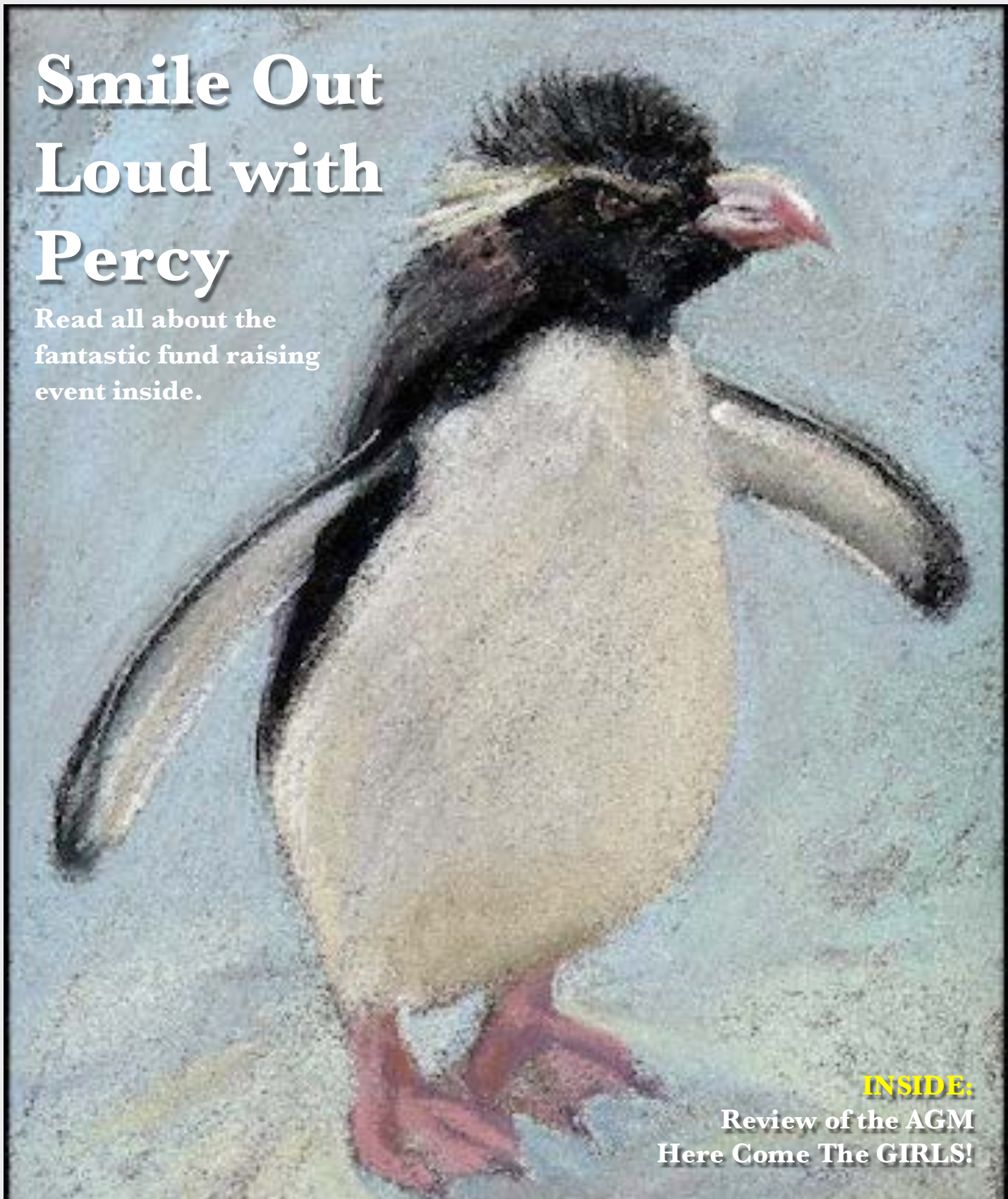


MAGNA MAGIC!

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

Smile Out Loud with Percy

Read all about the
fantastic fund raising
event inside.



INSIDE:
Review of the AGM
Here Come The GIRLS!

with thanks to our
club shirt sponsors





2014 has arrived and with it on a wet and windy Tuesday night the clubs AGM took place.

I don't intend to go through the whole meeting and I am sure if you would like a copy of the minutes they are available.

But as chairman I would like to thank Carey Smith for the hard and largely unsung work she has done for many years. I am pleased to welcome Pauline Smith who will be taking over her duties. Kev Smith has stepped down from his duties as Sunday Captain but will still be an integral part of the club.

Jon Burgess has unfortunately had to step down from the committee due work commitments, he will however continue to umpire as and when he can. I thank John for what he has done and welcome any help he might offer the club time permitting.

