

over.

Accumulation was required, as Bradfield had shown, with their positive running between the wickets, interspersed with occasional boundaries. This was exactly what the home spectators were treated to; the change bowlers, Carpenter and Nicholas, were easily milked for four an over before an assault by both batsmen on the former pushed the score from 65 to 81 for one at the end of the twentieth over. Carpenter was replaced by Graham, but the score continued to tick along and tea was taken at the end of the 25th over with the Pilgrims having reached 101 for one.

Adams and Atwell appeared to have changed the course of the game and at tea, the Bradfield dressing-room was considerably less upbeat than that of the Pilgrims. After the break, Oscroft returned to the attack and in the 28th over, the game turned again. Atwell majestically stroked Oscroft through the covers for what he thought was to be his fifth boundary. Unfortunately, the ball was six inches off the ground and a dive at full stretch from point resulted in a stunning catch and the end of Atwell's innings for 31. You can guess who took the catch: the irony was lost on nobody; 108 for two.

Steve Leeke joined Adams at the crease and, once more, while the batting was by no means dazzling, the batsmen rotated the strike intelligently and a well-placed offside boundary brought Adams a well-constructed and thoroughly merited half-century.

With the partnership at 23 from less than six overs, Leeke pushed the ball into the offside and set off for two; the problem was that he hesitated on his way back and the return throw beat him to safety. It had been the first occasion that the Pilgrims had really attempted to test the fielding side and Leeke had been run out for ten. The dismissal seemed to clarify the difference between the two sides. While Bradfield had started with the intention of stealing runs, it was almost as if the Pilgrims had only decided to take risks once behind the run-rate. If the running between the wickets had been as positive and decisive throughout, Leeke's dismissal would not have been in vain. Instead, three wickets had fallen with another 141 still needed from just 21 overs and the Pilgrims, albeit subconsciously, stopped running risky singles and the subsequent pressure to hit boundaries was relentless and too much.

Justin Ricketts came in; it was now clear that Adams had to drop anchor and allow the big shots to be played from the other end. You can imagine the Pilgrims captain's dismay when Adams tapped one back to Graham, the bowler, only four balls later. 130 for two after 33 had become 132 for four an over later. Although he had batted really well on his first appearance for the Pilgrims and made 56 in a Cricketer Cup semi-final, if only he had known how many times in recent years the Club has batted similarly - two settled batsmen getting out at the same stage of the innings.

With Ricketts on one when Tweedale joined him, the innings had to start all over again and the next three overs saw nothing but singles as the two played themselves in. Big overs were desperately needed; Graham went for seven in his eighth, Nicholas the same in his last over, the 39th. Tweedale was beginning to look his imperious

best at this point and when Bridgman came on to bowl the next over, it was dealt with severely. Tweedale struck two glorious fours, 12 came off it and the bowler was immediately replaced.

The Pilgrims were suddenly right back in the game needing 107 to win from the final 15 overs with six wickets in hand. What followed was almost inevitable. Bradfield brought on Came to bowl his slow leg-spinners from the Westbury End; just before his first ball he posted a deep midwicket to prevent temptation. It would be fair to say that there was staggered amazement around the ground as Tweedale smashed the first ball straight down that man's throat. It was a rash shot in the extreme and with Tweedale batting so well, almost unbelievable that he could not have first had a look at Came's bowling.

Denning accounted for the crestfallen Ricketts, trying to guide one through the vacant second slip region and the Pilgrims were left requiring a further 92 from only ten overs. Rydon was joined by Jackaman and they put on 33 in the next six overs before Rydon was bowled by Came, going for a big one. Knechtli came and went, leaving Freeth to play out the remaining three overs with Jackaman, who ended up with a commendable 20 not out. The match ended at 7.30pm with the Pilgrims 36 runs short on 236 for eight from 55 overs.

It was a tremendous effort getting to the semi-finals but at this stage the Pilgrims were found out by a better side. Although "catches win matches", it would be wrong to pick this out as the only difference between the teams. In all forms of cricket, let alone limited-overs, positive running between the wickets is crucial; Bradfield were exemplary. When fielding on a large ground, the boundary-saving fielder cannot always afford to stand on the rope, and again the Waifs realised this and posted their outfielders anything from five to ten yards in, depending on age and speed. Steve Leeke found this out to his cost, but when the Pilgrims were in the field, two runs were almost always conceded to the man coming in from the deep.

This more professional approach almost certainly accounted for the 36-run deficit, and more than made up for an ordinary Bradfield bowling attack. It is absolutely vital that the Pilgrims learn from these experiences in 1999, so that continued success in this competition is assured. The first round in 2000 is a trip to Rugby Meteors, the 1998 runners-up. The Meteors dished out a humiliating defeat that year in the first round and the same fate will await the Pilgrims this time around unless at their best. Rugby fell at the first hurdle in 1999, which will ensure that they will be anxious to bounce back. Let's hope that Bradfield have given the Club a lesson that will not be forgotten.

Tuesday July 20 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Won by 3 wickets
Old Cliftonians 205 (N E L Howe 69); Sherborne Pilgrims 208-7 (J M A Fradgley 58*)

With the exception of the experienced Rob Kitson, the Pilgrims fielded one of its most youthful teams against Old Cliftonians on an indifferent and inclement day at Bristol. The once excellent Clifton pitch looked no better than the poor surface that was

encountered last year and so, having won the toss, Hodges elected to bowl. In short, the quicker bowlers did not get what they deserved. In particular Fradgley and Edlmann bowled enough good balls, at what were some very ordinary batsmen, to have knocked Clifton over for a very low score. As last year, however, Clifton scrambled together some sort of total to defend. How they reached 205 is difficult to explain, but 30 extras did not help the Pilgrims' cause.

With strong batting (on paper), the Pilgrims looked more than equal to the task and as the chase commenced at 4.06pm, confidence was high. At 6.05pm, defeat seemed inevitable. At this stage, Richard Edlmann joined John Fradgley at the wicket and together they batted in a partnership with tempo, patience and attitude perfectly attuned to the situation. Chasing a target has unique pressures and these were amplified by every lost wicket. To put on 72 for the eight wicket in only 13 overs was an outstanding achievement. Fradgley's 58 not out was chanceless and filled with graceful shots on a pudding of a track. Edlmann's honest appraisal of his usual batting performances meant that even he was shocked at such a great display.

A Pilgrims victory through character and perseverance is a none too common occurrence; in previous years it was a game that would probably have been lost. Kitson, the next man in, would say otherwise but the non-appearance of Bagnall, who claimed that he had to work the odd day during the cricket season, effectively made Kitson last man. Luckily this horrible thought never became reality and a fairly comfortable-sounding three-wicket win was achieved.

Sunday August 1 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Cancelled

Sunday August 15 v Cobham at Cobham - Won by 23 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 151-9 dec; Cobham 128

The annual fixture against Cobham is the traditional late-season pilgrimage. How long this stays the case, especially with NPL Teddington providing the premier fixture for Pilgrims at this time of year, remains to be seen. Cobham started badly by losing the toss, went from bad to worse by asking the Pilgrims secretary for a ball, and capped a fine three-card trick with a fracas in the bar that saw off their umpire.

Thorne and Warren seemed the ideal combination to open the innings. Seemed. Warren left the first ball and it was called wide. He played at the next one and lost his leg stump. Danger still lurked as the pitch was slow and the outfield overgrown; Thorne was bored. De la Hey nurtured him for eight overs before inevitably holing out. Wingfield Digby and Dowdall laboriously tried to move the score along but against Kumar's crafty leg-spin, the ball was difficult to get away.

Both batsmen perished trying to force the score and this allowed Hargrove a moment of glory: a magnificent straight six through the bedroom window of one of the new Wimpey Homes surrounding the ground. A few lusty blows from Peters and another not out for Bagnall saw the Pilgrims to their declaration after 45 overs.

Bagnall took the Cobham reply by the scruff of the neck and ripped out two batsmen before they had time to take their guard; he had a third before running out of steam. He was backed up by Peters, whose first few overs were bowled in the girls' dormitory, but he slowly loosened up and eventually worked up real pace to take a brace of wickets. The only batsman to trouble the Pilgrims was Hunt, who smote 31 before Hargrove took two quick wickets to end the match as a contest. The Cobham last man entertained the slips for a few overs before Peters came back to finish him off with a catch by Thorne at short leg.

Sunday August 29 v NPL Teddington at Teddington - Won by 4 wickets
NPL Teddington 246-4 dec (J A Kumar 119); Sherborne Pilgrims 247-6 (C C M Warren 82*, N H Peters 57*)

This second match between the Pilgrims and NPL Teddington proved to be as enjoyable and exciting as the first. The demand to play in the fixture was such that Bagnall, Hargrove and Atwell were able to defect to the hosts, for whom they play on a regular basis. This move was perceived to have had decisive consequences in a nail-biting finish and called into question the allegiance of Bagnall in particular.

In glorious late summer sunshine and on a flat batting track, Peters and Edlmann struggled in vain to make an early breakthrough. Jak Kumar showed his first-class pedigree from the start, delighting everyone except the bowlers with his style and colourful array of shots. Champion, too, batted with time to spare and both batsmen took a particular liking to Edlmann, who seemed relieved to be withdrawn from the attack.

The introduction of Hodges, captain for the day, unfeasibly accounted for Champion with possibly the worst ball of the day. Atwell joined Kumar at the crease and the pair enjoyed the fruits of Will Wingfield Digby's offerings (another NPL player) and helped themselves to runs while Dowdall found his line. Towards lunchtime Tweedale and Dowdall tightened up proceedings, but NPL were cruising untroubled and happy to take a fine lunch on board.

Shortly after the interval, Levy ran Atwell out for 30 in a terrible mix-up and Gardiner fell to Keatinge. Philips then accompanied Kumar as the professional powered to an awesome century. His range of shot increased and his audacity grew, so much so that when a quick good-length ball from Peters was dispatched some distance over the mid-wicket car park, there was a marked shortage of volunteers to bowl. Peters persisted, though, and eventually got his man for 119. If the Pilgrims thought that their troubles were over, Hargrove had other plans, plundering 41 in no time to enable the hosts to declare at 246 for four from 51 overs.

The Pilgrims reply was as turgid as NPL's finish was climactic. By tea, there was only 60 on the board from 25 overs. Bagnall delighted in accounting for Thorne and Bowles fired up the inevitable banter by bowling his first 12 overs for 13 and taking the scalp of Scott. A crucial decision was taken during tea to allow the Pilgrims another 15 minutes to catch up with the run-rate. This resuscitated the match and

appeared to wake Warren from his slumbers.

As Warren awoke, so Tweedale was playing a typically cavalier innings, reshaping what had gone before; suddenly batting looked easier and the game was alive. With Tweedale's dismissal for 41 came a flurry of wickets: first Dowdall, then Wingfield Digby. Hodges retired hurt, unable to cope with the verbal abuse, allowing Peters to stroll to the crease with 11 overs to be bowled and some hundred runs away from NPL's tally. The former Surrey man took a real liking to the bowling, smashing Hargrove and Day to all parts, rapidly reducing the odds of a Pilgrims victory together with the target. Warren, with masterful concentration, stepped up another gear and joined in the barrage.

