



MAGNA MAGIC!

with thanks to our club shirt sponsors



The crickety update for the players, friends and family of Sherston Magna Cricket Club

April's work done, season underway... A busy month sees the new season commence



Jack, aged 9, celebrates with dad, Matt Goodwin after taking another senior wicket. Picture courtesy of Nick Burrige. Aably umpired by Tony Weedon, who along with John Burgess are providing superb support in regularly umpiring for the team.



Welcome to Magna Magic no3!

This, the 3rd edition, sees us celebrate an exciting and busy April that has seen Groundforce preparations at Pinkney Park where many players, friends and juniors came and restored the ground to playing order.

On the same day the Matthews very kindly entertained the club at Pinkney Park for a lovely evening of pre-season drinks, with a special appearance from the newest arrival to the club, Max Tremellen (pictured right with mum Belinda and Jo Harmer).

On that note, the club also had a fabulous wedding in April with Saturday skipper James and Jo Harmer marrying at the Holy Cross in Sherston with wedding celebrations afterwards at Westonbirt Hall. Congratulations to you both.

We've also made progress in our search for funding, unfortunately with a knock-back or two, but we're still hopeful for success and John Matthews and Caroline Dickenson continue to do a sterling job in exploring all avenues to secure the money to develop our facilities.

Our thanks go to them both for the hard work they are putting in for the future of the club.

Training has also started, for both the juniors and seniors with some very large and encouraging numbers turning up to both Monday and Tuesday sessions, despite some very chilly April evenings.

If that wasn't enough we've also repaired one the sight screens that had a warped

supporting beam, see men at work photo-evidence in this edition, and we've also just had the sit-on grass mower serviced ready for the season ahead.

If all that still wasn't enough, we've even had some cricket, with both the Saturday and Sunday teams playing some matches, and with the Saturday team kicking off the league campaign with a convincing home win versus Oaksey.

All are welcome at the ground to support the team and enjoy the spectacular surroundings.

Enjoy the edition and look out for new articles this month from Matty Goodwin who's son Jack is pictured above picking up another senior scalp in a fine individual performance against the Commoners.

Finally see page 4 for dates of a forthcoming junior coaching course

Yours in cricket.

The Magna Magic Editorial Team



Upcoming fixtures

Saturday XI away vs. Ashton Keynes May 11th 2.15pm
Sunday XI away vs. Dauntsey May 12th 2.30pm



Date for your diary - 13th May 2013

Junior BBQ next Monday evening after training -
training starts 6.15pm, food from 7.00pm





The gloves compartment...

an invitation to rant by Matty Goodwin

It was an honour of course when asked by Mr Lovell and Mr Kutchera whether I would be interested to contribute a regular column to the fantastic new Magna Magic publication. Truth be told it was probably just to avoid wasting Chris' great pun the 'The Gloves Compartment'... after all, why waste a great title just because of a lack of any actual content!

Anyway, the idea crystallized once I was told I could use the column to vent my furies at pretty much whatever I liked, and perhaps in the process really cement my reputation as the grump or 'Victor Meldrew' if you wish of SMCC. *(Editor - you know yourself so well Matty...)*

Anyone who has played with me (and sadly I must include my regular football friends in this as well) will know the honour is accurately bestowed, and who knows if this is going to be a regular escape for any particular frustrations I may have we may find I quite quickly morph in to a thoroughly pleasant, chilled and agreeable team colleague on a sunny Saturday at Pinkney Park... hmm, maybe!

To kick off, and looking forward to the year ahead and the dubious privilege of running between the wickets with Senor Lovell, I thought I would whinge about the 'Yes, No... Sorry' culture that is invading all aspects of my life and really starting to ruin it in the process.

You see, the day job is recruitment and it relies upon me selling people to other people, and it would be really straightforward if only the



commodities involved would do what they are told and go where they are supposed to.

In the last two weeks, I have had two candidates accept jobs, potentially earning me commissions in the process, only to change their mind when they realised moving jobs might actually involve moving jobs with all the anxiety that comes with that particular little patch of territory. I have had two lovely e-mails explaining the whole 'Yes, No... Sorry' process and how it all unfolded for them.

I am also dating at the moment. *(Editor - with no mention of an average I knew he was going to make something up)* To keep this first article thoroughly clean (just in case there might be demand for a second instalment) *(Editor - I doubt it!)* let's just say I seem to be attracting lovely ladies but for whom mixed messages is a martial art. I fear more Sorry's to come!

Wouldn't the world be a better place if people said what they thought and then did what they said? Thinking about it maybe my life overall is better prepared for another enjoyable year of SMCC cricket than I really realised.

After all, I can already hear the sound of our opening bowlers telling me in no uncertain terms how I needn't worry and they are going to concentrate and bowl consistently just outside off stump!