At the AGM the club invited Neil Forster to become its first president and also recognised the Smile Out Loud mastermind Nick Burrige by appointing him the club's first honorary life member.

Following fund raising, raiding the club's coffers and the phenomenal hard work by Caroline Dickenson on grant applications we now have a war chest of £16,000 with grant applications in for a further £9,200.

This means the club will have new practice facilities this year. This combined with the massive efforts being put into the junior section of the club will hopefully secure a sustained period of success across the whole club.

John Matthews

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Recognising Carey Smith, Caroline Dickenson; welcoming Pauline Smith and updating the club on the fantastic fund raising achieved to date.



I'm now in the privileged position of leading Sherston Magna Cricket Club for another year - and what a year it is shaping up to be.

I'd thought along with covering the key points of the AGM, for those who couldn't attend as they had such bad illnesses, were imprisoned at her majesty's pleasure or were doing vital charity work I'd give a flavour of the exciting times to come (in chronological order obviously...)

Indoor Nets have started at the Activity Zone Malmesbury on Sundays 2-3pm throughout February and March. It would be great to see you there (old or young). £3 a session.

day for the club. Please await further information on how to take part and start getting your teams together.

New subscriptions:

The following subscriptions were agreed at the AGM: -

Junior U11	£30 (no match fee)
Junior Over 11	£50 (no match fee)
Senior	£70
	(£7 match fee, concession match fee £4)
Life member	£400
Friend member	£30

These represent an increase on 2013 amounts and reflect the improvements in the level of coaching and practice facilities that members of the club will be receiving. Please see further communications over ways to pay.

CAPTAIN'S LOG

On the 4th February 2014 the day came around that every captain dreads.... AGM time!

As a mere player I remember it being a happy meeting, having access to the inner sanctum of the club and debating the future.

But as captain the AGM comes with a few potential issues: -

- Will I face the prospect of an embarrassing mutiny?

- Will I forget that there is a captain's report to deliver? (I did!)

- Will my wife forgive me for putting her through another year?

Thankfully none of the above happened (well with the exception of the report, which I blagged brilliantly!).

New practice facilities were approved at the AGM (as discussed in the Chairman's column) and hope to be in place by the start of the season. What an amazing leap forward for the club.

A new era for the Sunday side begins in April under the new management team of "DFP can play" and Simon "Whirligig" Hulance. I'd personally like to thank Mr Smith for the way he brought the juniors into the senior side of the club and hope that the new management team continues this tradition because as they say "they are the future". I look forward to some entertaining friendly cricket over the coming year.

The Saturday team are back in Division 1. After a successful season last year resulting in an immediate return to the top division of the CDCA I am looking forward to another great season this year with good availability (so holidays in March and October please gents). First league game is at home to Oakridge on 4 May.

Two junior sides will be playing competitive cricket. I wish them well under the stewardship of the Jarvis brothers ("to me to you") and look forward to welcoming some of our juniors into senior cricket in the near future.

Sherston Sixes (6th July) in its new home of the height of summer. No longer the freezing cold and dark end to this great fun

James Harmer

The following committee members were elected at the AGM: -

Chairman and Welfare Officer
John Matthews
 Secretary and Fixtures Secretary
Kevin Smith
 Minutes Secretary
Pauline Smith
 Treasurer
Caroline Dickenson
 Saturday Captain
James Harmer
 Saturday Vice Captain
Andy Pegg
 Sunday Captain
David Fitch-Peyton
 Sunday Vice Captain
Simon Hulance
 Junior Secretary
Fiona Iliffe-Moon
 Junior Coach
Paul Jarvis
 Assistant Junior Coach
Andrew Jarvis
 Publicity Officer
Chris Lovell
 Ladies representative
Caroline Scarlett
 General Members
John Weeks
James Kutchera
Mark Howell

An exciting year in store for the juniors as Sherston Magna CC looks forward to the Jarvis brothers running the junior section, and with fund raising close to reaching its target, new netting facilities are hopefully not far away.



JARVIS'S JUNIOR JOTTINGS

The lighter nights will soon be upon us and with that we can turn our thoughts to cricket.

The junior section grew in strength last year and I would like to see the same development and improvements achieved this year.

To help me I'm pleased that Andrew Jarvis, will be an able assistant. Andrew is level 2 coaching qualified and so the children of Sherston and the surrounding villages should get some high quality advice and coaching from us both this year.

