

CONTENTS

Micky Walford (1915-2002)	2	OS Golfing Society	38
Club Notes	3	OS Sailing Society	44
Social Events	8		
New Members	8	School Reports:	
Obituary	8	- Cricket	45
Managers	9	- Rugby	50
Mike Davis Remembers	10	- Hockey	53
Pilgrims Reports:		Pilgrims Administration:	
- Cricket	13	- Accounts and Balance Sheet	57
- Rugby	31	- Committee 2002	58
- Hockey	33	- Officers 1923–2002	59
- Fives	35	- Rules	60
- Squash	36		
- Tennis	37		
- Cross Country	37		

*** A REMINDER OF RULE 4 ***

“It is the responsibility of any person playing for the Club in any sport to have in place adequate public liability insurance cover.”

MICKY WALFORD (1915–2002)

Micky Walford was one of the last truly amateur sportsmen to hold down a regular and serious job (as a master at Sherborne School) at the same time as playing games at the highest level, something which the intensity of life today no longer allows. His games were cricket, hockey and rugby, and when he was too old for any of those he took to sailing, though he was never as competitive on the water as he had been on dry land.

Born in the Durham village of Norton, the son of a chartered accountant, Michael Moore Walford went from St Anselm's, Bakewell, to Rugby, where his record on the games field hinted at what was in store, if not quite at the fullness of it. He had four seasons in the school cricket XI, for example, yet reached the heights only in his final match against Marlborough at Lord's, when his nine wickets and 70 runs, scored in an hour, won him a place in that year's representative Public Schools side.

At Oxford he became, with the great South African, H G Owen-Smith, one of the two leading all-round games players of the 1930s. Of medium height, fair-haired, indefatigable and an individualist, he played three times against Cambridge at rugby and hockey and twice at cricket, as well as making sure that Trinity College gave as good as they got when playing Brasenose, at that time almost as much a sporting academy as an academic institution.

Between the wars, England and Scotland seldom took to the rugby field without two or three current Blues in their side, usually behind the scrum, and in both his second and fourth seasons at Oxford (1935 and 1937) Walford had an England trial as a centre three-quarter. In the event, with the Second World War starting when he was still only 23, the nearest he got to a full England rugby cap was to be a travelling reserve on several occasions. In 1935 and 1936 he had as his wing three-quarter at Oxford Alex Obolensky, the flying Russian prince whose spectacular try in England's famous victory over the 1935 All Blacks at Twickenham is immortalised on film in the museum there.

Having ended his Oxford days in 1938 by making 201 not out against MCC and 114 against Surrey, his only two 100s for the university, though then with a duck against Cambridge at Lord's, and with a sportsman's degree in history, Walford joined the staff at Sherborne. Here he stayed, the war years excepted, until 1978, teaching history, becoming head of economics, a housemaster and eventually second master.

He served in the Royal Corps of Signals in the war and was back at Sherborne in 1945, where it was made possible for him to play for Great Britain at hockey in the London Olympics of 1948, when Great Britain lost in the final to India, and to win 17 England hockey caps as a tenacious wing half, more often than not as captain. In

one of his internationals, his younger brother, David, was the England centre forward.

But, perhaps, it was by his feats as a batsman for Somerset, during the summer holidays from Sherborne, that Micky Walford was best known. In his first innings for the county he scored 141 not out against the Indian touring side of 1946, and in 1947, 1949 and 1950 he headed the county batting averages, missing the chance to do so in 1948 only because of his hockey commitments at the Olympics. In 1947, with the help of an innings of 264 against Hampshire in the Weston-super-Mare Festival, he averaged 67.28.

As he himself was first to say, by the time he came into the Somerset side in early August the bowlers he faced had already got through an awful lot of overs in the season; but, for all that, he was a fine player – in every way tidy, with a good temperament and never one to give his wicket away. When he felt too old for first-class cricket he proceeded to play for Dorset in the Minor Counties Championship until he was 46 and to head their batting averages for his first five seasons with them. For Somerset he scored 3,395 runs at an average of 40.90 and for Dorset 4,484 runs at 35.87.

Just as he was among the last of a sporting breed, so he was one of a venerable, even dwindling, schoolmastering vintage. Unmarried, dedicated, held in awe as something of a sporting icon, he was an untiring coach of interested games players, especially good ones. In his retirement he set up, near by, as a financial adviser, while never losing touch with the School or his pride in it.

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There will be a Memorial Service in the School Chapel on Saturday June 8th at 12 noon. The Rt. Rev the Lord Sheppard of Liverpool will give the Address. There will be a Reception in the BSR after the Service.

CLUB NOTES

If distance lends perspective, then these should be the clearest-sighted Club Notes in Pilgrims' history. Writing from a verandah in Brisbane with attendant flora and fauna tends, I suspect, to add a roseate hue to the subject matter, but it does allow me greater time and space than has often been the case. Being surrounded by reminders of Australian sporting success at every turn can also, I should add, have its occasional down sides!

It is in the nature of a school such as Sherborne that there is a high turnover of boys: five years is their maximum term, some stay for fewer. But the staff – if perhaps less so now than in times past – are the constants. One memory from my

latter years at the School was of Patrick Cordingley, by then a Major-General of much distinction who had served in the Gulf War, who returned to his alma mater to give a lecture to the Lower Sixth.

He recounted before he began of how he had just been in the Lodge, preparing to be taken along to the Powell Hall, when Robert Glen, then several years retired, walked in. Cordingley's instinctive reaction to a man who once had taught him, some fair few years before, was to snap to attention and address RSG as "Sir". A typical military man's reflex, perhaps, but one that illustrated how the staff are so often the line of continuity between the generations.

Sherborne has been exceptionally fortunate with its long-serving members of staff. Not only have they often been inspiring and dedicated to their pupils in the classroom, but many of them, too, have given much of their time and energy on the games fields. From G M Carey onwards, the rollcall of men (and women) who have turned out young sportsmen of talent, of perseverance and of tenacity is long.

Sadly, this year Sherborne has suffered a double loss in this sphere, and it is right that the Club pays tribute to both men by including articles on them in this booklet, for both have been of colossal stature in developing and maintaining the standards of the School's sport over many years.

If you read your booklet front to back, then you will already have enjoyed John Woodcock's beautifully written obituary of Micky Walford that appeared in *The Times* early this year. There are not so many left who can remember Micky playing sport at his peak, but there are still hundreds of Shirburnians who owe a huge debt to him as a coach in a range of sports. It was not until comparatively recently that his wisdom and insight was not being utilised by the School – for some 60 years his was a presence of immense value on the Upper and beyond.

Alongside "John" Carey, Micky was unquestionably the man who had the most impact on sport at the School. Not just because of longevity, nor even because of the number of sports to which he could turn his hand, but surely because of the philosophy that he inculcated among his young charges, to play correctly but to show flair, to think tactically but to enjoy the game, and to be disciplined but to be determined.

And although it sometimes grated with the coaches that worked with Micky – the "Other Men" as this author, perhaps peremptorily, described them in the chapter heading in his history of rugby at the School – for so many outside Sherborne, Micky Walford was synonymous with the School's sport in a way that no one will be again in the modern age of specialisation. He was one of the last of an all-but-extinct breed of all-rounders, a man who could have had an outstanding career at the highest level in cricket and probably rugby had the war not intervened.

Instead, a late shot at glory with the England cricket team on tour in the West Indies was rejected in the late Forties because it would have meant giving up his post at Sherborne. How grateful should we be for that. As housemaster, as schoolmaster, he made a fine contribution to Sherborne School that would have been enough to merit distinction even without his games acumen. His work on the fields spreading west towards Lenthay elevate him further. As a Club we remember him with pride and mourn his passing.

The second loss is, thankfully, not as permanent. Mike Davis, always a larger than life character in any case, is very much still with us, yet now about to be at a distance. Mike retires this summer after nearly 30 years at the School, although I am less than convinced that he will ever be classified as “retired”: he loves being involved in things too much. But it was somehow fitting that the XV of 2001 were an outstanding bunch, who lost only to a top-class Wellington team, in Mike’s farewell year.

For he has been a massive presence on the rugby field. Technically, his coaching is of the highest calibre, something generations of schoolboys have been well aware of – and not just Sherborne boys, since Mike’s work with England at schools level has been a longstanding one. He knows well, born of much experience, how to get the best out of his young men. But he also knows how schools rugby is not solely about winning matches, but about developing as players – and as people.

I have many memories of Mike over 15 and more years (and not all of them are connected with his uncanny ability to find his way into the *Shirburnian’s* Obiter Dicta column with immense frequency), from his kindness to talking to me as a nervous scholarship candidate in the summer of 1987, to his willingness to be bothered about rugby at almost any hour. There will be those of my peers from The Digby who will have stronger memories of his time as a housemaster, but it is as a rugby coach par excellence that the School will remember him best. And his best was more than good enough: the Club thanks him for his service and wishes him well in retirement.

On the field of play, Pilgrims have disported themselves with much distinction this year. The Cricketer Cup side equalled their fine performances of 1999 by reaching the semi-final of the competition, for the second time. Sadly a depleted side was unable to overcome the challenge of Oundle on a sticky wicket, although it was a close-run thing. In a sense the Club has become a victim of its own success, because Pilgrims are habitually not accustomed to pencilling in the later stages of the Cup in their diaries. Holidays in between rounds – or after the competition finishes – must now be mandatory, surely?

It was a terrific run, beating Bradfield and Tonbridge in the first two rounds. Both of these sides have enjoyed considerable success in the competition, particularly in the past decade, and to beat the latter on their own patch was particularly

memorable. The captaincy of Justin Ricketts continues to be of the highest order, and it is to be greatly hoped that his efforts are rewarded with even better results this year. The first round could not be easier for large numbers of Pilgrims to get to – away to Harrow on Sunday June 2nd.

Those cricketing Pilgrims who might wish to review their contributions from past Cricketer Cup campaigns (short though many of them regrettably are) should be aware that there is now a statistical catalogue of the Club's efforts in the competition, which will be available on the Club's new website (of which more below) and can also be e-mailed to anyone who is interested. Please contact me for further details. And if anyone can assist me in uncovering the few longueurs that exist in the scorecards over the years, I would be grateful.

Rupert Bagnall's work with the cricket on all fronts remains immense. It is by far the Club's biggest undertaking, and how he managed last year to maintain a vast array of participants, a full sequence of matches, co-ordinate the Cricketer Cup assault ... and get married is a mystery to me. That so many of the Pilgrims games were well-contested reflects particular credit on him and his efforts: I await with interest to see how the Club's first two-day match for 40 years, against a Dorset Development XI, pans out in July.

Cricket at the School may not always be as strong as once it was, but I would encourage all Club members to read Mike Nurton's account both of the 2001 term and of the XI's tour to Delhi during our winter. Mike has always been a man who thinks deeply about his cricket, and he has offered some provocative thoughts about the position of the summer game at the School – indeed, at schools in general – in an age where examinations matter far more than ever they did, and where a boy's time is sometimes so pressurised as to be impossible.