With five overs remaining and the target now 50, Bagnall was chomping at the bit to return to the attack. Regrettably for his "adoptive" side (once a Pilgrim, etc), Bagnall's stiffness prevented him finding his line immediately ... and so it was that the Pilgrims were able to edge past their hosts to win by four wickets in a dramatic conclusion to the season.

Reports by Ben Atwell, Rupert Bagnall, Patrick Gent, Robert Hands, Will Hargrove, Phil Hodges, Charlie Warren and Will Wingfield Digby.

2000

Played 12: Won 7, Drawn 1, Lost 4, Cancelled 4.

Sunday May 7 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Won by 7 wickets
Marlborough Blues 126 (L J Ratcliffe 67); Sherborne Pilgrims 130-3

This was not much of a warm-up for the Cricketer Cup; Marlborough Blues are struggling at present to sustain their cricket - as their miserable first-round score in defeat in the competition was subsequently to prove - and they were a man short throughout, and that with two players not previously known to the Marlborough environs. Their one player of quality, Ratcliffe, played an attractive innings of 67 but received absolutely no support of any kind from his fellow batsmen.

That is not to say that the Pilgrims did not bowl or field well into the bargain. Although starting a man down (Will Wingfield Digby somewhat underestimating the time it would take to get to Wiltshire from Fulham), Bagnall made the opening incisions, removing both openers within a couple of balls, and almost all the bowlers used (eight) chipped in, only Costeloe and Gillett missing out. Edlmann bowled an intelligent line and deserved his two wickets, while Knechtli was as economical as usual. Dowdall took some punishment from Ratcliffe but since the Blues had pronounced their batting to be their stronger suit before play began, it mattered little.

Hargrove and Ben Scott opened up, the former scoring with some ease and a smidgen of luck on his way to a rapid 39 out of a first-wicket stand of 44 before believing himself immune to dismissal and wandering miles out of his crease,

missing and losing his bails to the wicketkeeper. Elliot-Square kept the pace up, scoring 36 to Scott's 40, although both perished before the inevitable victory, de la Hey and Gillett polishing off the remaining couple of runs required for a straightforward seven-wicket triumph.

In all honesty, this was a poor class of practice match, although there will be some who will always proclaim the value of "time in the middle". With the Radley Rangers game two weeks later being washed out without a ball bowled in anger, the Cup selection committee had very little Pilgrims form to go on. Given the deteriorating quality of the Blues as opposition in the past few years, it might be time to consider an alternative early-season fixture to give better preparation.

Sunday May 21 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Cancelled, rain

Sunday June 11 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Won by 49 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 308-4 (S Gillett 114, W J Newbery 85*, J N Butler 55); Hampshire Hogs 259

On another beautiful day at the ever immaculate Warnford, the Hampshire Hogs won the toss and inserted the Pilgrims. We were well-placed at lunch on 127 for three, with Hargrove and Tweedale not offering much resistance, Butler rather more so after a solid 55. Will Newbery and Stuart Gillett lunched as the not-out batsmen and after the interval were in imperious form, scoring 197 for the fourth wicket before Gillett was dismissed for a more than fluent 114, favouring the cut and pull above all.

Ben Scott joined Newbery at 290 for four and 18 runs later the Pilgrims declared, setting a stiff target for the hosts. Newbery was left undefeated on 85 and after a slow start had applied himself admirably, playing a very effective second fiddle to Gillett. The Hogs bowled a commendable 59 overs, good work in the time; Bagnall, guesting for the Hogs, was treated with little respect by the Pilgrims but was responsible for Gillett's wicket.

Knechtli and Edlmann opened the bowling for the Pilgrims and by the sixth over, Edlmann had made the first incision. The Hogs, to their credit, looked keen to get on with proceedings and were always positive. Edlmann and Knechtli added one more wicket each to their analysis and at 47 for three, the Hogs were looking in trouble. However, their attitude remained buoyant and they had added a further 22 runs by tea, taking sustenance on 69 for three with 14 overs gone.

After tea, the spinners, in the shape of the Jims Warren and Freeth, entered proceedings, both achieving turn, although scarcely stemming the flow of runs. Indeed, at 151 for four, the Hogs were well placed but lost wickets too regularly after the fifth one fell at that score, and were never likely thereafter to reach the Pilgrims' target. In retrospect, the Pilgrims' declaration was a little too ungenerous by 30 runs or so and the Hogs are to be thanked for trying to make such a good fist of it.

Sunday June 18 - Cricketer Cup first round v Rugby Meteors at Rugby - Won by 56

runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 247-8 (B D Atwell 66, J D Ricketts 53; E F Pugh 4-42); Rugby Meteors 191

This was quite definitely a match that the Pilgrims would have lost not more than five years ago. After an excellent start and a good first hour after lunch, wickets began to tumble and a score some 40-50 short of optimum was looking likely to hinder prospects - but stout lower-order resistance edged the total back towards genuinely competitive. Then after a dream start to the Rugby innings, the Meteors were allowed to retrench and begin to build their way towards the target - yet it was they who lost concentration, lost their way and eventually succumbed tamely.

That may well be condensing the day's play rather unkindly. But it is important to note that the Pilgrims lost badly on the same ground two years before, and displayed more resilience and team spirit than has often been the case in similar situations. All credit, then, to the positive approach that was ultimately responsible for securing the victory on one of the hottest days of the year.

Ricketts performed perhaps his most valuable trick early on: he won the toss. Certainly the Rugby Meteors felt, with their relatively aged side, that fielding under the heat of the noon-day sun was critical to their underperformance - and there can be little doubt that it was extremely sapping. Yet the Pilgrims had to make one difficult early decision: who to open with Atwell? With no recognised opener, Andrew Wingfield Digby stepped gamely into the breach and made an admirable fist of the role.

Again, another vital slice of action occurred at the start. In the first over, Atwell nicked an easy catch to first slip; Umbers, the long-serving Rugby captain, put it down, and had cause to regret it for just over two hours as Atwell made the most of his reprieve, employing his ability to time the stroke so well in compiling a fluent 66. Wingfield Digby lent excellent support in an opening stand of 57 that launched the innings.

Gillett came and went, getting out to as ugly a shot as you will ever see, to allow Ricketts a chance to make a big contribution. He did not disappoint, adding 91 for the third wicket with Atwell and scoring 53 from 73 balls overall himself. Even though he departed with work still to do (168 for four and another 12 overs to negotiate), the stage looked set for the flamboyant hitters to get down to business.

Initially, Tweedale and Elliot-Square seemed equal to the task; both are powerful players and when they connect, the ball "stays hit". Sadly both fell victim to leg-before decisions that can best be described as unfortunate. Three wickets fell with the score stuck on 211 and although the best part of six overs remained, it had the familiar ring of unfulfilled promise.

It was left to Jackaman, with some customary hit-and-miss support from Pexton, to revive the cause, nudging and nurling the ball around to score an unbeaten 19 in as many balls that boosted the score up to 247 - unquestionably a defensible total and

also a pretty competitive one. From the lunchtime position (117 for two from 33 overs), 250 seemed to me the minimum score that should be attained; it is pleasing to record that the Pilgrims were able to capitalise on their positive start.

The Meteors began their response circumspectly, acknowledging the soundness of the pitch, but lost their first wicket in the third over when Ellison steered a loose ball from Pexton into the gully area, where Tweedale brilliantly plucked it one-handed from the sky. Robards was to follow in the ninth over, with the score on 22, to a no less skilful slip catch by Ricketts off the same bowler, although the captain made it look particularly easy.

Two of Rugby's most prolific and experienced batsmen now stood in the firing line: Mitchell, who had bowled 12 overs earlier in the day, and Umbers, the captain, who has scored two centuries in this competition. Nervous and edgy to begin with, the third-wicket pair began to find their timing and rhythm, culminating in a loose over by Ricketts just before tea when Umbers took ten runs from it. This was the seminal partnership; although the Meteors had a couple of good strikers of the ball to come, they needed a big input now from these old hands.

And at the interval, they were well placed. Coincidentally, the score at the same stage (25 overs) was precisely the same as in the Pilgrims innings: 84 for two. Both batsmen had made 32, the pitch was still behaving, and the bowlers had not quite found an optimum length. Four overs after the resumption, at 99 for two, the match was evenly poised. Then disaster. Umbers called for a run to backward square leg that was never there; beaten by the throw and Jackaman's deft work with the bails, Umbers was sent back only to return to the pavilion.

It was a serious blow not just because, having scored 39 after a scratchy start, Umbers had the potential to make a stack of runs, but also because Mitchell was tiring. It was no surprise when he lofted a catch over the bowler's head to Elliot-Square six overs later, and, although at 123 for four the game was scarcely over, the impetus was gone, never to return.

Grinnoneau played some expansive shots before a dreadful attempt to blast a straight ball by Elliot-Square removed his bails; Seabrook tried hard to anchor one end but had no serious support, not helped by the fact that Rugby could muster no boundaries from the 35th over until the penultimate ball, when Fitch took a four off Knechtli, only to be bowled all ends up straight afterwards. That statistic emphasises the intelligence of Ricketts's field placings, as well as the enthusiasm of his troops, who worked hard to save runs. Victory was all but assured from around six o'clock onwards - the final hour was just a case of dotting i's and crossing t's.

Professional is, I think, the best way to describe this performance: nothing especially flashy about either the batting or bowling, although Ricketts excelled at both (barring his first two overs). Lacking a number of Pilgrims who would surely have played if available, it was a fine effort, pointing up yet again the truism that it is far better to select on the basis of playing regular cricket than on past form. Rugby were carrying

some "has-beens" and it showed.

Saturday July 1 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 7 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 230-7 (M A Shearer 63*, W P Hargrove 54); Sherborne School 223-9 (T R Dowdall 97)

Yet again the Pilgrims fixture against the School was played using the limited-overs format that schools have now adopted. Because of the absence of some of the School XI collecting prizes, the Pilgrims were invited to bat and graciously they accepted on a drizzly, cold morning when the pitch was obviously only going to get better.

In the past the Pilgrims have had a habit of losing wickets at crucial stages, often with a batsman well set and in the mid-twenties. The captain addressed this issue at the start of the game and urged the batsmen to play solid innings. Hargrove and Shearer duly obliged, Shearer's unbeaten 63 in particular a beautiful knock. These two were well supported by Freeth, whose cameo innings, alongside some hearty blows by Pexton (a phrase used many times before and never with the addition "... who went on to make a hundred"), enabled the Pilgrims to reach 230 for the loss of seven wickets - about the right score on that track.

The School's riposte was good with Tom Dowdall playing especially well. The running between the wickets was exemplary, although Dowdall will know now that he will not be able to take such liberties with some Pilgrims batsmen! The first wicket fell with the School handily placed on 80. Furthermore, Ben Adams at No 3 proved a useful partner for Dowdall and the School were cruising on what had become a placid pitch.