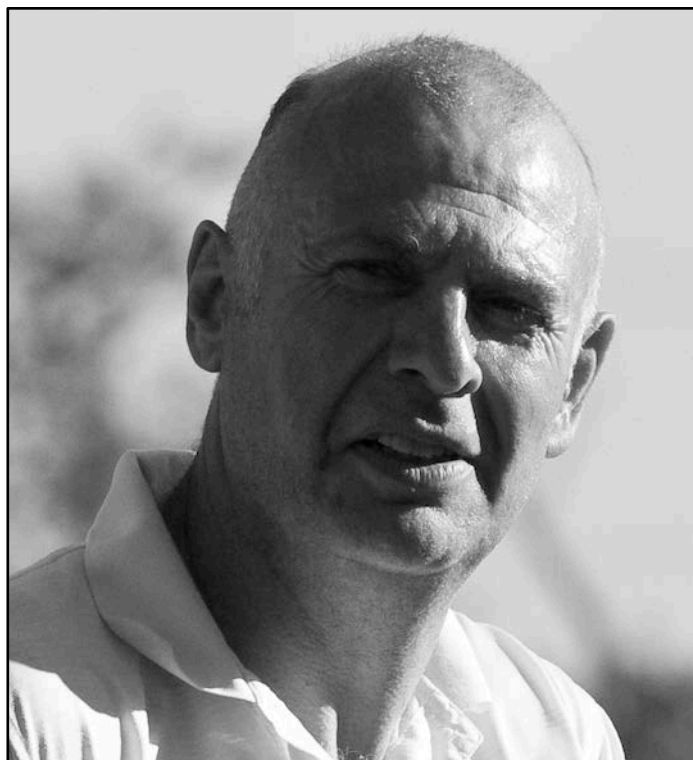
Of course help is always wanted and if any parents or senior players are able to help for just an hour or two once a week that would be a great help. If you are willing to get involved please contact us through the usual channels.

New nettings facilities should hopefully be on their way early this year and this will be a huge improvement to all, but especially the junior members who can train with consistent bounce in their developing years.

Some early season detail: There is currently indoor coaching being run by Andrew alongside the adult nets on Sundays between 2 - 3pm at the Activity Zone.

Plans are to play league cricket at under 13 and under 15s with hopefully some friendlies for the under 11s. Outdoor training likely to be on Monday's but this will be confirmed in the next issue and in junior section emails.

Paul Jarvis



HERE COME THE GIRLS!



A first and hopefully regular addition to Magna Magic, our very own ladies section

Sherston Magna CC invites you to join the ladies...

Sherston Magna CC are providing additional opportunities for Women's cricket during the 2014 season by developing the Women's and Girls section at the Club.

To get the season started our male and female coaching team will be providing some taster sessions in April (dates to be confirmed) for those wishing to participate.

These training sessions will provide something for everyone: An opportunity to have fun, get fit, meet like minded people, and learn key skills.

Following these taster sessions we will be offering regular weekly coaching throughout the season, with the aim of establishing both a Women's and Girls Youth team.

Put your name down, spread the word, and come and join-in one of the most successful, and fastest growing Women's sport in the UK.

If you would like to register your interest, or find out more about Sherston Magna Cricket Club, please contact:

sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk

or myself;

lauragladman@hotmail.co.uk

A Cricket Widow's tale!

Our first account from no-less than the Captain's wife herself - Jo Harmer.

When James said he wanted to join the cricket team in Sherston I never realised how involved it would be for either of us.

I loved the idea of him being part of a team and taking part in something so gentlemanly and perhaps naively thought a few hours a week wouldn't be that intrusive.

Five years later and James is captain of the Saturday team and last year captained and initiated a Sherston indoor team on a Sunday during the winter – and yes I still married him.

Every year I feel more surprised that nets start so early – 'Really?! Already!?' and then it begins...

The cricket bag is removed from its happy hiding place in the shed and starts its regular appearance in the middle of the kitchen floor. It usually stays here from the weekend until about Wednesday when James can be persuaded to put it away again.

I honestly still have no idea why it needs to be so big, but really don't want to look inside it!

Then, during the week, start the cricket emails, phone calls, and texts. 'What you doing?' I say and comes the regular reply of 'getting a team together – I'm a player short!'

Last year I even started to suggest players so I must be getting the hang of it now.

During summer, we see a lot more of our Sherston friends and less of our more distant friends but some will visit and watch him play, or even get roped into playing as well.

However the 'few hours' I originally expected James to spend playing is more like at least 8 hours on a Saturday and of course as captain he can't possibly not have a pint with the opposition...

It also occurs to me that just playing cricket every Saturday for the whole of summer isn't enough and in addition to the indoor league and the nets there are meetings.

I'm still not sure if 'cricket meeting' is code for 'beer at the pub' but apparently its necessary to have frequent get-togethers to discuss everything from the

general running of the club to Magna Magic. 'Again!!!' is my frequent outburst!

Cricket really does take over sometimes, like when I came off the phone, very excited, massive smile, bit emotional back in October...

Me: 'Open the wine, Anna's engaged!'