On the rugby pitch, Will Hargrove has again shown his organisational skills in encouraging Pilgrims to drag out their old boots and mouthguard. The game against the Welsh Deaf Rugby Union was a particular highlight and exactly the kind of fixture that derives benefit both to the Club and to its opponents. Bolstered by such a fine term for the XV, Sherborne's name remains high in the rugby world. And Jimmy Cheung's tireless efforts to find hockey players from the Pilgrims closet also deserve approbation. It is about time that the Club was able to play a match against someone other than the School: if you have a hankering to pick up the splintered stick again, get in touch with Jimmy.

Perhaps the other major item of record for the Sherborne sports community this year has been the refurbished fives courts at the School. Long coveted by Mike Cleaver, with some generous assistance from the Foundation, the unveiling took place last autumn to much approval. Fives is never going to be the world's most popular sport (it being none too telegenic) but it has a long history at the School now, much of it because of Mike's sterling work down the years. Jeremy

Schroeter's success with a national doubles title last year testifies to Sherborne's talents in that sphere.

While sailors and golfers enjoyed markedly different fortunes in 2001 – the former hamstrung by foot-and-mouth, the latter swinging with their traditional gusto and managing to reach the final of the Brent Knoll – the unheralded squash team made a terrific burst in the Londonderry Cup, only going down to Eton in the semi-finals. Jonathan Powe has made a blistering start to his stewardship of the squash – is there better to come?

The new Club website has finally moved from the planning stage. At the time of writing, it is all but ready to “go live”, and by the time this booklet is in print, it should be out there in cyberspace. The proposed link-up with the play-cricket organisation may yet materialise as an adjunct to the Club's own website, but the main site can be found at www.sherbornepilgrims.co.uk. (This is different from the previously advertised address of www.pilgrims.org.uk.) There will be further additions to it over the coming months, although the principal aim of the Committee at this stage is to set it up and to ensure that it is updated on a reasonably regular basis. My thanks to Dave Hunter of ensign-it.com for his expertise in designing and publishing the material therein. All complaints, suggestions should be directed to me.

Even more so this year than previously, I must thank Charles Eglington and Barbara Spencer for their invaluable support, time and efficiency in producing this booklet. Although editing from thousands of miles away has its attractions, it is not always ideal, and that this year's edition has come out anywhere close to on time is mostly down to their efforts. My thanks also to those who contributed: I am happy to say that I think the 2002 booklet is the best that I have overseen in terms of being a “good read”.

My final observation concerns one of the Club's new honorary members. It has taken nearly 80 years for it to happen, and although I have a sneaky feeling that the founder of the Pilgrims would have been somewhat taken aback at the news, that should not detract from its momentousness. Lindsay Millar, who has taken charge of the School's swimming for a decade and also coaches tennis, becomes an Honorary Pilgrim, the first woman to achieve this status. I am delighted that the Club is at last subject to a civilising influence and welcome her (and all other new Pilgrims) to a thriving institution.

There was plenty of success for Pilgrims as individuals and under the banner of the Club over the past 12 months: here's to much more over the next year, and to a memorable dinner next March. Now, where was that koala...

Robert Hands
April 2002

SOCIAL EVENTS

A buffet lunch will be held in the JCR in Sherborne on Saturday October 12th, when the XV play Clifton. The Annual General Meeting is at 12.15pm and the lunch follows at 12.30pm. Please contact Patrick Gent for tickets, which are £10 and cheques payable to him. His home address is at page 58.

Next year will be the 80th anniversary of the Club and a dinner will be held at The East India Club on Friday March 7th 2003. Full details will be sent out in November.

NEW MEMBERS

Applications were accepted from the following leavers in June 2001:

T C Ackroyd (f Hockey, Rugby, Athletics), P B Bacharimov (b Basketball, Table Tennis), A E Beattie (a Cricket, Hockey), J A W Board (e Soccer, Rugby), A Borozdin (h-a Swimming, Soccer), G A Bramble (h-g Hockey, Cricket, Rugby), N K Cook (a Rugby, Hockey, Cricket), N J E Cramp (a Rugby, Hockey, Tennis), H W Farris (a Rugby), C H Filbey (f Cricket, Hockey), N G Foster (e Cricket), R G Fox (d Cross Country, Rugby, Shooting), S Gad (h-a Soccer), C P W Gammell (d Cricket, Hockey, Rugby), H C Grundy-Wheeler (a Rugby, Hockey, Tennis), A J L Harris (h-d Tennis, Soccer, Cricket), W A V Hayler (c Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Squash), M M A Hope (d Rugby, Cricket, Hockey), J D Hutt (m Rugby, Soccer), R G S Lane (b Hockey, Squash, Rugby, Cricket), P F C Langly-Smith (c Cricket, Hockey), L W O Lewis (c Cricket, Soccer, Rugby), S J A Lockhart-Smith (f Tennis, Rugby, Cricket), T J Margetson (g Cricket, Rugby, Soccer), J I McKillop (m Cricket, Rugby, Hockey), R P J Merricks (m Cricket, Soccer, Rugby), H T Mitchell (d Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Golf), R J A Sage (f Soccer, Rugby, Athletics), J L L Simson (d Hockey, Rugby, Cricket), M T Vere-Hodge (d Rugby, Hockey), T W P Walsh (d Hockey, Tennis), A L Westwood (m Cricket, Hockey, Rugby), E B P Worthington (d Hockey, Soccer).

Other new members: P B Crouch (f 1984-89), M L French (a 1961-65), A G C Howland Jackson (d 1955-59), J A Paine (g 1948-53), M E Slade (c 1960-65).

Honorary: R W Bool, W A M Burn, Miss K L Millar, J J B Wadham.

OBITUARY

D M Amoire (g 1930-35), N D Cullen (d 1929-33), R V Godfray (d 1924-29), I Henderson (h 1934-38), J A Peters (g 1932-35), D G Sherrard (f 1942-45), M M Walford (Honorary), T F Witherby (g 1919-24).

MANAGERS

- Cricket: Rupert Bagnall, 10a Brussels Road, London SW11 2AF.
Tel: 020 7228 2484 (H) 07770 853437 (M)
rupert.bagnall@regent-inns.plc.uk
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- Cross Country: Jon Kershaw, 7 Cartwright Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 9EY.
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Tel: 020 7607 6180 (H) nickmaciver@djfreeman.com
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- Sailing: Nick Ware, 94 Princes Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6DH.
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- Soccer: Don Cameron, 32 Acreman Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3NX.
Tel: 01935 813678 (H) dbc@sherborne.org
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Tel. 01793 784135 (H). jpowe@jscsc.org
- Tennis: Tim MacIver, 6 Turnstone Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5PL.
Tel: 01305 812548 (H) 01305 212925 (O) 07909 910904 (M)
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Club colours can be obtained from Alan Willows at:
Sherborne School Trading Ltd., The School Shop, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AP.
Tel: 01935 810506.

MIKE DAVIS REMEMBERS

There will be someone missing from the Courts next term. For 28 years, a tall, frizzy-haired bear of a man has bestrode those noisy gravel pebbles, always purposeful, always moving at speed. Moving quickly, perhaps, because of his eagerness to remove jacket and tie and to don tracksuit and boots.

For it is on the games field that Mike Davis will be best remembered – with apologies to denizens of The Digby between 1987-92 and, of course, his maths pupils – by generations of Shirburnians. As a coach, as a motivator, as a *presence*. Since 1974 when he arrived from St Paul's, then only recently retired from a top-flight rugby career that embraced 16 England caps, Sherborne teams have benefited from his wide experience.

And what experience! Few schools can boast of having an England coach in their ranks (as he was from 1979-83), let alone an England international, and there can scarcely be many in the country who have enjoyed such a long – and successful – coaching association with the schoolboy ranks, both at Sherborne and with the national junior age groups.

Consider what has changed in the rugby world since the initials AMD were first seen adorning school noticeboards at Sherborne in the mid-Seventies. Tries have gained in value, England have a team worth watching (and Wales no longer do), World Cups have become established staples of the international cycle – and, most significantly, the game has turned professional.

But all that is well known. What, though, does Davis himself regard as having changed at this grass-roots level of the game he loves? How different is it now from 1974, when Sherborne stood on the cusp of the most successful period in its history? And who were the outstanding personalities of his time, the players whose talents stick in the memory?

“The maturity of the boys stood out,” Davis remembered. “When I arrived from St Paul's, seventh-term Oxbridge allowed older boys to play in the XV, and that was very important from a rugby point of view. For me, it was wonderful to be able to work with a mature pack at an early stage of my coaching career.

“Also very noticeable from an early stage was the boys' balanced view of the sport, which has always been the case at Sherborne. At some places, rugby was the be-all-and-end-all, but although the Sherborne boys were very dedicated, they were also philosophical about defeat.” And he is pleased that this continues to be the case in a contemporary age when results seem to be of paramount importance.

The big match then, as it always had been, was Downside. “I'm pleased that Downside are coming back to being competitive now because for a time in the

mid-Nineties, that fixture was slipping back a bit,” Davis continued. “But when I started, it was the one. Like most of the important games then, it seemed to be something of an occasion.”

And it is that sense of occasion that has, he feels, taken a back seat now, as academic demands have taken precedence. “It seems unlikely now, but the XV used to go up to Radley for an away game there on the Friday night,” Davis recalled fondly. “It made for a lovely social occasion – the players from both sides could meet, the build-up was more relaxed.

“It’s so different now: match-day is a frantic rush. You never have the opportunity to travel and have lunch there, you have an early lunch in Sherborne and then travel. There’s something missing there.”

And not only before games, too. “Often after games in those days, we would go up to Micky Walford’s house and talk through the match. Junior coaches would be offered some of Micky’s home brew and it was a relief when you were a senior enough coach to be offered whisky, because although Micky’s views were very valuable, his home brew was appalling!”

If rugby no longer commands the attention of the School in the absolute way that once it did, Davis still feels that it sets the standard for discipline in the Michaelmas Term. “Last season, we had a good year after some lean ones, and there was little trouble in the School,” he said. “In the few previous ones, there were problems in the School on the back of an unsuccessful XV.”

Two men have dominated the rugby scene along with Davis over his years at Sherborne: David Scott is still there, now as master in charge of rugby, but it was Phil Jones who gave Davis his introduction. “I can still remember the summer day that Phil showed me around,” Davis said. “It was the term before I started and we wouldn’t get more than five paces before he was pointing out another boy and his rugby ability.

“I greatly admired Phil because of his passion. He seemed to know how to handle boys, he was an excellent man-manager and he had really turned things around in rugby terms at the School.” As a combination, Jones and Davis proved almost irresistible. Between 1975 and 1978, 35 out of 35 school matches were won by the XV. Only a handful of games were lost during that coaching partnership.

Scott’s long association with the XV over the better part of 20 years and more has given Davis the chance to see him at close quarters on many occasions. “David is a meticulous, thorough coach who thinks through everything in great detail,” Davis commented, paying tribute to his work with generations of Shirburnian backs in particular.