The Pilgrims, however, were not finished and began to apply pressure. Eventually it paid dividends and the School panicked. Two needless run-outs came about as the result of tight bowling by Pexton and Wingfield Digby and quickly the Pilgrims moved into control, more so once Dowdall had departed for a fine 97. Brilliant fielding was at the heart of this performance, allowing the older generation to record a narrow victory and showing that they still had the hunger for the contest. Both exciting and enjoyable, it drew a decent crowd in the closing stages, and deservedly so.

Sunday July 2 - Cricketer Cup second round v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 185-7; Charterhouse Friars 186-7 (A P Hollingsworth 50; P L C Knechtli 4-45)

Even despite the terrific win at Rugby in the first round, this game was always going to be tough as the Charterhouse Friars, who had won the Cricketer Cup on two previous occasions, had decided to reassemble their "stars" after a few years of underachieving and early-round exits. Justin Ricketts went out to toss the coin with former Hampshire bowler James Bovill and returned with the news that he had won and elected to bat. This certainly seemed to be the correct decision as the Pilgrims felt comfortable defending a reasonable score, as had been the case at Rugby.

There was only one problem: both opening batsmen were nowhere to be seen. Charlie Warren arrived after the start of the game and James Adams, who had been asked to play a Hampshire game at the last minute, not at all. Makeshift openers were Charlie Dowdall (the slated twelfth man) and Will Hargrove, who had been due to come in well down the order, and against an excellent bowling attack in the shape of Nick Gay and Bovill, attempted to negate a seaming ball with little success. Hargrove hesitated over a second run in the fifth over and was on his way after scoring nine of the ten runs on the board, and in the thirteenth over, Dowdall was cleaned up by Gay - 26 for two.

Ricketts came in to join Ben Atwell and the two of them began the rebuilding process against continued tight bowling from Hollingsworth, Tassall and Macmillan. Few risks were taken and sensible batting saw the Pilgrims close in on lunch and a fifty partnership, but Ricketts's dismissal, miscueing a drive to Bovill at mid-off, put things back in the balance at 68 for three. Atwell was joined by Warren and they could muster only 19 runs from the nine overs before the interval as the Friars cleverly squeezed in as many as possible to keep the pressure on. Lunch was taken with the Pilgrims having mustered only 88 from 35 of the allotted 55 overs.

Atwell had once again batted well during the morning session for 36 and it was agreed at lunch that he should try to bat through, leaving others to take risks. This ploy lasted for all of one ball as Atwell sliced one to backward point straight after lunch and his sterling work of the morning was undone in one loose moment. Tweedale came in and played magnificently for six overs; he murdered the bad ball and threatened to change the course of the contest. He certainly changed its momentum and for the first time, the Friars were on the back foot.

Bovill brought himself back on and Tweedale hit him for four before attempting the same again through midwicket. Unfortunately the tracer bullet went straight into the hands of Lewis. 128 for five became 131 for six two overs later as Warren was trapped leg-before by Bovill. With 11 overs still to bat, Rob Rydon joined cup debutant Will Wingfield Digby but was out for five and with eight overs to go. Jackaman's cameo of 19 not out and Wingfield Digby's equally sensible 24 not out saw a recovery to the relative milestone of 185 for seven.

The task was straightforward: the Friars would have to be bowled out; to defend less than 3.5 runs an over seemed very unlikely. The first over confirmed what was already known about Gregor Macmillan: he is capable of taking the game away from any opposition in a short space of time, but he is also a risk-taker who plays a shot a ball. Knechtli's first ball was clipped over Freeth at midwicket for two; the second was hit equally hard and Freeth stopped it well. The third went high into the air and Freeth stood under it, with the resultant clean catch meeting relieved jubilation from the Pilgrims.

At the other end, Grundy looked out of sorts and so Hollingsworth was left to push the ball around for the next couple of overs as the Friars struggled to cope with excellent

spells from Knechtli and Rydon. Even when Grundy was dropped at slip it only seemed to be a matter of time and sure enough in the ninth over Knechtli had his man, clean bowled. The minor concern was that he had decided to hit his way out of trouble, and ended up with 24 having been dropped on nought. Hollingsworth, too, was dropped, on eight, a sharp chance through the hands at point. This was a more serious miss since he went on to make a crucial fifty, the only such score in the match and with Blythe playing well at the other end, the Friars were comfortably placed at 100 for two after 32 overs and the game was all but up.

After tea, Dowdall's gentle off-spinners made an appearance, swiftly accounting for Blythe, bowled for 23. In the following over, Rydon bowled Breeze for one and when Knechtli caught and bowled Hollingsworth, the score was 110 for five. 76 from 18 overs was never likely to be a problem, but the wickets were falling and the game appeared to have swung back towards the Pilgrims. Tassall and Gay wrested back the advantage, putting on 50 in ten overs through a mixture of watchful defence and naked aggression. It was a partnership that secured the match - and was chanceless to boot - and although both eventually fell, when Gay was caught by Atwell off Rydon for 36, a mere five runs were required. With seven balls to bowl, captain Bovill guided his men to victory.

In the end it was an excellent contest and a stout defence of a poor total. Knechtli and Rydon both bowled brilliantly and Ricketts's captaincy was exemplary. As last year, though, catches were clearly shown to win matches. Charterhouse proceeded to the final (the fourth consecutive year that the Pilgrims have been beaten by eventual finalists), where they were surprisingly triumphant over the perennial favourites, Tonbridge. Incidentally, Bovill's figures here of two for 31 from 12 overs were his worst in the whole competition: in the semi-final he took four and then five in the final, including a hat-trick.

If the errors of this game are fully digested, then a promising run in the 2001 competition awaits, but excellence throughout rather than in patches is required - and will undoubtedly be required in the first round, on the Upper against Bradfield Waifs. Victory there would mean a second-round game away to either Tonbridge or Felsted.

Sunday July 9 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Drawn
Old Tonbridgians 274-7 dec (D M R McMullen 66, M A Hughes 56, A Owen-Browne 56); Sherborne Pilgrims 154-4 (N I Gavin-Brown 60*)

The Pilgrims won the toss and Hargrove took the rather strange decision - at Tonbridge - to field. This was made because he had only four bowlers (including even "part-timers") and the damp conditions should have helped the fielding side early on. Needless to say, Old Tonbridgians rattled their way to 81 before the first wicket fell, with Hargrove taking much of the punishment himself (8-0-47-0). Wickets fell steadily throughout the innings but keeping the runs down proved rather more difficult. The Head is a fast scoring ground for those who are unfamiliar with it.

All four bowlers went for a six at some stage and of the 58.3 overs bowled, just four were maidens. Tonbridge declared on 274 for seven. Costeloe and Crouch toiled manfully but the star turn was Jim Warren, who bowled 24 consecutive overs spanning the lunch interval and did well to keep his runs conceded to below 100.

In stark contrast, when the Pilgrims arrived at the crease, Tonbridge were able to deploy seven bowlers, none of whom bowled more than seven overs. Charlie Warren fell early, but Gavin-Brown and Shearer put on 47 for the second wicket before the latter lost his stumps when looking well set. Dave Pugh came and went without facing, being narrowly run out, bringing Justin Chantrey to the wicket and they compiled a handy 75 for the fourth wicket with some fine stroke-play.

Chantrey perished for 43 but the weather soon accounted for the match as a contest, despite tea having been taken early. This was a disappointing end to a match that had looked highly competitive, but a fleet of cars were able to head west to Sherborne for the week with plenty of time in which to make the journey along the South Coast.

Monday July 10 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Cancelled, rain

Tuesday July 11 v Dorset Colts at Sherborne - Cancelled, rain

Wednesday July 12 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Lost by 53 runs
South Wales Hunt 202-8 dec (S Wallwork 57); Sherborne Pilgrims 149 (J Skinner 5-16)

After two days of fairly solid rain and drinking, it was much to the relief of everyone involved that we were finally able to get some cricket in on the third official day of the week. Having won the toss and chosen to bat, David Ricketts, the opposition skipper, opened up with Beavertock, who was quickly sent packing by Hargrove, bowled without scoring. Wallwork then joined his captain in a stand of 71 before Ricketts edged a catch to the solitary slip off Dowdall. With the sole purpose of preventing the ball from breaking his nose, Dan Thorne caught it and Ricketts reluctantly trudged back to the pavilion in disbelief. Thorne was just as dumbstruck.

Dowdall also accounted for Morgan by bowling him for 10 by which time the score had passed 100 and Wallwork a boundary-less fifty. Lunch was an amusing affair and the entertainment followed on briefly afterwards as Skinner, unaware of the consequences, tried to smash the first ball over midwicket. The shot was correct as it had been a full toss, but the ball had been a jacket potato and was obliterated. Two balls later Skinner tried the same shot and accidentally let go of his bat. Only the nimble feet of the square leg umpire prevented a nasty injury.

Once the laughter had subsided, the Hunt proceeded to bat for what seemed like an eternity before declaring after 60 overs on 202 for eight. Wallwork top-scored with 57 and Skinner had gone on to make 40. Elliot-Square (9.3-5-15-2) and Hargrove (7-4-8-1) both bowled well but were underused by the captain, while Dowdall took three for

39 from 13 overs.

Charlie Allen and Ben Scott began the reply, getting off to a reasonable start, putting on 36 for the first wicket when Scott was out for an attractive 25. Thorne joined Allen and scored 20 of their 23-run partnership, comprising four boundaries and four "walks" (runs is the technical term but fails to do Thorne's lack of effort justice). They were both out in consecutive overs, leaving the Pilgrims on 61 for three.

Goodeve-Docker and Gillett made an excellent fist of rebuilding the innings and pulled the score to 109 before the latter was dismissed for 18. Despite this setback, a mere 94 runs were required from the final 20 overs and with plenty of batting to come. 109 for four rapidly became 118 for seven as the double-barrelled fraternity (Goodeve-Docker, Elliot-Square and Reece-Smith) all came and went. Dowdall and Hargrove pushed the total up to 139 with some ease until Hargrove attempted to hit a straight ball over midwicket and was bowled. Dowdall followed for 14 and Bagnall troubled the scorers not at all.

Skinner bowled particularly well to take five for 16 from nearly 13 overs and his second spell of four for seven from five overs turned possible Pilgrims victory into certain defeat. The Hunt were surprised life had been made so much easier for them, but a shame that the Pilgrims' good bowling performance should have been followed by such spineless batting.

Thursday July 13 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Won by 36 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 164-8 (D W Thorne 64); Dorset Rangers 128 (R A Bagnall 4-27)

The Pilgrims won the toss and elected to bat, opening with Charlie Allen (having recovered from flu) and Ben Scott. The start was solid, although Scott was first to fall for 26 when going well. Thorne joined Allen and those watching enjoyed a "Botham and Boycott" show, Thorne (obviously) performing the former role, all elegance and power (his words), Allen dour and attentive.

The partnership was broken on 103 with Allen departing after making 18 hard-earned runs, run out. Hargrove joined Thorne at the crease and started batting in the same swashbuckling manner. After a rapid partnership of 38, Thorne fell for 64; Hargrove was not far behind, stumped when going well - stumped, that is, by yards rather than feet. Miles Jones arrived for his Pilgrims debut but was on his way soon afterwards, dismissed by the same means as Hargrove.