I'll believe it when I see it fellas.

Matt.

Successful GroundForce Day

On a lovely spring morning good numbers showed up to support the clubs ground-force day on 6 April. Work to prepare the covers, test the machinery, clean the pavilion, hand-roll and mark the square and roll outfield kept everyone busy. Probably the most encouraging work completed was the successful replacement of the rotten strut on one of the sightscreens. Both sightscreens are now in place and ready for the season ahead. Thanks to all who helped out. Thanks also to Paul and Caroline Jarvis who provided delicious sausage and bacon rolls.



Men at work, GroundForce day April 6th



DFP 'on his mount' at the Pinkney Park ground

Punt of the month...

So Cheltenham has come and gone and the results from our very scientific experiment in predicting winners are in.

We had hoped to show how much each tipster would have won had they had a £1 bet on each race.

The answer unfortunately is not enough to buy even a cup of warming tea, let alone the bubbles that had been hoped for! So in conclusion gambling is a mugs game, but I think we all knew that.

Apologies to readers and to DFP - he has come up with a winner - unfortunately due to technical issues we couldn't publish in time so you missed his tip for the 1000 Guineas, Sky Lantern, that duly romped home.

While we've got him in form, we are led to believe he fancies MARS for the Derby on June 1st.

As always please gamble responsibly.



Membership fees are now due, with all subscriptions to be paid at the beginning of the season.



**Fees: Playing member £50
Juniors £20
Friends £20**





It's that time of month, and it can only mean...

International Coach's Corner

Paul Jarvis, cricketing legend and Sherston Magna head coach updates you on all things cricket, and because he's from Yorkshire, sheep.

Well, Spring is sprung... the grass should be riz... but unfortunately it's been too blooming cold to grow. I took a little pitch inspection back at the beginning of the April and the ground was a bit like me - rock hard, and unpredictable. The sheep and the rain had taken their toll and apart from the piles of dung, the ground was very unforgiving and bumpy.

The good news is that ground force day was a huge success, with a healthy gathering of both young and not so young supporters helping restore the ground ready for play. The ground over the past few weeks has definitely begun to see signs of spring and is improving steadily.

Talking of sheep – spring has definitely arrived down on my farm. At the time of printing we were up to 7 little lambs all skipping around. It never fails to amaze me how resilient they are and that at only a week old they are happy as Larry lambs staying outside in the freezing weather without the need for extra jumpers, central heating and hot water bottles (unlike the wife who has gone back into hibernation).

It is with regret that I had to cancel the Easter coaching course as the state of the ground and the freezing weather meant that any

practice would not have been much fun (even with extra jumpers) and not really beneficial to the kids – the ball would've been hopping about randomly all over the place (a bit like the lambs really).

Lets hope that the weather we experienced in April is a good omen and that better things are to come, unlike last year when we had temperatures of 20 degrees in March but then the wettest summer on record!

We've now had a number of very successful training sessions and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves, having some fun whilst we're all at it. It has also been very encouraging to see so many juniors on a Monday evening.

So to all of you looking forward to playing cricket this season, from your Coach, I wish you all good luck.

But remember that luck will only be good if you practice hard and often, I believe one of the greatest golfers ever, Gary Player, once said **"the harder I practice, the luckier I get!"** So let's continue to have some high attendances at practice.



Shovel digs the dirt...

A comedy double take?

No it's not TV comedy legend Ade Edmondson, but none other than an old Sherston cricketer doing his best to dress as the perfect English gentleman.



Roll-up, Roll-up, buy your kit here! Well, have you?

Sherston Magna CC has agreed a deal with cricket specialist Globe Sports to provide you with exclusive kit for the 2013 season. Not only is there high quality playing kit including an embroidered club badge, but a range of training and leisurewear in club colours and also embroidered with the club badge.

Making it easy for you

To make the ordering system simple Globe Sports will have a dedicated SMCC web page from which you can order kit to suit your needs and size. Either click on the SMCC page at www.globesports.net or go to the link on the SMCC website.

The Sherston Magna CC page on the Globe Sports website is up and running awaiting your order, so you can start the season smartly. Order your playing kit by logging on to www.globesports.net

Deadline for orders Sunday May 26th for delivery by the weekend of 8th June



Ground improvements – an update

The club has received a small setback in its application for grants, we had hoped to receive an ECB grant for 50% of the cost of the sightscreens, but unfortunately we have been turned down on this occasion. Caroline Dickenson is actively pursuing several other funding routes and we will obviously keep you all fully updated as we get more news.

On a more positive note progress for the smile out loud book and evening of entertainment with Nick Burrige and Neil Forster are been driven ahead like a Ewen Kenny cover drive.

The club are trying to raise a fairly substantial amount of money for the new facilities so if anyone knows of any individual or company that might be forthcoming with a donation please let us know. Every penny helps!