Two names resonated for Davis, one predictable, the other less so. Aadel Kardooni was a colossus in his years at Sherborne, a brilliant all-round sportsman who dominated the School in a way that few have before or since. “He was held in awe,” Davis said. “He always had the time to do things, to pull a game out of the fire, and he worked hard on his technique to make himself a better player when he realised that his strength was not going to be quite enough at the highest level.”

If Kardooni would catch the eye by dint of his record alone, the other player whom Davis rated equally highly was David Dally. A fine cricketer whose tactical vision made him an unusually intelligent Sherborne fly half, Dally “always stood out. I always liked cricketers in my team because they were thinkers, and one year, among a back line of otherwise pure athletes, Dave was like gold. He could kick well and had excellent distribution, with soft hands.”

Of course there were others – Nick Greenstock, Sherborne’s most recent international, came readily to mind, or perhaps Rob Rydon, another wonderfully talented all-round sportsman. More recently, Johnny Porter and Duncan Craig were players of distinction that Davis recalls with pride.

The games he remembers most fondly are those with Christ’s, Brecon. “They were tremendous,” Davis said. “We were playing ‘outside the circuit’ and somehow this produced cracking contests: the chemistry was there between the two sides. One match I remember above all was when Robert Ackerman [later a talented Wales centre] was their star player and trying everything to win the match. Godfrey Abel – a journeyman in comparison – was marking him, and just kept tackling Ackerman again and again. We won.

“Those were always nip-and-tuck games. We’ve always had the same chemistry with Radley, too, a game I looked forward to. The difference often over the years with some other schools is that they have bolstered their rugby by bringing in talented players, who don’t always understand the ethos that public schools try to foster.”

One school to which that last comment is not applicable is Cheltenham, the School’s oldest inter-school fixture, but as to the quality of the games, well... “There’s never been any animosity there,” Davis added, “but the matches have always been poor. The old cliché about two bad sides having an off day – that always seems to apply to these matches!”

The final thought is on style and approach. Sherborne sides down the years have acquired a reputation for playing attractive, running rugby: has that been at the core of the Davis approach? “It’s partly due to the pitches: the grounds drain well and are rarely stodgy, which tends to produce good top-of-the-ground runners, and we’ve always had a good selection of back-row players and mobile hookers.

“But I feel, looking back, that a weakness has been the coaching approach lower down the School. Tactical appreciation was limited to ‘getting the ball to the wing’, without considering a more varied strategy. The coaches have been real purists, which is fine against weaker teams, but more of a hindrance the further you go. It’s a regret that we haven’t produced more players who have had that priceless quality of ‘time’ to do things on the pitch – an indefinable quality, but all the best have it.”

Davis will leave with many memories of talented schoolboys, of great games, of idiosyncratic characters. But if he does have any regrets, they should be few and far between. There have been some great coaches at Sherborne School over the past century, but none more distinguished than Davis. He has helped to nurture any number of talented rugby players over the 28 years of service in the Abbey’s shadow on the Upper and on Carey’s, and they will all acknowledge the debt they owe to him.

The debt that Sherborne owes to Mike Davis, however, is a far greater one. We wish him well in what will not, I suspect, be a quiet retirement.

Robert Hands

CRICKET 2001

Played 17: Won 7, Drawn 4, Lost 5, Abandoned 1, Cancelled 1.

Sunday May 6th, v Marlborough Blues, at Marlborough

Sherborne Pilgrims 153-8; Marlborough Blues 154-6 (W O Caldwell 98). Lost by 4 wickets.

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-poo 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 produces.

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 19th, v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne School 184-7 (W P Fegen 72 not out); Sherborne Pilgrims 185-5 (C C M Warren 84). Won by 5 wickets.

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 20th, v Radley Rangers, at Radley

Sherborne Pilgrims 94; Radley Rangers 72 (R A Bagnall 4-1). Won by 22 runs.

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 overs 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 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 10th, Cricketer Cup first round, v Bradfield Waifs, at Sherborne
Bradfield Waifs 172 (P L C Knechtli 4-18), Sherborne Pilgrims 174-3 (J H K Adams 83 not out). Won by 7 wickets.

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 17th, v Hampshire Hogs, at Warnford

Hampshire Hogs 275 (J Grant 70; R A Bagnall 5-42); Sherborne Pilgrims 230-7 (W P W Bristow 120). Match drawn.

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 24th, Cricketer Cup second round, v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge

Sherborne Pilgrims 249-9 (J H K Adams 74); Old Tonbridgians 146 (E T Elliot-Square 5-41). Won by 103 runs.

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 30th, v The School, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 187-6 dec (W P Fegen 4-43); Sherborne School 181-8 (W H Wingfield Digby 4-16). Match drawn.

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 six, right on half-time.

In reply the School began brightly, their running between the wickets, 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 8th, Cricketer Cup quarter-final, v Old Merchant Taylors', at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 243-6 (J D Ricketts 71 not out, J R Tweedale 55); Old Merchant Taylors' 187 (Ricketts 4-37). Won by 56 runs.

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 9th, v Old Blundellians, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 101; Old Blundellians 106-4 (R K Giles 51 not out). Lost by 6 wickets.

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 10th, v Butterflies, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 172-3 dec (C C M Warren 95). Match drawn.

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 deliveries 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 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 11th, v South Wales Hunt, at Sherborne

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). Won by 9 wickets.

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 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 12th, v Dorset Rangers, at Sherborne. Match cancelled.

Friday July 13th, v Dorset Colts, at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 220 (S Gillett 73); Dorset Colts 151 (J Elliot-Square 60 not out). Won by 69 runs.

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 15th, v Old Tonbridgians, at Tonbridge

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). Lost by 3 wickets.

There were a few long faces at 11am 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 Hey 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 22nd, Cricketer Cup semi-final, v Oundle Rovers, at Oundle
Sherborne Pilgrims 154-9 (P H Edwards 4-22); Oundle Rovers 158-8 (A M Dobson 78). Lost by 2 wickets.

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 29th, v Charterhouse Friars, at Charterhouse

Charterhouse Friars 278-8 (A Gordon Martin 70); Sherborne Pilgrims 222 (N I Gavin-Brown 61; Gordon Martin 5-68, R Souter 4-41). Lost by 56 runs.

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 side 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 19th, v Bluemantle's, at Tunbridge Wells. Match abandoned.

Sunday August 26th, v NPL Lensbury, at Teddington

NPL Lensbury 195-6 (N Churchman 67). Match drawn.

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.

CRICKET FIXTURES 2002

Sat	May 18th	The School	Tues	July 9th	Butterflies
Sun	May 26th	Marlborough Blues (a)	Wed	July 10th	Dorset
Sun	June 2nd	Harrow Wanderers (a)	Thur	July 11th	Development XI
		Cricketer Cup 1st round	Fri	July 12th	Dorset Rangers
Sun	June 9th	Radley Rangers (a)	Sun	July 14th	Old Tonbridgians (a)
Sun	June 16th	Cricketer Cup 2nd round	Sun	July 21st	Charterhouse Friars (a)
Sat	June 29th	The School	Sun	Aug 11th	Hampshire Hogs (a)
Sun	June 30th	Cricketer Cup 3rd round	Sun	Aug 18th	Bluemantle's (a)
Mon	July 8th	Old Blundellians	Sun	Aug 25th	NPL Lensbury (a)

The Cricketer Cup semi-finals are on Sunday July 14th, and the final on Sunday August 4th.

RUGBY 2001-02

Sunday November 11th v Milton Abbey Hornets at Milton Abbey

Sherborne Pilgrims 43 Milton Abbey Hornets 21

Having not played at Milton Abbey last season (the game was played in London) it was good to be back on a cold but sunny afternoon with the game played in front of a good crowd of around 200 people.

The first 25 minutes were a stalemate with both sides fresh and defence very much having the upper hand. The referee was also far too lenient on the floor, allowing the defending side to get hands on the ball. This was to affect the whole game and cause considerable frustration. Both sides had more than 15 players and rotated personnel accordingly. The scrum and line-outs were fairly contested with neither side struggling on their own ball. In the ten minutes before half-time the Pilgrims got the upper hand and scored two tries. Nigel Francis had a busy first half at full back fielding many long kicks from the boot of the Hornets fly half.

After half-time the Pilgrims had the wind behind them and got to a fairly comfortable position with 20 minutes to go. Thereafter the handling skills seemed to decline and a few good chances were squandered.

There were good performances throughout the Pilgrims side. The front row held firm, and the second row won good possession through Coad and Collis. The back row (Andrews, Worrall and Holding-Parsons) had a very good game tiding up a lot of scrappy ball. The outsides had a busy day and did well to keep the continuity going. Mark Simon hustled from scrum half and fed his backs well. Matt Knowles kicked and distributed well at fly half and used the pace of Francis, Bell, Hattam, Graves, Jones and Van-Dunem. Edlmann, back from Australia, played in both the forwards and backs, also scoring an excellent try. The day was a great success and very well hosted by Milton Abbey.

Sunday January 13th v Welsh Deaf Rugby Union at Sherborne

Sherborne Pilgrims 34 Welsh Deaf 12

A really memorable day for many reasons, with a very good and competitive game played on an excellent pitch in front of a good crowd. The game was the brainchild of Nigel Francis, a Pilgrim who plays for the WDRU. The aim of the day was to raise money for the WDRU to go to their World Cup in August 2002 in New Zealand. The WDRU side trained on the Upper on the morning of the game under Mike Davis's guidance. The Pilgrims side trained for about 30 minutes before the game. Both sides had a squad and rotated players throughout the game.

The game itself started at a very fast pace. The Pilgrims started the stronger and the plan of getting quick ball to the fly half (Peter Richards and Julius Longman) and playing from there with runners off the fly half worked well. It moved the game away from their pack which looked to be their strength. The Pilgrims handling was excellent and the back three coped well with the ball the WDRU kicked at them. The service from the base of the scrum (Mark Simon and Tom Maidment) helped the game flow. The Pilgrims first-half tries came from playing through many phases, which were required to break down the WDRU's stubborn defence.

At half-time the Pilgrims had a good lead and their dominance continued for the first ten minutes of the second half with one more try being scored. As the game continued the WDRU's superior fitness started to show. The Pilgrims defended hard but eventually ran out of personnel and conceded two tries, one from a quick penalty, the other from a simple overlap. The Pilgrims responded with a final try from Pedro Van-Dunem, which was his fourth of the day.

The game ended with tired bodies all over the pitch. The game had been refereed very well, in obviously difficult circumstances, by Nigel Cowley from the Dorset and Wilts Society. Players and supporters retired to the Plume of Feathers after the game for the raffle, beer and food.

A big thank you must go to Nigel Francis and his parents for doing so much to organise a terrific day, which it is hoped can be repeated, possibly in alternate

years. The total raised on the day was in excess of £2,000 – a very fine effort. Thank you to all those who bought tickets for the raffle.