The remainder of the Pilgrims batting was redolent of a net practice attitude, a few nice strokes and then getting out playing the fool. Bagnall, however, was faultless with an unbeaten nought as the Pilgrims declared on 164 for eight after 48 overs.

The Rangers reply did not get off to the steady start that was required, with Bagnall taking three early wickets and Hargrove a fourth. But the Pilgrims bowling and fielding was tight, five catches in total being snaffled. All the bowlers chipped in with wickets, Bagnall being the pick with four for 27 off 13 overs. But the real enigma of

the day was Thorne, who might have performed the genuine all-rounder's role if his analysis of 1-1-0-1 had been the true guide to his talents. Sadly we all know that everyone can strike lucky. Kelly hit some lusty blows towards the close as fatigue set in, but the Rangers were never in real danger of reaching the target. What was more pleasing was that, after the tribulations of the week as regards the weather, a full day's play was possible.

Friday July 14 v President's XI at Sherborne - Lost by 7 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 205-7 dec (C C M Warren 80, M N E Jones 57); President's XI 206-3 (D W Thorne 89*, N Wigham 61)

It was the final day of the cricket week, and the Pilgrims were tired. A week of relentless over-indulgence finally took its toll on the quality of the cricket played. After Thorne and Bagnall had finished arguing, play eventually got under way at midday - this was later than the scheduled start largely because the Pilgrims found the 300-yard trip from The Digby to the Upper a little taxing that early in the morning.

The Pilgrims innings was based around a partnership of 155 from Miles Jones and Charlie Warren; this was compiled after the loss of Scott in the first over of the day to a catch behind the wicket by the opponents' agile and alert wicketkeeper - none other than ... Thorne. Although not scintillating to watch, this partnership came at just over three runs an over and should have been a platform from which the Pilgrims could have posted a large score, but unfortunately neither of the pair could stay in to make this happen and the innings was eventually declared after the Pilgrims had stumbled to 205 for seven.

Jones (complete with his new-look blond locks) made 57 - his maiden 50 on the Upper, having never played there before this week, Warren made 80 but never looked at ease and struggled against the wily pair of Mike Nurton and Alan Willows, indeed surviving a chance off each of them. Nurton, despite his age, bowled his little out-dobbers particularly well and finished with figures of three for 22 from 15 overs. Two of his victims (Tim Clarke and Will Hargrove) are recent leavers and thus will not be allowed to forget this performance from the old maestro.

Bagnall was promoted up the order to give it some long-handle but was unfortunately bowled for nought. Interestingly Bagnall had had three innings during the week and failed to score in each, and somewhat amusingly had actually failed to hit the ball on every occasion. Is this a record? Charlie Dowdall was left stranded on nine, the last five wickets falling in 16 minutes with only 21 runs being scored, not exactly what the captain wanted. Having overrun the halfway stage he was then forced to declare some 30 runs short of what was hoped for.

The President's XI opened with Thorne and Legg, who quickly set about the target at speed - having a particular go at Bagnall, who conceded 18 in his first three overs. At the other end, Hargrove was much tighter and picked up the wicket of Legg for 13 when the score was 29. This brought Wigham to the wicket who, together with Thorne, dispatched the Pilgrims' rather lacklustre bowling to all parts to put on 138

for the second wicket in only 25 overs.

This effectively sealed the game for the President's XI who won at a canter losing only one more wicket before reaching the required total. Thorne in particular batted superbly, despite his partial blindness caused by Bagnall's bin-lid - an act of sabotage not as successful as others in the past. As if one eye wasn't bad enough, Thorne received a rather painful blow to the foot from a ball by Tim Clarke. He charged his next ball rather unsuccessfully, hopping out to meet it.

The Pilgrims bowling figures were poor: all the bowlers bar Hargrove went for at least five an over, although Hargrove was certainly underbowled, as he had one for 12 from six. Perhaps the week had taken its toll. Perhaps time has crept on some of the older Pilgrims so that they are no longer able to do what they used to and still play decent cricket...

Tuesday July 18 v Old Cliftonians at Clifton - Cancelled

Sunday July 23 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Won by 4 wickets
Charterhouse Friars 239-7 (M Bowes 57*); Sherborne Pilgrims 240-6 (M J E Jackaman 66, J N Butler 64; N S E Gay 4-38)

This was an excellent game of cricket that wasn't decided until the final ball of the 110th over at just after 7.30pm. A return to the scene of the Cricketer Cup exit just three weeks earlier was not to everyone's taste, but a momentous victory certainly helped to heal the wounds.

Hargrove lost the toss and the Friars chose to bat first in a game played to Cricketer Cup rules, 55 overs a side. Bagnall and Costeloe opened the bowling and were sufficiently miserly to ensure that when the first wicket fell in the fifteenth over, the score had only reached 38. Under pressure to score, Ed Bowes went for a quick single and Warren's direct hit came with the batsman still short of his ground.

Making his debut for the Pilgrims, Tom Dowdall replaced Costeloe while Bagnall bowled straight through his 12 overs and conceded only 23 runs at the other end. In the 24th over, Dowdall accounted for Whidbourne and then Tom Clarke came on to bowl the remaining opener, Burrows, to leave the score at 88 for three in the 29th over.

Webb and Breeze put on 43 before Warren bowled the former for 29. Nick Gay was out first ball, slicing a long hop to extra cover and Costeloe accounted for Breeze in the following over. When Warren took his third wicket to reduce the Friars to 141 for seven, it looked as though revenge was to be swift. However, there then followed an excellent unbroken stand of 98 in the remaining 13 overs between the other Bowes and Ogle, the former scoring 57 from 60 balls and the latter 35 from 28.

Having been completely in charge, the Pilgrims dressing-room was distinctly downbeat in the break between innings. The nature of the fightback, led by Mark

Jackaman and Jonty Butler, was terrific and tea was taken on 102 for no wicket after 25 overs.

Butler was finally out for 64 from only 81 balls, after trying to engineer his dismissal for 15 minutes; had he not needed to pick up a relative from the airport, his excellent innings could well have produced a century. 129 for one became 129 for two with the next ball as Pugh found an edge to the wicketkeeper. Jackaman followed three overs later for a well-compiled 64 but the Pilgrims still needed 99 from the remaining 21 overs, with two new men at the crease.

Gillett and Charlie Dowdall batted with great authority and some lusty blows ensured that they moved on to 176 before Gillett was out for 34. Hargrove joined Dowdall and they put on 45 in ten overs to push the score to 222. Gay bowled them both in his penultimate over and now the Pilgrims bench was very nervous with 20 required from four overs and another new pair. Costeloe joined Tom Dowdall and the two of them ran brilliantly to pull their team to safety, culminating with a single off the final ball. It was a great team effort resulting in a single defeat for Charterhouse in the final game of their two-week festival.

Sunday August 20 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Won by 3 wickets
Bluemantles 181 (P B Crouch 4-52); Sherborne Pilgrims 182-7 (C E Dowdall 68*)

On a lovely August day, the Bluemantles entertained the Pilgrims for a thoroughly enjoyable game of cricket, played in the picturesque grounds of Holmewood House prep school. The match was unusual as there were four sets of brothers playing. The Pilgrims had the Warrens and Dowdalls while the Bluemantles had the Wests and Gammells, the latter pair being a Pilgrim and the 2001 Captain of Cricket. Have three sets of Sherborne brothers ever played in the same match before?

The toss was won by the Bluemantles, who elected to bat first. Will Hargrove and Tom Dowdall opened the bowling for the Pilgrims and were very impressive, getting movement both in the air and off the pitch. The opening pair of Ned and Charlie Gammell struggled to score and it was with some fortune that they survived this contrasting new-ball attack. It was not until Crouch's first over that the breakthrough was made, Charlie Gammell caught behind by the ever vigilant de la Hey.

The second-wicket partnership was beginning to materialise when Tom Dowdall was finally rewarded for his excellent bowling, forcing the other Gammell to give a catch. He then disposed of Hazelton to leave the hosts struggling at 35 for three. Things began to look a little better for the Bluemantles as first Hamilton-Crawford and then Clowes got going, most of the runs coming from a rather foolish move by the captain to change the end from which Crouch was bowling.

This was a false hope for the opposition as they were both removed in quick time, Hamilton-Crawford providing Tom Dowdall with his third victim and Searson picking up Clowes in his first over. In a fine show of brotherly love, Tom Dowdall caught the elder West off his brother's bowling; this made them six down with the score still

below 100 and it looked as if a rout was on the cards, but the younger West and Fyffe struck some lusty blows to ensure that this was not the case.

The reintroduction of Crouch from his preferred end put a stop to this resistance as he took two wickets in successive overs. By now the score was over 150, and with Fyffe looking to hit out, it was the golden-arm of Crouch that saw things did not get out of hand as he clean bowled the opposition captain for 30. The Bluemantles innings was wrapped up in fine style with a cameo display of leg-spin from Ed Bartlett, leaving them 181 all out after 51.4 overs.

After a fine tea in front of the main school, the Pilgrims set about the seemingly fairly meagre target. Unfortunately things did not go to plan and the Pilgrims top order crumbled to 62 for six, with Paddy Prendergast the most successful with 19. Things were not looking great for the side as Hargrove strolled to the crease to join Charlie Dowdall. The former played a great innings, hitting the Pilgrims out of trouble with a succession of mighty shots before finally trying one too many and was caught off the leg-spin of Charlie Gammell for 29.

Charlie Warren then joined Dowdall, who had obviously been buoyed by Hargrove's effort, and the two of them reached the total with a couple of overs to spare thanks mainly to several flowing drives from Dowdall, and some sensible running between the wickets. All in all, this was a very enjoyable game played by a Pilgrims team mostly comprising recent leavers.

Sunday September 3 v NPL Teddington at Teddington - Lost by 10 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 110 (R A Bagnall 4-13); NPL Teddington 111-0 (C Churchman 54*, B D Atwell 54*)

Even now, it is with immense pain that this chapter in Pilgrims cricket history is penned. NPL Teddington, based in Bushey Park, had fielded a strong side including Bagnall and Atwell, of Pilgrims stock themselves. With this in mind, the Pilgrims side was carefully chosen, not wishing to be on the wrong side of too much dressing-room banter.

With, on paper, a strong line-up, the Pilgrims chose to bat first. Charlie Warren and Mark Jackaman opened the innings and without anything spectacular, got the scoreboard ticking over. The concern was, of all people, Bagnall, who had managed to bowl five consecutive maidens. The turning-point came 50 minutes into the match when Warren was ill in the middle. Jackaman, concentration broken, flashed at a rare wide ball by Bagnall and departed with the score on 40.

The collapse, almost England-like (of a former vintage at any rate) began. Bagnall was bowling beautifully, having found his rhythm, and reduced the Pilgrims to 74 for seven at lunch. Still shellshocked, the Pilgrims fared little better after the interval, limping to 110 all out.

In reply, NPL fielded two batsmen, as is the custom, but that was all they needed.

Churchman and Atwell symmetrically both made unbeaten 54s and the target was reached with time to spare. Atwell began in convincing mood, smashing Hargrove for four off the first ball, and immediately advising the bowler not to bowl such nonsense at him again. Hargrove did not take the hint, though. Sadly Peters was injured and had to roam the outfield without turning his arm over and not even Freeth could stem the tide. The indignity of a ten-wicket defeat was not slow in coming.