Neil Forster - At the crease from Calcutta to Pinkey Park

Magna Magic profiles a man with a lifetime of cricketing passion.

Watching and developing Sherston's young cricketers is something that he not only enjoys, but judging from the quality of cricketers to have come through his mentoring, will testify to his obvious talent at bringing out the best in Sherston's cricketing youth. Just some of the boys to be coached and have played under Neil include; Will Matthews, Phil Milson, James Vynne, Ben Dickenson, Ben Littlejohns, Simon Hulance, Tommy and Tristan Bourne and Ewen and Barney Kenny.

Cricket is one of two passions in Neil's life, and has been with him from an early age.

Born in war time India, where his father was in the tea business in Calcutta, his first experience of the game came from a Ghurka, who, detailed as a house guard, would spend hours amusing Neil with games of cricket in the family's back yard.

This early introduction to the game from the sub-continent stuck with him and when, at the age of just 6, Neil boarded a 14th Army troop ship to head home, a healthy passion for cricket was already deeply embedded.

Despite being ill for the first year back in England he soon made the school XI and as he grew up he says he was lucky to play at Bradfield, which he describes as one of the most beautiful grounds in the country.

As a schoolboy he was also coached and mentored by David Sheppard and it is perhaps here

that he picked up some of the coaching skills that were to benefit Sherston Magna Cricket Club in later years.

The Sherston years

Looking for somewhere to put down roots he was introduced to Sherston in 1985, where he rented Home Farm for 7 to 8 months. Upon wandering around Sherston he came across the run-down 'Barn' in Swan Barton. Despite the roof not being in the best of health he bought what is now his studio and shortly after found 1, Cliff Road, a house he immediately fell in love with upon seeing the fireplace, not even being put off by the claims that no-one would ever buy the place as it was so haunted.

It was during this time that Neil received a knock at the barn door with a 'do you ever play cricket?' from Graham Robinson, and so began his involvement with Sherston cricket.

These early days began with the team begging, borrowing and finding anywhere to play, initially at Malmesbury. Warwick Jones, Tony Joliffe, Derek Bailey and Geoff Martin were early team members who played Christian Malford, Oaksey, Hawksbury Upton, Westonbirt and Westerleigh.

By this time Neil had got to know John and Matilda Matthews who offered the team a home, with a 20 year lease at Pinkney Park. The ground took two to three years in preparation, largely in removing stones, but it soon became time

for the inaugural match that was to be played against Oaksey. Despite best efforts the home side did not make a good start and were in trouble at tea, having been dismissed for not very many runs.

Neil vividly remembers the fantastic tea that was laid on, but things soon became worse when diving for a ball he broke his forearm.

Sitting in A&E late in the evening Neil was surprised and then delighted to receive a call from John to say that we had won the game! The visit to hospital also uncovered that Neil had been playing with a broken arm for 30 years!

1994 - Along came the juniors

In the summer of 1994, Neil was interested to see some boys playing at The Rec and offered them the opportunity to have a net with him. Half a dozen boys duly turned up to that first session, with a dozen boys turning up the following week. And so the junior section was born. The first fixture was arranged against Hawksbury Upton where Will Matthews was drafted into the side and promptly stole the show with a match winning performance.

Other memorable moments for Neil include meeting a 'shambolic figure' who introduced himself as Jed Pitman. Playing against Calne, Jed came in at no.3, with the stuffing coming out of his pads, not looking the smartest of

cricketers, but he quickly showed his talent, with a glorious century.

Neil also remembers playing many superb games including Nettleton, who at the time, were captained by Ian Witt, one of the friendliest but competitive fixtures in the calendar.

Neil opted to start his own team for a short while, 'The Occassionals' a fun side that retained some great fixtures. John Matthews reintegrated the team back into Sherston Magna and the Sunday side developed into its current format of playing a selection of friendly but competitive matches.

Supporting the future with 'Smile Out Loud'

Neil's other passion of course is art and this is now helping the club through a planned illustrated book in collaboration with Nick Burrige. Nick and Neil will combine photographs of the cricketing season, illustrations and poetry to raise money for the junior section of the club.

Proceeds from this venture will go towards improving the junior netting facilities at the club, a fitting dream that Neil would love to see become reality.

Junior U11 & u13's half-term coaching course dates announced - May 28th, 29th & 30th

Paul Jarvis will be running an exciting new event in May - a coaching camp from May 28th to 30th. Juniors will train with the highly qualified coach and ex-England international from 10am to 3pm each day at Pinkney Park over the three days - an experience not to be missed. The cost is £75. Spaces are strictly limited to 24 boys or girls maximum with the course designed for U11 and U13 year olds. For more info please contact Paul on paul@jarvis2.co.uk or call on 07887 486853