Our thanks also to Mike Davis and the ground staff for allowing us use of the Upper when it would ordinarily have been a hockey pitch. Alan Willows kindly donated a Sherborne School Shield which before the game was presented to the WDRU captain, who in return presented the Club with a plaque.

HOCKEY 2002

Beware the wounded Pilgrim. Last year's 6-1 drubbing left an indelible mark on Jimmy Cheung's Pilgrims reign but how well a side can respond to defeat is often the yardstick of greatness! The Pilgrims arrived on Sunday March 17th under the shadow of last year's ignominious result. This was not helped by a number of players pulling out at the last minute reducing the squad to one and a half teams. This meant that a few players were forced to play in both games. Determined to show the School that the Pilgrims game is no end of season cake-walk, Cheung's men answered the call and came out fighting.

The new format is for the morning game to be against the Colts A XI and the afternoon game is still against the 1st XI. This makes sense from the School's point of view to blood some players for next year.

v School Colts A XI – Lost 2-1

Mumbles of “daylight robbery” were whispered through the Pavilion after this game. It started very positively for the Pilgrims and surprisingly the ball was passed around very effectively right from the start. The Pilgrims had two-thirds of the possession and essentially dominated the game from beginning to end. Most noticeable was the control given by Ned Gammell in the sweeper role. Time and time again he foiled the School's attacking plays with his solid tackles and excellent positioning. Both he and Ed Benbow, in front of him, cleaned up most attacks and distributed wisely to the let out men in the wider positions. Tim Clark and Paddy Gidney held their width in a very disciplined manner, with Gidney showing some “good gas” down the left and Clark some very deft close control. For a team that has never played together before, they gelled very well.

A couple of outstanding saves from the goalkeeper and stout defence from John Archer, Ed Bartlett and Rupert Whicker gave the Pilgrims the confidence to surge forward in wave after wave of attack. Most prevalent were the duo of Tom Gregory and Matt Boucher. Boucher's flicks and first time striking of the ball forced the Colts goalkeeper to come up with a string of first-class saves to keep the Pilgrims at bay. In the meantime, imprecise finishing cost the Pilgrims two breakaway goals and, although Gidney would be the first to admit that on several occasions not even three of the proverbial “barn doors” would have been hit, a semblance of justice

was gained when he did finally manage to score from the top of the “D”. In addition the post also denied Boucher twice, when he really ought to have scored.

The Pilgrims seemed to pile on endless pressure but were unable to squeeze the goal they deserved that would at least have given them a draw. Life is full of ifs and buts, but the Pilgrims certainly squandered their chances. Although ending 2-1 in the School’s favour, heads could be held high at the lunch break and, with this moral victory, a certain psychological edge had been established for the match against the 1st XI in the afternoon.

v School 1st XI – Lost 3-2

Momentum had been gained from the authoritative performance in the morning and everyone watching was treated to a first half of the most mature and astute hockey played by a Pilgrims side for some years.

Ollie Wilson in goal was like a rock and this confidence oozed forward amongst the other players. Ned Gammell excelled again and had a quite wonderful game at the hub of things in what is apparently a new role for him as “libero”. Jimmy Cheung and the Scott brothers controlled the midfield intelligently and the pattern was set for the first half. The passing was fluent and accurate as the usual Pilgrim trait of dribbling off on your own was not to be seen, and it really did look like an experienced side showing the younger team how to “make the ball do the work”. After a series of attacks by the Pilgrims, Tom Fegen finished off a fine passing move that involved most players on the pitch. Getting one up on his brother (the School captain) meant his work was done and he limped off with a ruptured ligament in his knee (how did you do that Feges?).

Ed Benbow and Ed Bartlett were always available out wide as the advancing full backs and were a never-ending source of quality ball for the wings, Tom Gregory and Paddy Gidney. Both players had several surging runs and certainly tested the School’s defence. Boucher emphatically finished after some neat interplay between Gidney and Scott to keep up his excellent goals to games tally (four in four). The Pilgrims did manage to force a number of short corners but a combination of the uneven pitch and lack of routine meant that none were converted.

The obvious tactics were for the School to hang on until the Pilgrims tired and then take advantage of their superior fitness. How right this proved to be! The inevitable Pilgrims fatigue set in after almost ten minutes of the second half. The midfield triumvirate of Scott, Cheung and Scott who had all shone so well in the first half began to wilt. The willing runs of the full backs understandably became less frequent and they were closed off as wide outlets for the midfield. The front and back three had all played 115 minutes of hockey up to then and it certainly showed. The School sniffed victory and piled on the pressure. The last 20 minutes

were almost entirely in the Pilgrims half and despite the outstanding presence of Gammell and Cheung in defence, they eventually succumbed going down 3-2.

In both matches a much improved display of controlled hockey did much to redress this fixture's balance of power and, although the results went ultimately the wrong way, there are definite signs of a resurgence in Pilgrims hockey. There is a genuine core of regular players now that bodes well for the coming years. The onus is on any Pilgrims that are still playing hockey to get in touch with Jimmy Cheung. The standard can only improve with more players and there is hope for some extra fixtures being lined up for 2003. A couple of additional games would be of great benefit. Match fitness (the perennial Achilles heel of any Pilgrims team) would improve. Also, a key part of hockey is the winning of a penalty corner. This, at present, is of absolutely no advantage to the Pilgrims because of the lack of any sort of routine. A pre-season friendly against the School next year, for example, might give the squad the opportunity to fashion a threatening set play as opposed to the more makeshift manoeuvres witnessed on March 17th.

The whole day was a huge success and I would like to thank a few people for their contributions. Firstly to Jeremy Wadham for hosting the Pilgrims and organising lunch and refreshments in the Pavilion. Thanks also to the umpires for handling things in an enjoyable and fair manner, the players for participating in two highly competitive but enjoyable matches, and Andrew Searson in providing the team shirts for this year. I look forward to next season and hopefully we can organise a pre-season game as well as the usual end of season game for 2003.

Jimmy Cheung

FIVES 2001-02

On Friday October 26th, the day of the opening of the School's refurbished Fives Courts, the heavens opened and it poured throughout the morning. At 11am the players arrived to find the courts in wonderful condition – except that the roof on one court was leaking, the court on which play was to be held. A squeegee mop was requested and play commenced. The trustees, donors and guests arrived and nodded their approval of the court refurbishments.

11.30 brought a hush to the proceedings as the Headmaster welcomed everyone to the courts. He thanked them for their generosity and hoped that the courts would be the starting point for many future Shirburnians' love of the game. Anthony Howland Jackson replied by saying how much he had enjoyed the game at School and the friendly spirit in which it was always played. He told a story about the master in charge of fives at that time who always stopped off in a pub or two with the team as it returned from away fixtures – especially Blundell's. His memories of the return journeys were not too clouded! He then unveiled the plaque commemorating the event. It is interesting to note that the School's first match in 2002 is away at Blundell's – will the boys be so lucky?

After the opening ceremony a wonderful lunch was held in the Old School Room.

My thanks go to all who contributed to this refurbishment and especially to Anthony Howland Jackson for leading the fund-raising team. Fives is safe at Sherborne for many future generations. Thank you.

Mike Cleaver

SQUASH 2001–02

With only four matches played, the team's score sheet at the end of the season reads: won 2, lost 2. But this hides the fact that the team managed to reach the semi-final of the Londonderry Cup, beating Lancing and Brighton on the way, before losing to Eton at the penultimate hurdle. So, although a short season, there was a measure of success. The fourth match was against a reduced School side, which we lost 1-2.

The team (in some sort of order) included David Leakey (now a Major-General but still charging around the court like a subaltern!), Nick Aubin, Richard Bramble (brought back from semi-retirement), Jonathan Powe, Patrick Macintosh, Richard Openshaw, Angus Prentice and Doug Withington.

The first match of the Londonderry Cup was against Lancing. Played at Queen's, we expected to meet a strong team but Lancing were a touch under strength on the day. David Leakey and Richard Bramble both won 3-0 at No 1 and 2 respectively, while Jonathan Powe and Patrick Macintosh lost at 3 and 4, leaving Richard Openshaw to save the day with a convincing win at No 5.

In the second round, we met Brighton, a match played over three days. Playing on separate days, both David Leakey and Nick Aubin lost 2-3 in very close games that could have gone either way. Needing to win at 3, 4 and 5 on the final day, we were helped when the Brighton No 3 failed to turn up. Both Richard Bramble and Jonathan Powe won their respective games – Richard fairly easily, Jonathan less so – and we claimed the fifth to snatch the victory.

The match against Eton was played on two days. On day one, Richard Bramble pulled a muscle early in the first game and was forced to concede, and Jonathan Powe was beaten 0-3. So, yet again at 0-2 down with three to play, it was perhaps too much to ask for a repeat performance – and so it proved. Both David Leakey and Nick Aubin had very tight games, losing 1-3 and 2-3 respectively, and Patrick Macintosh lost to a very hard-hitting Willie Boone.

The match against the School saw Angus Prentice back in the side and Doug Withington making his debut. Unfortunately both lost to slightly fitter opponents, while Jonathan Powe managed to scrape a win.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who played and an appeal for more players. There has been a great deal of support this season, for which I am very grateful, but we need a few younger, fitter players. If you fit the bill (or even if you don't!) and want to play some squash for the Pilgrims, please get in touch.

Jonathan Powe

TENNIS 2001

Fitness and focus are two of the many attributes that help describe honed athletes. This, however, may not have been strictly applicable to the tennis players, although through natural ability and heavy reliance on "lady luck" (in the form of several blonde Sherborne girls) the team kept going the winning run in the Commem. match against the School by 5-4.

Untypical weather was enjoyed by both the players, and a vocal audience who employed a range of tactics to distract events as we neared victory. But play was continuous throughout which helped us to keep our eye in. This, perhaps, refers more to the Laurel and Hardy family pairing which intentionally contrasted with the talented Dave Thomas and "AJ" Dowdeswell, and the silky skills of Mike Taylor and Ollie Kay.

It was, as always, a pleasure to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the grass courts, complemented by the habitually high standard of egg sandwiches, but we are all eagerly awaiting the barbecue promised by David and Jane Ridgway.

Tim MacIver

CROSS COUNTRY 2001-02

There was some doubt before the day whether Sherborne would have sufficient numbers for a full team for the old boys' race on December 8th. In the event three old lags (Cater, Chataway and Lewis) turned up, plus two younger men in Moseley and Waters. It was a lovely winter's day but the course over Wimbledon Common was very wet.

Rupert Waters, in less good shape than last year (so he said), shot off with the leaders while the rest of us settled down to our own pace. Nick Moseley drew steadily away leaving Chris Chataway, Merlin Lewis and Angus Cater to battle it out at the back. Lewis was dropped at about halfway but the lead between Chataway and Cater changed hands half a dozen times. A mile before the finish they entered the leafy downhill gully (reminiscent of West Hill) and then Chataway stepped up a gear and he went past Cater like a rocket. He held his 20-yard lead to the finish line and commented afterwards: "I've always liked running downhill". Waters was unable to repeat his triumph of last year but still ran very well finishing

seventh in 28min 30sec. (The first man in was Edward Barnett, from Winchester, in 25.59 – a course record.) Nick Moseley was next in at 41st in 35.09 and Chataway, Cater and Lewis were 65th, 67th and 68th respectively.