As well as NPL played, the real battle had been to convince the Pilgrims that this was to be a jovial Sunday afternoon stroll, whereas they were desperately keen for victory. Tougher mental attitude is a must for next year.

Reports by Rupert Bagnall, Robert Hands, Will Hargrove, Charlie Warren and Will Wingfield Digby.

2001

Played 16: Won 7, Drawn 4, Lost 5, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 6 v Marlborough Blues at Marlborough - Lost by 4 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 153-8; Marlborough Blues 154-6 (W O Caldwell 98)

The first game of the season is traditionally a three-jersey affair on Marlborough's windswept terraced playing fields above the school and town. There was no evidence this year even to slightly pooh-pooh this theory; moreover, Atwell told us that his wife had not yet stirred from her hibernation. Thus it was a great relief to discover the Queen's head proudly staring back at the Pilgrims captain from the green, uneven surface that Marlborough consistently produce.

The Pilgrims' openers were selected for their durability to the weather: Gillett (over the years he has developed a seal-like tolerance for the cold) and Gavin-Brown (being slightly closer to the sun it was hoped it might be warmer where he was). While players huddled together in the pavilion, the plan was put to the test. It was fatally flawed. Bagnall opened the bowling for the Blues, who were short of men yet again. Imagine the farce, imagine the heckling - damage done.

While the spectators were still laughing at the sight of Gillett versus Bagnall, Burne, the deceptively sharp Blues bowler, stole in from the other end to rip out Gavin-Brown's middle stump. Fatally flawed! Gavin-Brown had failed to mention his record against Marlborough: three innings, no runs. Luckily Atwell and Gillett got stuck in and steadied the ship, making batting look relatively simple. At 66 for one off 17 overs the Pilgrims looked set for a decent total. Unfortunately neither batsman went on to a big score and it was thanks to Goodeve-Docker (28 not out) and Dowdall (21) that the Pilgrims were able to limp to 153 for eight off 45 overs.

In reply the Marlborough openers, Caldwell and Trowsell, negotiated a tricky spell from Yuille, the Pilgrims ringer, which was completely nullified by Pexton's sad performance at the other end. This enabled the Blues to get off to a flyer, when in

reality they had a distinctly wobbly batting line-up. When eventually Searson took the first wicket, the Pilgrims knew it was only a matter of time before things were wrapped up. A succession of batsmen walked out looking as though they had just got their pads for Christmas. Indeed, no other batsman got into double figures.

Unfortunately for the Pilgrims, Caldwell played the innings of his life. Why does the old adage "every dog has his day" never happen to a Pilgrims player - apart from Hargrove. But for one thing, Caldwell would have carried his bat and made a maiden hundred. He called out to the pavilion straight after the fifth Blues wicket fell: "What's my score?" Schoolboy error. The reply echoed across the chilly valley: "97." Suddenly this dog was human again, he couldn't get the ball off the square. He had frozen like a rabbit in car headlights.

Dowdall, who had bowled a miserly spell and was the best Pilgrims bowler on the day, was immediately brought back. In true sportsmanlike fashion the Pilgrims attacked. Eight men crowded the bat. Caldwell poked at the first one. The edge fell just short of slip. Next ball was steered straight into Atwell. Caldwell left to a standing ovation, although the frantic clapping may just have been an attempt to get warm. Marlborough eventually won with an over to spare. Maybe next year they can field a full side, or perhaps we can move the fixture to the summer?

Saturday May 19 v The School at Sherborne - Won by 5 wickets
Sherborne School 184-7 (W P Fegen 72 not out); Sherborne Pilgrims 185-5 (C C M Warren 84)

For the first time, the School asked for two fixtures against the Pilgrims. Mike Nurton had asked for an early-season fixture in the past because he felt that more of the Cricketer Cup side might turn out to practise for the ensuing competition. As it happened, the side the Pilgrims fielded didn't contain too many of the Cup side - past or present. Should more Cup players turn out for these early-season fixtures?

Jim Freeth skippered the Pilgrims for the first time and was slightly shocked not only to lose the toss, but also to be informed that the School were batting. This seemed a brave decision considering their batting form which up to this point had been, let's say, indifferent! The Pilgrims bowled with great discipline, the two off spinners Freeth and Warren being particularly miserly (11-5-11-0 and 7-5-8-1 respectively). It was only because of the skipper's generosity in allowing Thorne to bowl and a great effort by Will Fegen (72 not out) that the School reached 184 for seven off their 55 overs.

In reply, Charlie Warren dominated the bowling, relieved to be able to play a few shots having felt a little intimidated at first-class level. The Pilgrims breezed along until the twentieth over when Ben Scott played across the line. Yet again Scott looked as though he would make a big score and got himself out once the hard work was done. 90 for one quickly became 103 for four, as Bristow, Ellen and Thorne all departed in increasingly comic fashion. Luckily Gillett (36 not out) steadied the ship, batting like a rock.

The School brought their most exciting prospect into the game too late. Will Dawson bowls left-arm orthodox, has a great chinaman and should improve rapidly. Unfortunately he was not given a field to bowl to. Once Dawson had dismissed Warren (84) at 148 for five, he was removed prematurely from the attack. The School returned to their seam attack; Gillett and Wingfield Digby (29 not out) tucked in and the game was over with plenty to spare. Having played in both fixtures this year, it was noticeable how much the School side had improved by Commemoration. It is at the later stage in the season that the School side should be tested, not before.

Sunday May 20 v Radley Rangers at Radley - Won by 22 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 94; Radley Rangers 72 (R A Bagnall 4-1)

On a warm day early in the season the Pilgrims won the toss and elected to bat on what looked like a reasonable track. Before the team even had time to open the Sunday papers the openers were on their way back to the pavilion. Nought for two after two quickly became 13 for four and with only ten men fielded by the Pilgrims, a shower before tea and back in London by 7pm looked a real possibility.

Thankfully Jackaman proved that with a little determination the pitch was not that bad and steadily he put some runs on the board. The wickets at the other end kept on tumbling and only Bagnall offered any support with a quickfire 14. A mixture of poor shot selection and poor running were to blame. At lunch, the Pilgrims were 85 for eight off 34 overs. The last wicket fell at 94 when Jackaman was given out leg-before one short of a what would have been a well deserved fifty.

Pexton and Pope (who was generously helping out) opened up and had Radley reeling at seven for two early on. Tight bowling saw Radley crawl to 20 for two off 13 overs. Then came the ever smiling Will Wingfield Digby who promptly got himself in on the action with two wickets in two balls and suddenly there was a glimmer of light for the Pilgrims. At tea Radley had reached 53 for five and the game was in the balance.

After tea Bagnall finally brought himself on to devastating effect. After Warren had removed the danger man with what can at best be described as a rank long hop it paved the way for Bagnall to finish the tail off with figures of four for one off 13 balls. Maybe the pitch was not the best but Jackaman provided evidence to the contrary. Tight bowling seemed to frustrate all the batsmen and led to a very mediocre game of cricket.

Sunday June 10 - Cricketer Cup first round v Bradfield Waifs at Sherborne - Won by 7 wickets
Bradfield Waifs 172 (P L C Knechtli 4-18); Sherborne Pilgrims 174-3 (J H K Adams 83 not out)

Slowly, but surely, the Pilgrims' record in the Cricketer Cup is improving. Although the outstanding records of Tonbridge and Malvern (both averaging over 70 per cent of matches won) may never be attainable after the general mediocrity of the past 35

years, within the past five, Sherborne can now begin to claim (although whisper it softly) that they are something of a force to be reckoned with. Defeats to eventual finalists in 2000, 1999 and 1997 certainly underscore that boast.

Pilgrims with slightly longer memories will know well how it was that in previous years the second round was a date to be only lightly pencilled in, the quarter-final not even a mark. Teams were selected too much on the basis of past achievements, with scant evidence that enough participants were playing regular cricket, that an "over-Corinthian" approach to pre-match preparation predominated. Other sides played Sherborne in the competition knowing that an efficient performance would usually be enough.

If the boot is now starting to be worn on the other foot, Pilgrims should have no sympathy for the opposition. So it was to a certain extent in this game: Bradfield Waifs arrived with some of their better players absent - unbelievably, Will Kendall, the Hampshire batsman, was available because of a free weekend for his county, but no one thought to ask him - and with some of their stars of past years on the wane. They may have won the Cup in 1996 and been finalists in 1997 and 1999, but this was no cup-winning team out on the Upper.

Too much was expected of Rupert Cox, their former county player, who opened the batting and who had taken such toll of the Pilgrims attack two years previously in scoring a century in the semi-final. Once he was out, to a marginal leg-before decision, for nine, one sensed that the task was uphill for the Waifs from then on. Came and Dellor rallied in a fifth-wicket partnership of 71, but 172 was a poor return on a good batting pitch and on a day that was meant for batting - as other Cricketer Cup totals and individual scores from around the country on the same day were to show.

It might, therefore, have proved an expensive decision for Justin Ricketts to insert the opposition, but, again, it seemed like the right thing to do, and once Cox was back in the pavilion, the balance of power had swung Sherborne's way. Bradfield were at least 80 runs short of a challenging total, and they knew it. Not that the efforts of the Pilgrims in the field should be played down: Paddy Knechtli bowled an exemplary line and length, conceding only 18 runs from his 12 overs and taking four wickets. Taking into account that he also bowled several of those at the death, when any bowler can expect to have tidy figures rearranged, this was an immense display and worthy of the unofficial man-of-the-match award.

Knechtli was well supported by Rob Rydon, whose appetite for the occasion continues to prove hungry, and who chipped in with three wickets of his own, and by the collective differing styles of Will Wingfield Digby, Jimmy Adams and Ricketts, who all had their moments. The one bowling moment of James Pexton should probably be left unmentioned, save to those who might peruse the scorebook in future years.

Yet the old adage of "catches win matches" was also heavily to the fore. In 1999, Cox was dropped on 29 in the slips and went on to score 101 more runs. This time, three

stunning catches were pouched with little apparent trouble to assist the Pilgrims' cause: Ricketts's salmon-like leap at midwicket and Stuart Rintoul's wonderful reflex one-handed slip catch to remove the potentially dangerous Perkins were both memorable, but the pick was perhaps Ben Atwell's right-handed grab at square leg, especially given that it was he who had erred two years before. Fortunately there were no Stuart Pearce-like histrionics ... well, his wife and parents were both watching.

The chase began in stuttering fashion: Charlie Warren survived a close leg-before shout in the opening overs for which some Pilgrims in the pavilion would have raised the single digit. However, as Warren and Adams played themselves in, the result became a foregone conclusion, and, although Warren departed for 41 with the score on 95, Adams was batting so fluently that it scarcely seemed to matter. Atwell came in to lend support to the junior maestro, and had more or less done the job when he spooned a poor ball to cover. Rintoul came and went in mildly comic fashion to allow Tweedale the chance to strike the winning runs in customarily expansive vein.