Somehow the open team managed to finish sixth out of 18, and the veterans were seventh out of 11. Winchester won both categories – but then they did field 29 runners. This year the race is to be held either on December 14th or 21st.

Angus Cater

On Saturday March 16th 15 OS runners started in the Sherborne Trophy which was raced from The Terrace, up West Hill, over the fields and back. Rupert Waters and Dave Wrighton took the first two places, but it was to the School that Simon Eliot, the Headmaster, presented the Trophy for the team race.

Tony Harris had recently retired from the teaching staff and he was presented with a cheque in grateful recognition of all the hard work he had put into coaching and training Shirburnian runners over the last 30 years. As well as those who were present on the day, over 40 messages of congratulation and thanks were received from OS unable to attend. Tony will be a hard act to follow. We hope to see him running on Wimbledon Common in December.

Jonathan Kershaw

OLD SHIRBURNIAN GOLFING SOCIETY 2001–02

The winners at the three meetings were:

Summer 2001: Turner and Foot Putter (scratch) – Gavin Webb-Wilson; Page Cup (handicap) – Michael Farley; Stableford Competition – Edward Thring; Harry Croly Cup (under 27 Stableford) – Jonathan Godfrey; Jeremy Summerscale Tankard (School Stableford) – Nick Lee.

Autumn 2001: Captain's Prize – David Watney; Vice-Captain's Prize – Andrew Rose; Greig Cup – Stuart Gillett; Autumn Cup – Howard Gill; Manning Trophy – Simon Giles; Veterans' Salver – David Watney.

Spring 2002: Harris Vase (scratch) – Clive Martin; Hempson Cup (handicap) – Jonathan Brock; Shaw 12 and over (scratch) – Orme Webster-Smith; Shaw 12 and over (handicap) – Robin Cullen; Storrs Salver (veterans) – Orme Webster-Smith; Parry Cup (inter-house) – Abbeylands; Shaw and Stables (foursomes) – Howard Gill and Martin Macpherson; Howell Williams Salver (combined rounds) – Howard Gill.

At the AGM Martin Macpherson was elected Captain, with Ian Rosser and Gavin Webb-Wilson as Vice-Captains. Robin Cullen, the retiring Captain, concluded the

meeting by thanking all those who had helped the Society in the past year, and paid a warm tribute to the match and meeting managers.

Matches v Clubs and other societies: Played 27.

Won: 13 v Marlborough, Woodbridge GC, Woking GC, Canford, Cheltenham, Malvern, Downside, Charterhouse, Cambridge University Stymies, Wrotham Heath, Blundell's, Highgate, Marlborough.

Halved: 7 v Sherborne GC, Lancing, Tonbridge, Aldenham, Radley, Royal Cinque Ports GC, Tonbridge.

Lost: 7 v Saunton GC, Rye GC, Aldeburgh GC, Thorpeness GC, Loretto, The School, West Sussex GC.

Grafton Morrish 2001

The qualifying round of scratch Stableford at Royal Ashdown on May 20th did not go as planned, and we failed by four points to get to the matchplay finals in October. The flooding and foot-and-mouth had curtailed early season practice so we were all slightly rustier than in previous years. The greens were very tricky, being slow and bumpy, but it was the same for everyone else. Our side was Hugo Ambrose and Stuart Gillett; Nick Aubin and James Chappell; Philip Brown and Clive Martin.

Mellin Salver 2001

Thursday July 12th was qualifying day for the Seniors and for the first time ever we qualified for the match play sections of both the Peter Burles Trophy (over 65s) and the Bunny Millard Salver (over 75s). The Brayne brothers – holders of the Bunny Millard Salver – qualified comfortably, whilst Peter Southcombe and Richard Draper had an excellent round to qualify second with 28 points in the over 65s competition.

So all three teams were in action on Friday. The Mellin team were out before the Seniors and, as last year, we played Loretto in the first round. The top pair (John Youngman and Mark Cannon Brookes) romped away and went on to finish their match at the hut with a splendid 7 and 6 victory. The second pair (Martin Ireland and Simon Brown) were down at the hut and eventually lost a good match by 3 and 2, but the third pair (Mike Falconer and Gavin Webb-Wilson) finished strongly to win by 3 and 2. And so we were through to meet Bradfield in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Seniors were battling on and Southcombe and Draper had a great fight with old rivals Downside before squaring the match on the 18th. Regrettably,

disaster struck on the 19th in the form of the ditch, so Downside won the match and went on to beat Oundle in the final.

Thomas and Richard Brayne played steadily enough against Shrewsbury winning their match on the last hole and qualified for the final for the second year running.

In the afternoon the Mellin team came up against some good golf from Bradfield and the second and third pairs were soon in difficulty. Eventually Brown and Ireland lost by 4 and 3 and Falconer and Webb-Wilson by 6 and 5, at which point the top pair agreed a half being all square with two to play, and with the overall match being lost.

And so, after such early promise, we had only the Brayne brothers to fly the flag on Saturday. They did not let us down, and after playing, by their standards, rather poorly at the start of their round, they finished strongly by winning several holes on the trot around the hut to win splendidly against Aldenham by 4 and 3 and retain the Bunny Millard Salver for Sherborne. They are on a three-line whip to go for the hat-trick next year!

Brent Knoll Bowl 2001

Having been postponed in March because the course was flooded, we assembled at Burnham and Berrow on a cold and windy Saturday in August. Our golf was disappointing, losing to Blundell's in the first round in the morning and to Lloyds Bank in the plate after lunch.

Family Day 2001

This was held at Woking on November 18th. Angus and Gavin Prentice won the Peter Currie Cup, with Simon and Philip Brown the runners-up.

Brent Knoll Bowl 2002

The Brent Knoll produced an exciting and enjoyable weekend, helped by wonderful weather for five rounds of golf, which is very unusual for Burnham.

A steady 3-0 win against Cranleigh on Saturday morning put us into the vital Saturday afternoon round, which has to be won to continue on Sunday. Playing against Lloyds Bank, who beat us last year, was always going to be a tough match, and so it proved. Rhys Francis had stated at lunch that he wanted to watch the second half of the England rugby match against Wales. He went out to a storming 7 and 6 victory and was soon back in the clubhouse to support England's similarly large victory. The rest of the match was not so comfortable. John Youngman and Hugo Ambrose had an off afternoon, which left Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin struggling at the back with some indifferent golf from both sides. Neither seemed to

want to win, with holes being thrown away at the 14th and 17th leaving the game to go down the 19th. Fortunately the opposition missed the green and a steady four secured victory.

Another early start on Sunday morning was against the canny locals, the Buckthorns, which we won 2-1 to take us in to the final against arch rivals and regular winners, Epsom. A tough battle ensued, and this time the heat went to the top match, the second having won and the third lost. Francis and Clive Martin took the game to the last hole against the formidable Shindler and Collier partnership, but lost one down.

Despite losing the final this was an excellent result against the best team in the competition, and continued satisfaction of getting to one of the finals yet again. Soon our victory will come. The results v Cranleigh, Lloyds Bank, Buckthorns and Epsom were:

Rhys Francis and Clive Martin: won 2 up, won 7 & 6, won 3 & 2, lost 1 down;

John Youngman and Hugo Ambrose: won 1 up, lost 7 & 6, lost 1 down, lost 4 & 3;

Nigel Whalley and Nick Aubin: won 3 & 2, won at 19th, won 3 & 2, won 3 & 2.

Halford Hewitt 2002

With the trial completed, and a good run in the Brent Knoll in March already under our belts, the team arrived in Sandwich for the Halford Hewitt Cup in the usual good spirits. Winchester had been drawn as our first round opponents – they are ranked 14th in the Anderson Scale compared to our ranking of 38th. The 10 year scale (which is more representative) showed that the two teams have very similar records and suggested a close match. The team consisting of Francis and Gillett, Nevill and Brown, Youngman and Ambrose, Peter and Clive Martin and Aubin and Whalley was the same that made good progress in 2000.

Conditions on Thursday were excellent; it was sunny but with a chilly north-east breeze. Also our match started the competition at Sandwich thereby guaranteeing us matchplay golf at the right pace. Francis and Gillett enjoyed this and swiftly went three up after four holes, completing the outward nine two over par and one up. They increased their lead to two but then lost the par five 14th to an eagle three and the 15th to par to go all square. They recovered to win the 17th with a four, and then the 18th comfortably to give us one point and the initial momentum.

Some way behind them Brown and Nevill were standing on the 17th tee dormie two down, but won the hole to take their game down the 18th. This hole was halved and so the overall match was square.

Ambrose and Youngman who, after losing the 1st to a five, played well and eventually went one up on the 9th with a birdie three. The match remained tight although the putting form so evident on the front nine deserted both pairs. We

eventually went one up winning the 16th with a four but then promptly gave Winchester the 17th after a hooked drive from Ambrose initiated the cardinal sin of losing to a five. Two good drives down the 18th left awkward approach shots to a difficult pin position, neither of which hit the green. Winchester's third shot left them a 25 foot putt for a four while Youngman's third shot, an approach putt from short of the green, was excellent and left (after Winchester had missed their four) Ambrose an eight footer for their game and the overall match (the Martins having secured a solid win on the 17th green to provide our second point). The putt shaved the hole but stayed out sending them down the 19th.

Ambrose hit a good drive down the left edge of the 19th after Winchester, who had the honour, had found the right rough. A good lie allowed them to go for the green instead of playing short – their shot finishing pin high right of the green. Youngman's approach stayed left leaving us equidistant from the hole but with Winchester having the easier chip across flatter ground and into the wind. Both chips left putts of around 15 feet. Winchester were first to play but missed leaving their putt stone dead. Youngman's putt was positive, narrowly missing but leaving Ambrose a testing two footer. The nerves jangled and the putt was missed giving Winchester their second point.

With the final pair dormie one down, most of the assembled supporters thought we had now lost the match. The manner in which Youngman and Ambrose had lost, particularly having been one up on the 17th tee, was devastating. The relief of seeing Aubin and Whalley walking to the 19th tee, having been four down after the first five holes, and then dormie two down, was miraculous and totally elating. Having already hit the “finest shot in Hewitt golf” as quoted by Public Schools' Golfing Society Hon. Secretary, Jeremy Lowe, – describing the three wood Aubin hit to four feet at the 19th hole in the deciding match against Charterhouse in 2000 – “Nerveless Nick” Aubin and “Metronome” Whalley were coming back for more!

Off the tee neither pair hit long drives, both were short in two, both hit good approach chips to ten feet and both missed. We all troop off down the 20th and see Aubin split the fairway in prime position. Winchester's drive fails to clear the cross bunkers and they fail to get out. In the nicest possible way this was good news and when their third shot just gets out, and their fourth clears the green into thick, thick rough the news had never been better! Events suggested that even if Winchester found the ball a seven would be their best result. Whalley, hitting straight into the wind from about 150 yards went for the green to surely finish the match, but just turned the ball over leaving it pin high left in some thick rough. Aubin then played (although not many saw the backswing) and moved the ball a yard. Whalley played and moved the ball three yards. Aubin played again and cleared the green. Winchester then played an extraordinary recovery shot from the deep rough to about 15 feet. We were now “as we lie” with Aubin and Whalley facing a very hard “up and down” to probably stay in the match. Somehow Whalley recovered to play an excellent shot to two feet which Aubin holed to be down in seven, after

Winchester had missed their putt from 15 feet for the win. On then to the 21st where Whalley pushes right of the green and Winchester hook theirs well left. With the pin tucked over to the left side we definitely have the advantage, although after the last hole we're keeping quiet. Aubin then chips to 15 feet and it's Winchester's turn to hardly shift the ball. Their next comes up short as well leaving yet another chip and putt to halve the match. This failed and Aubin and Whalley had won the match.

The match encapsulated the magic of the Hewitt: brilliant golf and terrible golf, heartbreak and euphoria, intense rivalry and great friendship. A great compliment was paid to us that afternoon by a member of the Winchester team talking to a member of our next opponents, Bradfield, describing the match as "an incredibly good match against an incredibly nice side".

[For the statisticians the match took 93 holes to reach a result, just short of the record 95 holes against Tonbridge in 1976. In that epic encounter two matches went to the 18th, two to the 19th and the decider was lost on the 21st. Rhys Francis, Nigel Whalley and John Youngman played in the 1976 side.]

Shattered but happy, we looked forward to our next round against Bradfield, last year's beaten finalists who we had also beaten in the 2000 competition. We knew they were a good side, and had been further strengthened by some new young blood.

In similar conditions to the previous day, Francis and Gillett led the way only to be two down after three. They reached the turn in level par and all square. On the 10th Bradfield went one up against the run of play after chipping in from off the green, an advantage they held on to in an even match until they birdied the 15th and 16th to win 3 and 2.

Behind them Youngman and Ambrose started badly playing against good opposition and were defeated in embarrassing style, losing on the 11th green having made only two pars – that the opposition birdied both these holes neatly summed up their day. This win undoubtedly gave Bradfield impetus. At the turn all the other matches were even excepting the Martins who were two down. However, there was a marked shift in the balance of power as Bradfield scented victory and continued to play to par or better. By the time the remaining pairs reached the hut at the 12th all were losing ground.

The Martins reached the hut four down with Bradfield still level par and, being unable to stage a comeback, ran out of holes eventually losing 4 and 3 to give Bradfield the overall match. Brown and Nevill, moved in the order to give them a re-run of their close match with Ted Garrett two years previously, played well in a tight contest but two down on the 17th tee, and with the match lost, were

generously given a half. Meanwhile, Aubin and Whalley had been unable to reproduce the magic of the previous day and went down by 3 and 2.

We had really wanted to beat Bradfield and the defeat was deflating but they, by their own admission, had respected us as opposition and played at their best against us. Meanwhile we will look forward to next year but must start preparing now. The report would not be complete without a final thank you to our seemingly ever growing band of loyal supporters. After the Winchester match it was hard to see who was more stressed!

The results v Winchester and Bradfield were:

Rhys Francis and Stuart Gillett: won 1 up, lost 3 & 2;

Chris Nevill and Philip Brown: lost 1 down, halved (3rd pair);

John Youngman and Hugo Ambrose: lost at 19th, lost 8 & 7 (2nd pair);

Clive Martin and Peter Martin; won 2 & 1, lost 4 & 3.

Nick Aubin and Nigel Whalley: won at 21st, lost 3 & 2.

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

OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY 2001–02

It was a truncated year for the Society, principally because of that well-known maritime disease, foot-and-mouth. A number of racing events fell by the wayside because of the restrictions put in place by the Government to combat the problem, much to the frustration of all concerned.

One event, social rather than competitive, that did go ahead was the St Vaast Rally over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May, with five yachts making the journey across the Channel to Normandy. Later in the year, when foot-and-mouth had been (apparently) solved, the usual pub meet at the Southampton Boat Show took place and the Arrow Trophy was staged, with the Society finishing second in the Fleet race. Even the Boys Weekend in late September had to be curtailed, although this time because of the more traditional trouble of blustery conditions rather than meddling politicians.

More success was entertained by one of the OSSS's finest products, Stuart Jardine. With brother Adrian he came second in the European Championships, and then won the National Championships, the Welsh Championships, and the Southern Area Championships. It was arguably his most successful sailing season.

New members with any interest in sailing are always welcome to the Society and its events, whether afloat or ashore: it arranges cruising, racing and social events throughout the year. Any OS interested in joining should contact Nick Ware.

SCHOOL CRICKET 2001

“A sportsman is a man who does not boast; nor quit; nor make excuses when he fails. He is a cheerful loser, and a quiet winner. He plays fair and as well as he can. He enjoys the pleasure of risk. He gives his opponent the benefit of the doubt and he values the game itself more highly than the result.” *Anon.*

“Just as businessmen get ulcers through business, so sportsmen must expect to suffer the strain of their work in sport.” *Ken Barrington*

If the 2001 cricket season is judged by these criteria then it can be considered a success. It may well have produced a few ulcers and it has certainly created a deal of stress. I speak from personal experience. I am aware that the issue of sport at Sherborne is being discussed widely. Here I simply raise a few questions and suggest some answers.

The standard of cricket at the schools we play has changed considerably over recent years. There was a time when we were the biggest school in this area and automatically attracted the most talented boys. The former is still the case (but not by as much); the latter is certainly not the case.

On the cricket field this season, playing against King's, Taunton and Millfield was like playing against a Test team, whereas playing against King's, Bruton was akin to playing the Junior Colts B team.

One Colts player was chosen for the 1st XI. He is a competitive and talented young man but had not produced outstanding performances in the junior school. His left arm unorthodox spin bowling suggested that he was an exciting prospect rather than the finished article. The most talented cricketer of the Colts was injured throughout the term. There was very little obvious talent, as opposed to rather enthusiasm and commitment, for the game in the Lower Sixth year. Hence the bulk of the XI was chosen from the Upper Sixth. This particular year had enjoyed some success on the cricket field at junior level but were not considered a strong year.

And here I pose my first questions. Do we categorise too early? Do we make assumptions on individuals and year groups before most have had time to develop? Do we, as teachers and coaches, give up too soon on raw material? Do we only expect to work with the most talented boys on the games field? Are we living in the past? When Sherborne was a larger school in terms of numbers and with some boys staying on for an extra term after their Upper Sixth year and we were recruiting the most talented boys in the area, successful teams were almost inevitable. Maybe some reputations as games coaches were enhanced. A good coach/teacher gets the best out of the ability available. This applies as much to the classroom as the games field. Do we always appreciate/recognise this? I have always said that the C team boy in the Mini-Colts who progresses to play 1st XI cricket is a success story and

reflects well on the system. Perhaps we should be satisfied that this is not uncommon in most major games in the School.

The Duke of Edinburgh once said: “We take sport much too seriously and for all the wrong reasons”. What is our objective at Sherborne? Is it simply to produce a talented 1st XI (which, one hopes, is successful) and allow the game to suffer in the lower reaches? Or is it to provide an opportunity for all to experience the benefits of team games and endeavour as individuals towards the common goal?

“Some local education authorities actually think competitive sport is bad for children. They’d be telling us next that water doesn’t suit goldfish.” I think all would agree that we stand for excellence. But do we offer excellent opportunities for all the boys? Only two boys in the 1st XI this year claimed to have had individual tuition at batting before the season. Cricket is a game where individual coaching is essential. As the England one-day side have discovered, there is no substitute for genuine class but there are techniques that should be learnt at county level. These skills should more readily be transferred to the international stage. Likewise basic techniques should be taught lower down the School, and cricket at senior levels should be an opportunity to hone those skills and gain experience.

We lack facilities to coach or practise during the winter months. There is too great a demand on the indoor facilities for it to be easily possible to organise cricket coaching sessions, and those staff able to help are already committed to other sports. We lose out to other schools who run regular indoor sessions, but it is difficult to quantify the effect this has on performances in the summer. A suggestion that an indoor cricket area could be incorporated into the refurbishment of the Upper Pavilion immediately evaporated because of lack of funds.

Should we offer incentives for talented games players to choose Sherborne? But at which particular sport? It is interesting to note that one of the very few games won by both the hockey and rugby teams was against King’s, Taunton. At cricket they were in a different class from us, largely as a result of the performances of two players – one who already has a contract at Somerset CCC and another who left at half-term to join the MCC Young Professionals. Conversely, we were beaten by King’s, Bruton at rugby (by over 30 points) and at hockey and yet they struggled to compete with us on the cricket field.

School cricket is competitive and, judging by the behaviour of some individuals at the cricket festival (from members of the opposition teams, I may add), some might say it is too competitive. All school matches at the festival were played as timed games. During the term we play matches on a limited overs basis. Arguably against much stronger opposition, we drew two of the three games at the festival but lost to weaker schools in the traditional term time fixtures. This is reflected in the results where there are fewer drawn games than in the past.

Maybe we must acknowledge, "Sport has long since passed the stage when it was only a pastime".

I record my sincere thanks to all those who have helped with cricket this term. I hope that I have conveyed my gratitude in a personal way. A sportsman "enjoys the pleasure of risk". Most of this term was either lived in the fast lane or tottering on a knife's edge.

Mike Nurton

Results: Played 15, Won 4, Lost 8, Drawn 3.

April 21st	Sherborne 126; Sherborne Town 127-6.	Lost by 4 wickets.
May 5th	Sherborne 152-6; Canford 142.	Won by 10 runs.
May 6th	Sherborne 192-7 dec; Free Foresters 193-4.	Lost by 6 wickets.
May 8th	King's, Bruton 65; Sherborne 66-0.	Won by 10 wickets.
May 12th	King's, Taunton 203-4; Sherborne 70.	Lost by 133 runs.
May 19th	Sherborne 184-7 (W P Fegen 72*); Pilgrims 185-5.	Lost by 5 wickets.
June 2nd	Clifton 245-3; Sherborne 244-7 (W P Fegen 56).	Lost by 1 run.
June 9th	Sherborne 68; Millfield 70-1.	Lost by 9 wickets.
June 16th	Sherborne 24; Taunton 26-2.	Lost by 8 wickets.
June 23rd	Sherborne 148; Blundell's 59.	Won by 89 runs.
June 27th	MCC 177-9 dec; Sherborne 178-9 (P F C Langly-Smith 86).	Won by 1 wicket.
June 30th	Pilgrims 187-6 dec; Sherborne 181-8.	Match drawn.
July 2nd	Haileybury 260-5 dec; Sherborne 113.	Lost by 147 runs.
July 3rd	Sherborne 204-7 dec; Marlborough 184-6.	Match drawn.
July 4th	Cheltenham 189-9 dec; Sherborne 123-7.	Match drawn.