Adams was thus left on an unbeaten 83, comfortably the best innings of the match, and one that was always a joy to watch. If he was the outstanding player of his generation at School, he clearly has lost none of the touch that brought him runs and respect on the Upper. It is commonly said of the genuinely talented ball players in any sport that they seem to have plenty of time to play their game, more so than the journeymen on the same field or court. So it is with Adams, at this level for sure, and, one suspects, at a higher one if Hampshire will allow him the chance. Combined with his aggressive fielding and tidy bowling, here is an asset that the Pilgrims should be keen to employ in the Cricketer Cup at every opportunity.

Sunday June 17 v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford - Drawn
Hampshire Hogs 275 (J Grant 70; R A Bagnall 5-42); Sherborne Pilgrims 230-7 (W P W Bristow 120)

This great fixture at the idyllic setting of the Hampshire Hogs' Warnford ground was slightly marred by the fixtures secretary's inability to find enough Pilgrims willing to play. With the previous week's Cricketer Cup side all resting for the visit to Tonbridge on the 24th and with a hard core of usual suspects still away at university drinking, it was left to a gritty few and "guests" to lose the toss, take to the field and chase leather for 60 overs. Bagnall actually won the toss but only admitted it after a draw had been secured.

Matt Allom got the Hogs off to their usual flier and there was a huge sigh of relief as he sliced one in the fifth over and Moutray caught it comfortably at mid on. As Allom went for 29, Came came. He and Bill Gunyon put the score up to 86 before Gunyon was bamboozled by home legend Bazalgette, one of three wickets for the Hog who the previous season had surpassed 1,000 victims for the club.

Peter Came was joined by Jonathan Grant, who saw it through to lunch and it was only after the feast that Came, bruised from the previous week's Bradfield crushing,

decided to "have a go". Luckily he missed his very first attempt at a stroll down the wicket and Justin Chantrey did the rest.

Dom Allom, perhaps feeling that his brother had rather let the Hogs down, came in and plundered his way to 49 from 30 balls. He murdered anything and everything and rather made Grant's run-a-ball 70 at the other end look pedestrian. Allom was bowled and Grant, stumped off Bazalgette shortly afterwards, left the score at a fairly healthy 245 for five, with plenty of batting to come. After Chantrey had gained his third stumping, Bagnall felt that it was safe to bring himself back on and bought the Englandesque tail's wickets. (Money must have changed hands.)

A target of only 276 felt like a molehill compared to the probable (at one stage) mountain, but with only nine batsmen available it was clear that the top order was going to have to make about 270 between them. The old "someone's got to bat through and make a hundred" speech came out and then everyone padded up in anticipation of a pathetic response. At nine for one in the fourth over it was looking as if tea would be at the end of the game; but no.

Whiston Bristow not only scored about his first run of the year, he followed it up with 119 others. His innings was a brilliant effort that included a second-wicket stand of 109 with Floyd, another guest. He batted almost throughout the innings and for one crazy moment, victory looked to be a possibility. Bristow's 120 contained three sixes and 12 fours and was a truly great knock that only stuttered as he had to farm the strike towards the end.

When he was seventh man out, there were only five overs remaining and Jim Warren, aided by Bazalgette, saw the Pilgrims through unscathed to the close and stumps were drawn with the Pilgrims on 230. For the modern cricketers, a pointless draw, for the gritty nine, pure pleasure in seeing a heroic fight stave off defeat. To all captains out there, try the speech one more time. It just might work.

Sunday June 24 - Cricketer Cup second round v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Won by 103 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 249-9 (J H K Adams 74); Old Tonbridgians 146 (E T Elliot-Square 5-41)

The second round match against Tonbridge was to prove a defining moment for the Pilgrims Cricketer Cup side. Having spent the first 30 years of the competition propping up the league rankings, the Pilgrims had an opportunity to prove that the resurgent recent form was indicative of a classy side rather than just a blip.

Having swept aside the highly rated Bradfield by a staggering seven-wicket margin with 20 overs to spare in the first round, the Pilgrims arrived at Tonbridge with an increased self-belief. Importantly, however, any misplaced arrogance did not travel to Kent with the Pilgrims acknowledging that Tonbridge had not failed to make the quarter-finals for at least a decade.

On a glorious summer's day, the Pilgrims won the toss and elected to bat. The runs started to flow from the second over when Warren three times dispatched Goodworth's loose full tosses for four. Precedent set, Warren and Adams scored at almost five an over until Warren was trapped leg-before in the tenth over with the score on 44. With Atwell's arrival at the crease, momentum was sustained with both players taking full advantage of anything loose. On 26, Atwell mis-hit a loose ball from Owen-Browne and perished with the score on 91 from 22 overs. Ricketts and Adams breezed through till lunch raising the tally to 145 for two from 35 overs with Adams undefeated on 69.

With a full 20 overs remaining the Pilgrims were eyeing 270-280 as a realistic target. Three quick wickets rapidly changed the complexion of the game as Ricketts fell for 26, Tweedale was run out for two and Adams was dismissed for a classy 74. Two new batsmen at the crease and the Pilgrims were forced to rebuild. Progress became increasingly heavy going as Tonbridge rushed through the remaining overs with the Pilgrims apparently squandering their hard-fought-for position. Gillett, however, added 29 vital runs and took the Pilgrims over the 200 mark.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man. With just two overs remaining and somewhat short of a defensible total, Rob Rydon came to the crease. Within moments of taking guard, Rydon immeasurably raised the spirits of the Pilgrims by plundering Owen-Browne's final over for 20 invaluable runs, twice striking him for large sixes. The Pilgrims ended their innings at 249 for nine, some 30 runs short of where they might have been but their second highest total in the Cricketer Cup.

Tonbridge set about their reply with customary flair causing alarm to the Pilgrims. Having reduced the deficit by 45 without loss, the Pilgrims were starting to believe that their total was a little light. Rydon however dismissed Walsh in the eleventh over to open the Pilgrims account. Elliot-Square took the vital wicket of Rowe with his third ball as the batsman misjudged the pace and pulled it straight to Atwell at mid-on. In the seventeenth over Elliot-Square struck again, trapping the Kent player Ford with the score on 74. With the prolific Hollins and Arscott at the crease, the Pilgrims could not afford to relax. Whilst Hollins played some classy shots, Arscott, the Tonbridge skipper, looked uncharacteristically out of sorts, playing and missing repeatedly. Elliot-Square thoroughly deserved the scalp of the Tonbridge captain shortly before tea. At the interval, the game was well poised at 96 for four from 25 overs.

Sensing the opportunity, the Pilgrims emerged from tea filled with a sense of self-belief. With Elliot-Square moving the ball both ways and achieving bounce and pace, the invincible Tonbridge batsmen had little response. Elliot-Square added Hollins and Owen-Browne to his tally shortly after tea to tip the balance firmly in the Pilgrims favour. At 126 for seven, Tonbridge capitulated. Ricketts accounted for Hickson and Goodworth within eight balls and the Pilgrims completed an unthinkable 103-run victory over the finest side in the Cricketer Cup.

It is difficult to underestimate the significance for Pilgrims cricket of the first two rounds of the 2001 Cricketer Cup. They represented the coming of age of a side that

had fought determinedly over previous years to the quarters and the semis. In 2001, not only did the Pilgrims compete with the best sides, but beat, hands-down, class opposition.

Saturday June 30 v The School at Sherborne - Drawn
Sherborne Pilgrims 187-6 (W P Fegen 4-43); Sherborne School 181-8 (W H Wingfield Digby 4-16)

The Pilgrims fielded a truly magnificent team. Not only did it include recent leavers in Tom Fegen and Ned Gammell but also contained the wisdom and guile of both Paul Saunders (71-76) and Michael Wingfield Digby (51-56). The Pilgrims duly won the toss. The School coach requested a declaration game. The scene was set.

Gammell (35) and Fegen (43) opened the Pilgrims innings, both having brothers in the XI. They calmly led the way putting on 71 for the first wicket in just 17 overs, an excellent display of positive batting. Sadly this did not rub off on to the rest of the team. At lunch the Pilgrims had laboured to 106 for four off 30 overs. Thankfully de la Hey, who is fast becoming Mr Reliable in this fixture, put his head down and guided the Pilgrims to a total. Bristow and Dowdall both played supporting roles and enabled a declaration at 187 for five, right on half-time.

In reply the School began brightly, their running between the wicket, as always, exemplary. For the Pilgrims, Crouch, looking especially fierce with blood all over his whites, bowled a marathon 11-over opening spell from the Pavilion end. Sadly it didn't bring a wicket and the School were in a strong position by tea. After tea a decent crowd had gathered on the Upper, presumably word of a rare School win in this fixture had spread round the town. Will Wingfield Digby (four for 16) was introduced to the Pilgrims attack and had immediate success, Langly-Smith falling to his slower ball for the second time in the year.

The delivery had been slightly fuller and the batsman had tried, probably deservedly, to smash it out of the ground. Michael Wingfield Digby, still a keeper of some repute, was standing at first slip, having graciously left the gloves to de la Hey. The ball seemed destined for first slip's forehead, when at the last moment Wingfield Digby's hands appeared to hang on to a stinging chance. As the team gathered round the hero of the hour, Michael was heard to utter the immortal words: "First catch at slip since 1969" - bravo!

The Pilgrims had the game in their control from then on. Les Dowdall (three for 46) and Ned Gammell (one for 40) bowled probing spells. Unfortunately the Pilgrims were not able to extract the last couple of batsman, the School finishing bravely on 181 for eight. The score suggests a closer finish than it was. Needing 23 off the last over, it had been left with Ben Scott to remind the satisfied Upper crowd of what Pilgrims cricket is all about ... well, maybe next year.

Sunday July 8 - Cricketer Cup quarter-final v Old Merchant Taylors' at Sherborne -
Won by 56 runs

Sherborne Pilgrims 243-6 (J D Ricketts 71 not out, J R Tweedale 55); Old Merchant Taylors' 187 (Ricketts 4-37)

Once the identity of these quarter-final opponents was made known, thoughts immediately turned back to that extraordinary game of 1999, when Will Hargrove turned in impossibly brilliant bowling figures to snatch a game that had seemed lost. No such late drama this time. Indeed, this was a calmly efficient display that put the Pilgrims into a Cricketer Cup semi-final for the second time, underlining the cohesion of this team unit, in which the key players have remained largely constant over the past five years.

Justin Ricketts won the toss and was happy to bat on a surface that looked as if it might crumble late on in the day (although, in the event, played remarkably well all day). Charlie Warren and James Tweedale settled in gently - perhaps surprisingly in view of the latter's propensity to hammer the ball as hard as possible - gradually pushing the rate up to three an over by the thirteenth over. Tweedale had already hit a few punishing shots for four, but that should have been his lot, as he gave an easy chance to mid-off in the fourteenth over. Dropped. Old Merchant Taylors' had cause to regret that as the opener moved to 55 in quick time, including losing one ball in the hedge by the scoreboard, and a hefty clout for six off Thompson.

One wicket, though, often brings two, and Tweedale's departure was followed seven balls later by the more circumspect Warren. 81 for none had become 81 for two, leaving Atwell and Rintoul the task of rebuilding. They had only laid the foundations when Rintoul went for a run that never looked likely: 101 for three. Yet Atwell was unperturbed, moving in that languid way to 20, allowing Ricketts to play himself in, until confusion led to an unnecessary dash for a third run and Atwell's return to the pavilion, an innings unfulfilled.