TOUR TO DELHI

“A person who does not travel is like a man who reads only one page of a book.”
St Augustine of Hippo

The cricket tour to India in December 2001 was primarily to afford boys the opportunity to improve their skills at the game and gain experience in preparation for the 2002 season. If judged only by those criteria, it was a resounding success. It also provided many other sources of knowledge which will remain with us all for the rest of our lives.

The tour was organised with the help of Mr Vijay Singh, whose son, Varun, is presently in the Lower Sixth and more keen on cricket than on academic work. Mr Singh senior is a consultant in a Cardiff hospital, having previously worked as a GP in Delhi.

Accommodation was arranged in a comfortable government hotel conveniently situated close to the centre of Delhi. It was a short bus ride to the schools that we played and should have been an even shorter ride by motorised rickshaw to the city centre. However, all rickshaw drivers insist on taking you to an emporium (despite your loudest protestations). This is a very cheap form of transport but not necessarily the safest.

“It is important to understand that in The Third World most driving is done with the horn, or ‘Egyptian Brake Pedal’, as it is known. There is a precise and complicated etiquette of horn use. Honk your horn only under the following circumstances: when anything blocks the road; when anything doesn’t; when anything might; at red lights; at green lights; and at all other times.”
P J O’Rourke: Holidays in Hell.

The boys were well prepared for their trip to India. Graeme Hick spent some time on his recent visit to the School to talk about playing conditions in the country, and Paul Carling (a former housemaster of Westcott and a headmaster in Assam for five years) spoke about the culture and traditions of the country.

However, we were still surprised by the enthusiasm for cricket and the high standard of all the teams we played against. We struggled to compete against teams of boys equivalent to our own age group and enjoyed our best performances against younger age groups. Valuable lessons were learned in every department of the game and quickly, too. Why was this? There are several obvious reasons. The boys in India play a lot more cricket from a much younger age. There are a number of academies and boys from the age of ten will have the opportunity to practise and be coached for two and a half hours every day, on six days each week for nine months of the year!

These boys also play club cricket from a very early age. Most boys of fifteen and sixteen, and some even younger, were playing club cricket every weekend with men who had played representative cricket and in some cases Test cricket. The Indian boys' sporting idols are their national cricketers. Do you know very few of them had heard of Tony Adams or Arsenal Football Club?

The weather is of course conducive to playing cricket. How much better to play in warm conditions under clear blue skies and knowing that it is not going to rain? The weather also contributes to the preparation of wickets. All games are played on a cricket "square" of which there is space for only two actual wickets. These are generally even paced with consistent bounce and rarely deteriorate. A genuine spinner of the ball will extract turn but the ball "comes on to the bat" and attacking strokes can be played with confidence.

Indian boys do play with confidence. They approach an innings expecting to hit the ball to the boundary whereas our boys are more concerned with not getting out. The most successful boys in the Sherborne side were those who were prepared to play shots and those bowlers who bowled an attacking line and length.

We did perform well in the field and were given plenty of practice at it. We also improved our running between wickets. Both those components of the game we would consider to be our strengths and why we would expect to gain some advantage if we played in this country.

The Sherborne boys learned quickly and I am confident that they will play better cricket next season as a result. With only two victories from the seven games played in Delhi they are determined to make amends in the summer. A good team spirit was forged.

It was not only the performances on the field that were important. Individuals realised the need to contribute to the team effort, even if that contribution was preventing batsmen running two when fielding at third man. Bowling straight; batting for long periods; creating partnerships; catching; and above all learning both from one's own mistakes and the mistakes of others were all lessons taken to heart.

Despite the intense programme of cricket there were opportunities for other cultural pursuits. We visited the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort; we saw a snake charmer operating; we bartered; we sampled the different foods; and we saw what it was like to be poor and disabled.

"Grant us, O Lord, that we may never forget that every man is the son of a King."

My thanks to all those who helped make this tour possible.

Mike Nurton

School Reports: **SCHOOL CRICKET FIXTURES 2002**

Thur	April 18th	St Andrew's College SA	Sat	May 18th	Pilgrims
Sat	April 20th	Sherborne Town	Sat	June 8th	Clifton
Sun	April 21st	Dorset Rangers	Sat	June 15th	Taunton
Sat	April 27th	Millfield	Sat	June 22nd	Blundell's (a)
Sat	May 4th	Canford (a)	Tues	June 25th	XL Club
Sun	May 5th	Free Foresters	Wed	June 26th	MCC
Tues	May 7th	King's, Bruton (a)	Thur	June 27th	Diocesan Coll SA
Sat	May 11th	King's, Taunton	Sat	June 29th	Pilgrims
Thur	May 16th	Bryanston			

July 7th-9th Festival with Cheltenham, Haileybury and Marlborough at Cheltenham.

SCHOOL RUGBY 2001

Results: Played 11, Won 9, Drawn 1, Lost 1.

Canford	Won	20 - 0	King's, Bruton	Won	16 - 9
Bishop Wordsworth's	Won	13 - 5	Bryanston	Won	22 - 15
Downside	Won	24 - 0	Cheltenham	Won	19 - 13
King's, Taunton	Won	43 - 0	Blundell's	Won	36 - 6
Wellington	Lost	16 - 20	King Edward's, Bath	Won	13 - 10
Clifton	Drawn	13 - 13			

Perhaps this team could be described as "bloody-minded". They showed great determination, their defence frustrated opposition teams, and they had belief in themselves. They also had a captain in Jake Britten who inspired his team in a thoughtful and detailed manner because he made sure that he knew his men, and they responded to his leadership and example.

The pack wanted to stamp their personality on the game and Lawrence Edlmann, Ollie Luard and Tom Chamberlain enjoyed making dents in the opposition defence before releasing quick ball for others to use. Lawrence was also expected to link with the backs. His skills in open play were exciting to watch. Peter Franklin controlled the base of the scrum in an impressive manner and most of the lineout ball was obtained by himself and James Hood with a variety of ploys. James also had an uncanny knack of reading the opposition's lineout plans and plundered much ball in this way. Mike Clapp was selected mainly because of his unflappable temperament, so lineout and scrummage ball were secure. The solid virtues of Charlie Brock and Chris Hart made sure that quality possession came regularly.

Of course, the attacking play of the backs depended upon timing and the ability and confidence of each man to beat his opposite number and maybe more. In this

way, the School certainly had several “cutting edges” and it must have been difficult for opposition teams to contain a group of backs with so many options. Ross Angell became a most elusive runner and a good all-round full back. The wings complemented each other, James Mieville had tremendous speed and Tom Bishop used tricky footwork to beat men. Tom’s upbringing as a flanker made sure that he was not found wanting in defence or in loose play. Henry Hunt had the ability to glide in attack because he had the pace. Jake Britten came out strongly as a tactician, runner and defender in that demanding position of inside centre. He was most influential in a position where there is always “heavy traffic”.

For the half backs it was a very steep learning curve. Tom Cracknell at fly half had never been found wanting in courage or in physical terms, but we did not want him in that role. He was more use as a distributor, tactical kicker and controller of the game, a tall order for someone who had only played half a season for the Colts the previous year. Tom adjusted very well and learnt quickly. His place-kicking often ensured reward for territorial advantage and pressure; most of these kicks were crucial. Will Dawson was always under pressure at scrum-half with instant decisions to make, plus the job of exhorting the pack in front of him, most of them senior to him. He matured well as the season went on and learnt the meaning of the word teamwork.

Pre-season training in Cornwall, with a practice match against a most mature Redruth squad, showed the coaches how committed these boys were, and with more preparation a couple of days before term started, with another practice match against Brighton College, the team felt confident to take on Canford in the first school match. Canford were confident of winning this first match. They were also playing on their own patch. They had had a most successful pre-season tour and felt, not without reason, that they had a good team. The School did not try anything in this game. They were much too tense and were stripped of much ball in the pack. In the second half, the School was defending a 6-0 lead against the wind. The defence was outstanding; Canford became frustrated and then over-elaborated. The School profited from a lot of spilt ball and countered to score two tries and take the game out of reach.

As the School has come to expect, Bishop Wordsworth’s were a difficult nut to crack. Their pack were formidable and the School had difficulty obtaining possession. Inaccurate throwing-in to the lineout, and an inability to drive in rucks starved the backs of the ball and they, in turn, became indecisive. It was a poor game.

There was much to be done before the Downside game, never easy on their ground. On a very hot day, the School got into their rhythm right away. Quick ball from the rucks was used in a most positive way by the backs and although chances were lost in the first half, the School pounded the Downside line right from the start of the second half. It took 20 minutes of this half for Downside to get into the

game, but the School were determined that they would not score. After keeping them out for ten minutes, the School came back yet again to score a final try.

King's, Taunton came with the plan of stopping Sherborne attack. Their team had struggled so far, but their defence was stubborn and well-organised. There was no score after twenty minutes. The presenting of the ball when tackled and the number of boys who were able to spin out of tackles was a feature of the game, and eventually seven tries were scored by the School.

In a pacy and physical game against Wellington, it looked as if the score in the first half would be 3-0 to Wellington, with the School having played into a stiff breeze, but two soft tries just before half-time meant that there was a lot of catching up to do even though the wind would be in the School's favour. A try to Wellington immediately after half-time made the task even harder. However, there was then a great revival, and the School narrowed the gap to four points showing that they could live with the best. The comeback came too late, but the players realised that their rugby was of a high standard, and they now believed in themselves. To travel to play against a good Clifton team would certainly test their belief in themselves especially after the emotions of the Wellington game. Play was much too loose in the first half, but the School tightened up in the second half. They were playing uphill, and only a series of delaying tactics and spoiling stopped the School from winning. A dominant pack made sure that the School came away with a draw.

King's, Bruton raised their game in good local derby style, and came at the School from the first minute, quickly gaining a 6-0 lead. Handling let the School down in the first half, however they kept their composure up the slope in the second half and scored from a slick set scrum move to win the game. The Bryanston game saw an excellent first half of good individual running and great defence and 22 points were scored by the School without reply. A frustrating second half with possession thrown away on many occasions allowed Bryanston back into the game and again sound defence was required by the School to hang on to their lead. The same pattern emerged against Cheltenham, with so much possession spilt on contact. Losing the captain after 20 minutes disrupted the rhythm but again defence made sure that there was a victory for the School.

At last, the School showed its full potential in the Blundell's match. There was a tremendous balance of attack through forwards and backs on a very heavy surface. Good decision-making with excellent continuity made this a satisfying performance. So the season would end on the last Saturday morning of term before the Carol Service. This was the time when the School usually play a touring team from abroad, but it was not possible this season. We were grateful that King Edward's School, Bath were willing to play us. The School met a most determined and well-drilled side, but won a hard-fought game to end with an impressive playing record.