Ricketts, though, was equally unruffled, and if anything more determined to stamp himself on the Pilgrims innings. Abetted briefly by Gillett and even more briefly by Elliot-Square, both of whom fell to the persevering Knowles, he began to run the singles harder, rather than seek to brutalise the red leather to the boundary. Although he hit only four fours in his unbeaten 71, his fifty came off just 65 balls, and subsequently he scored at fractionally over a run a ball. In this fine knock, he was ably assisted by Mark Jackaman, whose worth as a batsman has been shown increasingly over the past few years. Here he scampered to a valiant 21 not out, looking to offer his captain the strike when he could, and was rewarded by sharing in a record partnership of 70 for the Pilgrims in this competition.

A final total of 243 (which included 33 extras - not that that seemed excessive after the conclusion of the OMTs' innings, when the generous Pilgrims had afforded their opponents 47 sundries, 28 wides among them) was a target that always looked challenging, if perhaps 20 runs short of near-certain impregnability.

The OMTs' response started promisingly, with Rydon struggling to find rhythm (which eluded him for much of the day), but Paddy Knechtli struck in the fourth over to

remove the dangerous Ducat. Knechtli bowled an exemplary line yet again and was rewarded with some notable figures. Indeed, although Rydon toiled somewhat, the Pilgrims attack was rarely profligate, except in their generous provision of wides and no-balls, which caused them to bowl nearly six more overs than required.

The real trouble for OMTs' was that no one, with the possible exception of the talented Rasheed, ever genuinely got in. Wise scratched around miserably for two hours and 95 balls but could only limp to 26, and seemed more of a hindrance to his team's chances as he could rarely push the ball off the square. When Elliot-Square rearranged his stumps in the 34th over, it was a blessed relief for batsman and spectators alike. Brand, the captain, had the chance to repeat his opposite number's feats, playing well for his 30, but Bagnall, in the self-confessed form of his life, undid him with one that bounced a fraction more than the batsman expected and the catch went to Rydon at mid-off.

Rasheed, however, was the clear danger: the OMTs' were up with the run rate at 123 for four when he arrived at the crease. His problem was that, well as he batted, he could find no one to stay with him - Wise was out the following over and Nos 7, 8, 9 and 10 could scarcely manage a couple of overs between them until they, too, succumbed, to a combination of Bagnall's persistence, Elliot-Square's aggression and Ricketts's patience. He was last out for 43 in even time, frustrated at his colleagues' lack of adhesion. Eight catches in the innings tells its own story.

The post-match reflections were tempered by the knowledge that several key players were certain to be unavailable for the semi-final owing to family commitments (is it now too optimistic to ask Pilgrims to arrange holidays, weddings and bar mitzvahs after the Cricketer Cup final?), but more pertinently by the failure of any OMTs' players to appear for a drink at Skipper's, continuing their poor behaviour throughout. Is a friendly pint really too much to ask?

Monday July 9 v Old Blundellians at Sherborne - Lost by 6 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 101; Old Blundellians 106-4 (R K Giles 51 not out)

It was a rather dank and dismal day, reflecting the state of many of the Pilgrims after the excesses of the previous night's Cricketer Cup quarter-final victory celebrations. Luckily the toss was won and some of the thick heads were able to rest in the pavilion. Unfortunately this would not be for long as wickets fell continuously at both ends, not from particularly great bowling, more from reckless shots. Nobody ever got going, and with a top score of 21 from Mark Goodeve-Docker, the second highest contribution coming from the extras column, and three ducks (two first ballers: Warren and Bagnall), a competitive total was never going to be posted. Blundell's had only turned up with nine men and so in our wisdom lent them a Pilgrim, Ed Elliot-Square and his brother: this was to prove a mistake as between them they took five for 25 to wrap up the innings for 101 - some might have questioned the decisions.

Unfortunately the bowling and fielding display was not much better, where only an exceptional one would have provided any threat to the visitors. Indeed, the opener

Giles was able to score at will - his first seven scoring shots were all boundaries. Four wickets eventually fell, and a tight spell by Bagnall merely delayed the inevitable as Mike Warren (father of Pilgrims John and Charlie) helped the opener Giles finish the job after only 24 overs. The end couldn't come too soon and the Pilgrims scuttled off quickly to the dressing-room with tails between their legs.

Tuesday July 10 v Butterflies at Sherborne - Drawn, rain
Sherborne Pilgrims 172-3 dec (C C M Warren 95)

It was the second day of the week and it was time for the Pilgrims to save some face after the embarrassment at the hands of the Old Blundellians the previous day. Having lost the toss and been put into bat, after the first half-hour had been lost to the weather on another gloomy day, Mark Goodeve-Docker and Charlie Warren started positively against a respectable Butterflies attack. Warren in particular was lucky early on as he edged several balls from Mason through the slips. The two played well without ever cutting loose, and deserved their century partnership off only 20 overs. Goodeve-Docker fell first trying to push things along and as the clouds drew nearer, the batsmen tried to score quickly to get runs on the board.

Soon after Goodeve-Docker and then Bristow were out there was a short break for rain. Warren eventually went after the restart for 95 slogging in a characteristically ungainly fashion. This brought Miles Jones to the crease to play what was to be a delightful four-ball pre-declaration cameo: the first was gently played back to the bowler, the next was pushed to midwicket for two, the next launched for six over midwicket and the last was close to another maximum, falling just short. Unfortunately, as the declaration was made, the weather finally decided to put an end to the match it had been interfering with all day. A shame as it had been a great start for the Pilgrims and the majority of the Butterflies had made their way down from London for the day.

Wednesday July 11 v South Wales Hunt at Sherborne - Won by 9 wickets
South Wales Hunt 150 (P B Crouch 5-35); Sherborne Pilgrims 153-1 (M A Shearer 91 not out, M J Hawkins 51 not out)

Considering the previous day's abandonment and thus many more hours spent in the local hostelrys, the South Wales Hunt must have fancied their chances on arrival at a blustery Upper. The Pilgrims fielded a nicely balanced side but had to make a late change owing to an unnamed Pilgrim being unable to attend for medical reasons! The Hunt started well with David Ricketts in particular taking a liking to Bagnall's medium pace up the hill. They put on 88 for the first wicket which fell to the Pilgrims fifth bowler, Crouch. Both Gillett and Thorne tried their luck but it was to be Crouch's day.

Having cruised to 88 the Hunt suffered an England-like collapse in which they lost their next eight wickets for 30 runs. The chief destroyer was Pete Crouch, whose medium-pace swing aided by a strong breeze, ripped through the top order: he took five of the first six wickets to fall and ended with career-best figures of 11-2-35-5.

Dan Thorne somehow managed to pick up three wickets with a typically mixed bag. Bagnall came back which gave the tail a chance to wag which it did before he took the final wicket aided by a superb catch from Longman. The Hunt ending up 150 all out which was somewhat below par considering their excellent start.

The Pilgrims response was quite typically flamboyant. Miles Jones, fresh from his first Upper fifty in his last game, was out to the first ball of the innings and thoughts of hard work began to sink in. This fear was soon put to rest as Mark Shearer and Matt Hawkins proceeded to knock off the runs at will. Shearer was particularly strong through the covers and Hawkins scored heavily behind square on the off side with a dazzling array of cut shots. The total was passed after only 31.2 overs, duly completing an excellent nine-wicket win for the Pilgrims. The Hunt tried a total of nine bowlers but could not break the partnership of 153 from Hawkins and Shearer. An excellent day's cricket was had by all and was completed by the arrival of the missing link six hours late but to the amusement of all in attendance.

Thursday July 12 v Dorset Rangers at Sherborne - Abandoned

Friday July 13 v Dorset Colts at Sherborne - Won by 69 runs
Sherborne Pilgrims 220 (S Gillett 73); Dorset Colts 151 (J Elliot-Square 60 not out)

After a very hard week on and off the pitch, the Pilgrims reached the Upper in high hopes. Hopes primarily of making it through the day. Senior members of the side were beginning to realise that their bodies were not designed for this sort of punishment and prayed for some well-earned rest.

Bagnall chose to open with the well-suited pairing of Ed Elliot-Square and Ben Scott, who put 29 on the board for the first wicket. Scott was caught off the penetrative bowling of James Elliot-Square for 19 and seemed glad to be able to return to the pavilion for a lie down. This brought Thorne to the crease and the Pilgrims expected some entertainment. How disappointed they were. Thorne's contribution to the second-wicket partnership of 27 was a round zero.

Sibling rivalry had taken over as the younger of the Elliot-Squares tried to punish the elder for some real or imagined misdemeanour in the distant past by bowling with real pace and ferocity. Elliot-Square senior rose to the challenge well and proceeded to hit his brother for 14 off one over, prompting the Colts captain to take him off.

After the departure of Thorne, Gillett arrived and quickly established his authority over the bowling of Tizzard. He scored freely and with some abandon as he tried to give the Pilgrims the base they needed to attack the Colts. Partnerships of 41, 48 and 56 with Rintoul, Hawkins (who holds the latest of late cuts in his armoury) and Bristow respectively took the Pilgrims score to 220 for five and the innings was ready for a good old-fashioned end-of-tour slog. The Pilgrims walked off the pitch after 49 overs at 220 all out.

In the wake of their exertions earlier in the week, and with a desire to limit the hilarity

to a minimum, it was felt that Thorne and Crouch should be rested and therefore Edlmann and Slocombe were given the task of opening the bowling for the Pilgrims. They bowled exceptionally well, picking up three wickets apiece in the eight overs they were each given. The Colts seemed like rabbits caught in headlights and only Elliot-Square junior showed any signs of resistance. He treated his brother's bowling with contempt and boundaries were slashed to all parts of the Upper. Elliot-Square senior kept going but should know better than to try and bounce a player of his brother's class on such a pitch.

Elliot-Square junior finished on 60 not out and at one stage looked like giving the old lags a run for their money but in the end victory was easily secured by the Pilgrims. Both teams were able to reflect on an enjoyable day's cricket and retired to the Cross Keys to continue the fight... The week had been a great success and thanks must go to everyone who made the effort to play. Many old men were made to feel young again!

Sunday July 15 v Old Tonbridgians at Tonbridge - Lost by 3 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 257 (J C Aylward 65; R Kemp 5-88); Old Tonbridgians 261-7 (R P W M Hands 60, M A Hughes 56; R J R Edlmann 5-31)

There were a few long faces at 11 o'clock as the two teams turned up. It was the morning after the Lions had gone down 2-1 in the series to the Wallabies. The decision to bat first was met with a muted cheer by the Pilgrims, having won the toss on an overcast day. The fact that the Head offers a great strip for batting was irrelevant.

Gammell and de la Hey got the Pilgrims off to a steady start reaching 50 in the fifteenth over. de la Hey was the first to go at 56, which brought Kemp (kindly donated by Tonbridge) to the crease. Kemp and Gammell continued the Pilgrims' steady progress before finally Gammell was bowled for 40. The Pilgrims reached lunch at 113 for two off 33 overs and were in a good position to pick the pace up with eight wickets in hand.

After lunch however the slow progress continued with the loss of three quick wickets leaving the Pilgrims 138 for six after 44 overs and needing some inspiration. It came in the form of Aylward (another kindly donated by Tonbridge) who hit a fine 65, accompanied by two quickfire 27s from Pexton and Crouch. The Pilgrims eventually posted 257 off 57 overs.

Edlmann and Pexton opened up, with the breakthrough coming in the eighth over. Edlmann was bowling well and with better support the game would have been beyond Tonbridge. At 53 for two Warren was brought on to bowl his spinners. Warren has had better days but Bagnall persisted with bowling the spinner in an attempt to get through the overs to make a game of it. Edlmann soon had four, though, and at 76 for four Tonbridge looked beaten but unfortunately he could not bowl all day so on came Bagnall who grabbed two wickets.

With the score on 152 for six, as the last 20 overs started, the game was heading the Pilgrims way. Edlmann came back to capture his fifth wicket when de la Hay took his fourth catch of the day but it was too little, too late as Tonbridge's sixth-wicket partnership put on 94. Tonbridge scraped home with seven balls to spare in an enjoyable game made so by some generous captaincy by Bagnall.

Sunday July 22 - Cricketer Cup semi-final v Oundle Rovers at Oundle - Lost by 2 wickets
Sherborne Pilgrims 154-9 (P H Edwards 4-22); Oundle Rovers 158-8 (A M Dobson 78)

This was a terrific effort from a seriously depleted side and sadly the pain of a second semi-final defeat in three years shrouded some of the many heroics both in the Cup run and this game. For the record, the Pilgrims lacked their two opening bowlers, Rydon and Knechtli, and three premier batsmen in Adams, Rintoul and Tweedale. Seven more replacements were unavailable and thus the club started the game with three Cricketer Cup debutants in Richard Edlmann, Andrew Nurton and Mark Goodeve-Docker.

With the grass nets closed down and only one Astroturf available, pre-match net practice was not a valuable exercise and things turned from bad to worse as Ricketts lost the toss and was asked to bat. This would not normally be a bad thing other than the fact that it had rained for half the week and hard the previous evening: somewhat extraordinarily, Oundle do not have covers.

Charlie Warren and Ben Atwell opened up and toughed it out on a damp and sticky wicket. It was hard going and only the unorthodox figure of Pilch released a loose ball for Atwell effortlessly to dispatch in the first six overs. After nine overs the opening bowlers were removed with the score on a comfortable 24 without loss. Tom Harrison, the Oundle skipper, brought himself on at one end where he bowled steadily but without penetration. At the other end, on came Peter Edwards, who changed the course of the match with his gentle swing and seam. He bowled his 12 overs straight through, conceded only 22 runs and accounted for four of the top five Pilgrims batsmen to take his tally of wickets to a record 112 in the competition. (For the record, he has also scored nearly twice as many runs as his nearest challenger in the Cricketer Cup's leading all-rounder section.)

Warren was first to go, caught at a solo slip in the thirteenth over. Then progress was slow as Oundle posted a defensive field, forcing the batsmen to try to pierce the ring. This worked a treat as Atwell was caught in two minds and forced a return catch to the off spinner Martin Dobson to leave the Pilgrims at 40 for two in the eighteenth over. Dowdall was bowled three overs later which brought captain Ricketts to the crease.

At the other end Ed Elliot-Square sensibly decided that the best form of defence was attack and so took on Edwards. He hit him for two imperious straight fours in the 23rd over, but Edwards had seen it all before and tempted him into a similar shot

with a slower ball in his next over; Howarth took the skier. Ricketts was caught by his opposite number and the position was 77 for five still 20 minutes short of lunch.

Goodeve-Docker joined Stuart Gillett and they batted with a mature "no risk" policy; at 1.30pm, 91 for five seemed a relative success. It would be fair to say that neither side felt on top at the break. Ricketts said his bit before the resumption but disaster struck immediately as Goodeve-Docker was run out in the first over after lunch. When Gillett ran himself out three over later, all their hard work had been undone and the Pilgrims were teetering on the brink at 109 for seven.

Andy Nurton (top scorer with 17) and Mark Jackaman then compiled an excellent partnership of 30. Neither man hit a boundary but simply relied on chipping and placing the ball around the field and, most importantly, they stayed at the crease until the 52nd over, virtually ensuring that the overs would be batted out. The innings closed at 154 for nine from the allotted 55, Jackaman unbeaten on 16. Even at this stage, the scorers considered this total to be six short of a really good score, such was the closeness of the game.

Edlmann opened the bowling and while he only bowled three poor balls in three overs, he had to be replaced as they were all dispatched to the boundary, and there were no runs to play with. At the other end, Ricketts opted for spin and Jim Freeth came up trumps, trapping Mountain leg-before with his first ball.

Having smoked two pipes, the wispy-bearded and goateed Pilch joined Martin Dobson and the two of them threatened to run away with it. Luckily Pilch, *à la* Elliot-Square, having hit Ricketts for two fours in his first over, attempted the same in his next and was caught by Edlmann at mid off. When Freeth had Samworth caught by Warren at short leg, the game turned again and Oundle were reeling at 43 for three, but from only ten overs.

Elliot-Square came on and in only his second over claimed what was thought to be the key wicket of Harrison; 67 for four. Edwards arrived and saw off Freeth's excellent spell of 12-2-25-2. Once again the veteran proved to be the foil as he blocked, nudged and pushed his way to seven runs in the next 20 overs. More importantly, Dobson accelerated from 29, already the highest score of the match, to 62. He put on a further 22 with Pimblett for the next wicket and the two stands alone pushed the score to a seemingly unbeatable 132. Elliot-Square then struck twice in three overs as Nurton was bowling another great spell at the other end. At 145 for eight, victory was still possible, but Cartledge, who had scored a league hundred the previous weekend, hit some lusty blows and Oundle reached the victory line in the 53rd over.

Dobson's 78 was 61 more than any other batsman in the game and had to be the man-of-the-match contribution. Apart from that it would be fair to say that neither side seemed capable of winning the contest and nerves were almost certainly abundant. The Pilgrims rued three dropped catches, two missed stumpings and a fumbled run-out, but it would be wrong to blame that on the defeat as some "charity"

was proffered in return. The statistic of eight Pilgrims making double figures with a top score of only 17 proved more crucial: if only one batsman had posted even 40, there would surely have been more confidence in the side. Instead it will have to be another year and that magnum of champagne remains on ice at this author's flat.

For this inexperienced side to get as close as it did was admirable; losing the toss was fairly crucial, but then it was just as importantly won in the heat at Tonbridge. Finally, credit must be paid to Justin Ricketts for leading the side, once again, on such a fine run. His all-round achievements have been outstanding and his astute captaincy has so often been the difference. His tactics have almost always reaped instant rewards and his unflappable manner has persuaded a number of cricketers, who always had the ability, to "back themselves" when games have been tight. The Pilgrims have now found the habit of winning these games and Ricketts has been the main architect of this mindset.

Sunday July 29 v Charterhouse Friars at Charterhouse - Lost by 56 runs
Charterhouse Friars 278-8 (A Gordon Martin 70); Sherborne Pilgrims 222 (N I Gavin-Brown 61; Gordon Martin 5-68, R Souter 4-41)

Another sweltering day at Charterhouse; however, we were not privileged enough to be on the main ground, this was reserved for a Jazz Hat game in which a certain J D Ricketts was playing. Having got over the shock of seeing the Cricketer Cup captain playing for another side, no showers and open changing facilities the Pilgrims took to the field under Stuart Gillett, captaining the Pilgrims for the first time. Losing his first toss was not the best way to motivate the troops. The Pilgrims took to the field and there was a distinct feeling of worry because the excellent batting wicket and short boundaries made it look like chasing leather would be the order of the day.

Pexton and Gavin-Brown opened the attack and kept a tight line and length, Pexton bowled well and the "after shock" of the Cricketer Cup seemed to have gone! It was clear, early on, that 300 was going to be a realistic score on a belter of a wicket. The Friars had an excellent start with Gordon Martin in particular playing some fine shots. One feels that the Friars had a point to prove having not reached the latter stages of the Cricketer Cup. After a century opening stand the Friars slowly lost wickets but continued to score freely. The Pilgrims spin attack pegged the batsmen back and at one stage 250 looked like a reasonable score. However, six dropped catches meant that the Friars would set a more challenging total. With some big hitting at the end of the innings by Gilbert and Seddan the Friars posted a competitive 278.

It was clear that the Pilgrims would need a big innings from one of the top five to challenge the total set by the Friars. A good start was also needed, but three quick wickets fell and it became clear that the total was going to be hard to reach. Nick Gavin-Brown batted excellently for 61 but gave his wicket away when he needed to play the anchor role. There was a glimmer of hope when Charlie Dowdall joined Gavin-Brown but he fell leg-before for 24 when a big innings was needed. Having a young side under him, Gillett relegated himself down the order to No 8 when his experience may well have been better served up the order. He took the score from

113 to 185 with some lusty blows and was joined by Pexton who also struck some adventurous boundaries.

Gillett was out for 46 which was too little, too late. This left the stage clear for the two old timers, Pexton and Crouch, who gave the match a fitting and amusing end. Some interesting strokeplay and even more interesting running between the wickets gave the gathered crowd substantial amusement. This was capped with an extraordinary incident in which Crouch was dropped, two run-out opportunities missed and four overthrows. The end result was that Crouch was credited with seven runs from one delivery. Has a No 11 ever scored seven from one ball? Answers on a postcard, please. An excellent day once again at Charterhouse and it was especially good to see such a young side with nine under 26.

Sunday August 19 v Bluemantles at Tunbridge Wells - Abandoned

Sunday August 26 v NPL Lensbury, at Teddington - Drawn, rain
NPL Lensbury 195-6 (N Churchman 67)

Chalk and cheese. Black and White. Tonbridge and NPL Lensbury. When the Pilgrims arrived at NPL Lensbury, the home side had heard of the heroics of the Pilgrims in brushing aside class cricketers and sides in the 2001 Cricketer Cup campaign. It came as an extraordinary surprise, therefore, to Tom Gardiner, the NPL opener, that a previous hero of the Cricketer Cup, Will Hargrove, could take 14 balls to complete an over in his opening spell.

Knechtli bowled with energy from one end, whilst Hargrove bowled poorly from the other. Both openers helped themselves to Hargrove's gifts and moved the score rapidly to 43 before Pete Crouch accounted for Gardiner. Nick Churchman came to the crease and promptly helped himself to the assortment of full tosses and long hops on offer. When Gammell bowled the other Gardiner, Chris Churchman joined his brother at the feast and sent Pilgrims chasing leather. The Churchmans took a special liking to Gammell's bowling, notching 49 from his "cream-filled" six overs.

Knechtli was a ray of light in an otherwise dismal performance, accounting for Churchman not long before the heavens opened and put a premature end to a painful occasion.

Reports by Ben Atwell, Rupert Bagnall, Pete Crouch, Stuart Gillett, Robert Hands, Charlie Warren and Will Wingfield Digby.