During the season, the 1st XV were kept on their toes throughout each week because of the quality of an unbeaten 2nd XV. Most of this team would not have been found wanting if they had had to play in the 1st XV. In fact, seven of them did play in the 1st XV at some stage during the season. They were expertly run by Mike Nurton and joint training sessions and conditioned games were purposeful and testing. Of course, preparation was always going to be detailed with David Scott on the coaching staff, and he thoroughly enjoyed his season, and so did the players enjoy his presence.

As usual, Jegg Francis and his groundsmen, and the catering staff made sure that each home match was a great occasion. The 1st XV was well supported by the School who witnessed exciting matches played by skilful players.

Mike Davis

SCHOOL RUGBY FIXTURES 2002

Sat	Sept 7th	Canford	Sat	Oct 19th	King's, Bruton
Sat	Sept 14th	Bishop Wordsworth's (a)	Sat	Nov 9th	Bryanston (a)
Thur	Sept 19th	Downside (tbc)	Sat	Nov 16th	Cheltenham (a)
Sat	Sept 28th	King's, Taunton (a)	Sat	Nov 30th	Blundell's
Sat	Oct 5th	Wellington (a)	Sat	Dec 7th	King Edward's, Bath
Sat	Oct 12th	Clifton	Sat	Dec 14th	Toowoomba GS

SCHOOL HOCKEY 2002

Results: Played 15, Won 5, Lost 5, Drawn 5.

King's, Bruton	Won	3-2	Wellington	Drawn	2-2
Occidentals	Drawn	2-2	King's, Taunton	Lost	1-3
Yeovil & Sherborne	Lost	2-3	Canford	Lost	2-6
Dean Close	Won	3-2	Millfield	Lost	1-4
Taunton	Drawn	2-2	Wells Cathedral	Won	3-0
Bryanston (County Cup)	Won	4-3	Pilgrims	Won	3-2
Canford (County Cup)	Lost	1-3	Hilton College SA	Drawn	2-2
Bryanston	Drawn	2-2			

Hockey at Sherborne is on the up. Last year's report suggested that a corner had been turned: results were an improvement on the year before; Rob Hill had proved a great success in his first year coaching; and the tour to Barbados had provided the icing on the cake.

The preparation for this season had begun before Christmas with a number of initiatives designed to expose as many of the squad as possible to hockey before

January. So often it takes the boys a few weeks to remember how to play the game and with such a short run-in after New Year, and in such an intense term, this preparation was seen as crucial. In this respect the indoor programme was a great success with Jeremy Wadham taking weekly training sessions at the Gryphon School alongside Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club, who are in the top indoor league in the country – a great experience for the boys. This culminated in an indoor tournament at Canford on the Sunday after the Michaelmas term. It proved to be a steep learning curve against the likes of our hosts and Millfield, the two schools who would continue to be the bane of our lives the following term, and who unquestionably set the benchmark of school hockey in the area.

Outdoors, three weeks of training at the Girls School also gave a few more boys the opportunity to stretch their legs and brush up their skills. Emerging from these two schemes, and coupled with the huge benefits of a few boys playing adult hockey with Yeovil & Sherborne HC before Christmas, the outlook was extremely positive, even before the annual get-together at pre-season in January. When Rob Hill and I sat down at the start of term we agreed that the main aim for this year was to get the results on the pitch. The players were in place from last year, the preparation had been good, and it would be our best opportunity for many years to produce a winning season.

And so it was that after a first week's intensive training we entered our first match against our perennial bogey-side, King's, Bruton. This year, however, we showed the extra belief and spirit to win 3-2 in the closing minutes. The end-to-end nature of the game with goals free-flowing and the crowd enthused throughout proved to be a portent of things to come. The only pity was that it also proved to be our last big home game on the Upper on a Saturday against a school side. Cancellations, exeats, midweek games and a disproportionate number of away fixtures, all conspired to deal us a rather disappointing lack of opportunities to impress and enjoy playing in front of our own crowd.

The next two fixtures were against men's sides, both skilful and certainly more aware of how to play a style of hockey that would suit their strengths and minimise their weaknesses – ie experience in abundance. These are extremely valuable games for the boys and they learn a lot from them. To emerge with a 2-2 draw against the Occidentals, who won 11-0 two years ago, and a very close loss, 2-3, against a Yeovil & Sherborne side preparing for the restart of the league campaign, was very encouraging indeed.

These results set us up for what was unquestionably our best result of the season, a 3-2 win against Dean Close. They were a very talented and skilful side but the belief that was beginning to develop within the squad saw us emerge as deserving victors in a tight battle. Two goals in the space of three minutes at the start of the second half just blew them away and set up yet another grandstand finish.

The Taunton game proved to be a real battle against a well-organised outfit, and a draw was probably what had to be settled for on the day, although a sublime individual goal from Ross Angell was undoubtedly the highlight. As the term progressed this was one of a number of games that we drew when victories had perhaps been expected at the start of the year.

And so it was that we headed to the County Tournament in good heart. Bryanston were blown away by a Will Fegen hat-trick, although at 4-1 up we did our best to let them back into the game. The final against Canford was a game of what might have been. At 2-1 down with five minutes to go, and having sustained the pressure throughout the second half, we missed a flick. Had it gone in, who knows, but unfortunately at the death Canford broke away to score the clinching goal and so deflate what had been an excellent effort.

Bryanston reappeared the next week determined for revenge and gained a 2-2 draw, but the manner of their last goal a minute from time left a bitter taste and is perhaps best chalked-up to the vagaries of sport and officials.

All of which meant that the last game before half-term was well set-up: the clash of Wellington away. This was never going to be an easy game and if you had said at the start of the season that we would “earn a point” away at Wellington I might have been tempted to take it, and with the excellence of Alec Bartlett’s solo goal there was certainly a lot of credit to be gained from this battling team performance.

And then came half-term.

This was undoubtedly the turning point of the season and marked a distinct change in the character of events. Before half-term, the intensity had been high, the minds fully focused on the hockey and the bodies fit and ready to challenge for every ball. After half-term, what with house football and Cross-Country, the weekend break for half-term, sevens training increasing in its demands and the deluge of illnesses that inevitably strike at this time of year, the training and matches lost their edge. The result was a 1-3 loss to King’s, Taunton that still grates as the one result that we really should never have had. The unavailability of both the senior goalkeepers certainly didn’t help, particularly considering the outstanding season that Lawrence Edlmann had. Only a splendid goal from Alex Budge could offer any sort of comfort whatsoever.

Canford appeared in a midweek game, having cried off the Saturday before, and a very flat performance saw us lose all too easily 2-6 having never really competed as we knew we could. They looked like a side fully focused on their hockey and fresh from the competition of the divisionals the weekend before. Certainly the finishing of their top representative player was of the very highest order.

The Canford game did, however, serve a purpose in preparation for the Millfield match on the Saturday, and the difference in the performances was obvious. Having rediscovered the desire and intensity necessary to compete at the highest level, the team approached the game with far greater focus. Match fitness levels had once again been established and going 1-0 up after the first 25 minutes, hope remained eternal. However the reality is that playing two terms' hockey and with a team full of dedicated representative players, Millfield remain in a different league. It is fantastic to be pitting yourself against the very best, and very few schools now take up this challenge at any sport, so to go down to Millfield in such a manner, frustrating as it may be, demonstrates the huge strides that have been made since the drubbing two years ago.

The final weekend and run-in saw a useful Wells Cathedral side well beaten 3-0 by another Fegen hat-trick, including a stunning last goal, and the reminder of what might have been – they beat King's, Taunton! The Pilgrims were then pegged back in the second half to win a very enjoyable game 3-2, before the South African touring side of Hilton College provided another good game, and yet another draw, 2-2. To hear them say that we had provided their best opposition yet was a nice little fillip considering that their previous matches had been against King's, Canterbury, Tonbridge and Wellington.

The final tally of five wins, five draws and five losses is perhaps disappointing to Rob and myself given our aims at the start of the season. However, a detailed examination of what has been achieved still contains a huge amount of optimism and much that the School can be proud of. As a School we entertain a huge amount in such a short term and the demands placed on the boys is quite alarming, whether they be sporting or the proliferation of examinations. The determination, commitment and good humour with which the boys approach each and every challenge can not be faulted. Within this environment the improvement of individual and team hockey skills has been most encouraging, and in particular the scoring of 19 goals in 15 games by the captain, Will Fegen, is a truly remarkable achievement.

To this must be added the continued expertise and enthusiasm of Rob Hill's coaching, the efficient organisation, patience and vision of Jeremy Wadham as master-in-charge, and a superbly supportive band of parents. All of them have contributed towards a hugely enjoyable season. There remain many challenges ahead but with the new Astro turf due for completion by January 2003 hockey at Sherborne is still on the up.

Alistair Hatch

**THE SHERBORNE PILGRIMS COMMITTEE
2002**

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G P Gent

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

J P Hargrove

VICE-PRESIDENTS

P J Lough and D C Watney

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE

Retiring 2002	Retiring 2003	Retiring 2004	Co-opted
H C K Archer	M J Cleaver	R A Bagnall	R C A Garrett
H W M Brewer	A J Crowe	J L B Cheung	E P J F Lyons
P R D Gould	R Hands	J J Powe	J C Mason
W P Hargrove	J P Kershaw	A I H Prentice	N R H Parker
J S Harris-Bass	N G MacIver	R A B Spink	J R Tozer
T R MacIver	J D Ricketts	N J Ware	D I T Wilson
M D Nurton	B J Scott		

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FOUNDER

G M Carey

PRESIDENTS

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

TRUSTEES

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

VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

HON SECRETARIES

(and up to 1966, Hon Treasurer)

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

HON TREASURERS

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

RULES

(as approved in December 1997 and subsequently amended)

1. The Club shall be called "The Sherborne Pilgrims".
2. All OS who are members of the OS Society shall be entitled to apply for membership. Members of staff who are members of the OS Society may be invited to become an honorary member.
3. With the exception of honorary members who shall pay no subscription, all new members shall pay a life subscription which shall be determined by the Committee.
4. The objectives of the Club are to promote and encourage all forms of OS sport, and to keep members in touch with one another and with the School. It is the responsibility of any person playing for the Club in any sport to have in place adequate public liability insurance cover.
5. The Officers of the Club shall be the President, who shall hold office for three years, two Vice-Presidents, the immediate Past President, three Trustees, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.
6. The Committee shall be the Officers of the Club, two representatives from the School staff, up to 24 ordinary members, and such others as may from time to time be co-opted.
7. Ordinary members of the Committee shall retire after three years' service, but are eligible for re-election.
8. The Club bank shall be the Sherborne branch of the NatWest Bank.
9. All investments shall be held in the name of a regulated nominee company, or in the names of the Trustees.
10. The financial year-end shall be March 31st and an Annual General Meeting must be held by the end of the calendar year. An income and expenditure account, together with a balance sheet, shall be produced for approval at the AGM.
11. A Committee meeting shall be properly convened on three weeks' notice and be quorate with eight or more members present.
12. In exceptional circumstances the Committee shall have the right to refuse an application for membership.