James: 'Oh that's great news, when they thinking of getting married?'

Me: 'Probably next winter... how exciting!!'

James: 'Good lass, I won't have to miss any games then'.

It makes me wonder how this can be his first, most important thought and why missing one game for my best friend's wedding day would be such a tragedy? He asks this question every time one of our friends gets engaged...

After saying all this, cricket gives us both a great sense of camaraderie.

I have met a lot of my best friends in Sherston by being involved in the cricket and it's normally an excuse for the ladies to get together on a weekend for a glass (or two) of fizz, which of course we all do begrudgingly.

The ground is beautiful and on a sunny day it's a pleasure to be there.

So although it's a massive commitment and very restrictive at times, I'm so pleased James is captain and that we do both get enjoyment from it.

However the season has not yet started and if asked in four months time my views might have changed significantly!



Showing good form - will the captain be capable of emulating his better half this season?



SMILING OUT LOUD!

A two-page special looking back at the amazing efforts of Nick Burridge, Neil Forster and their able team, in a bid to help Sherston Magna CC raise funds for junior netting facilities

What happened?

A packed village hall on the weekend of 29 and 30 November was very well entertained by Nick Burridge and Neil Forster at the Smile Out Loud book launch. For those who don't know Smile Out Loud is a book of poems and prose by Nick Burridge looking at aspects of modern life from a lighter angle. The 98-page book also contains beautiful illustrations by Neil Forster.

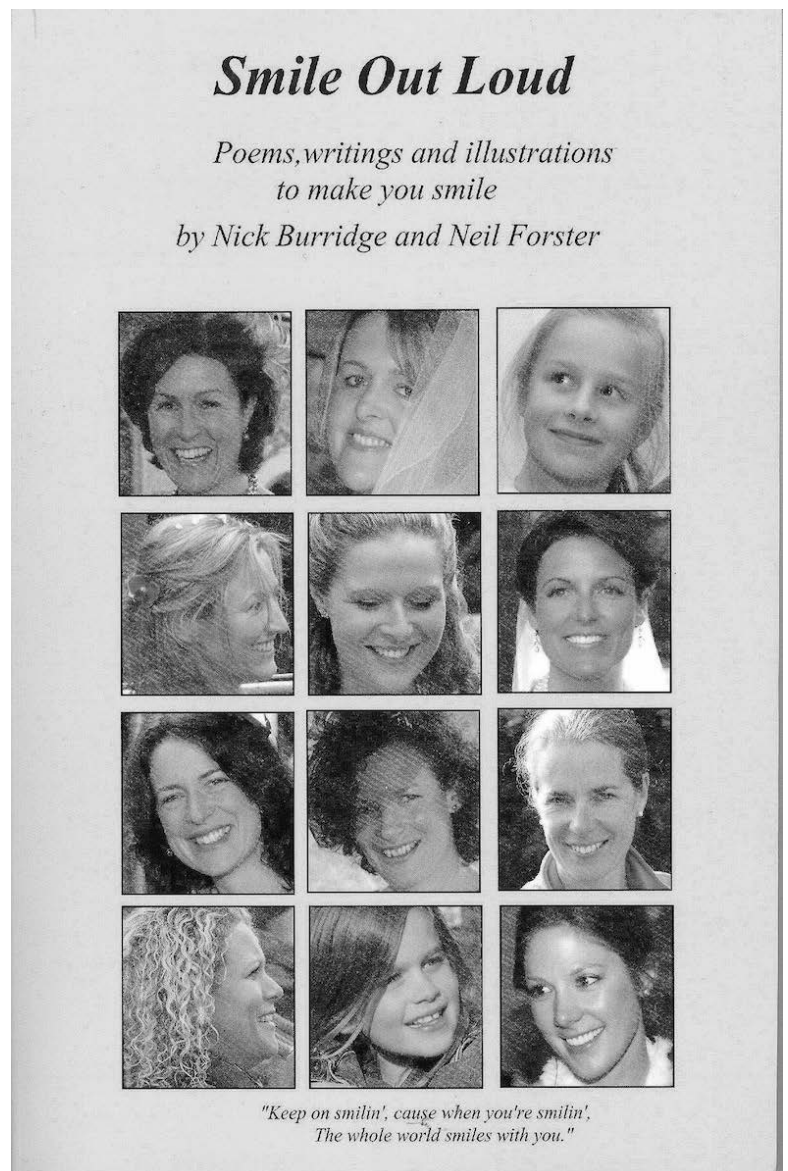
On both nights Nick read from a number of his poems including an explanation of his inspiration.

The evenings started with Nick reading his poem Dell Boy, penned after his experience when calling a computer helpline after his new computer died! This was followed by his amusing poem to D.O.R.I.S. (Digitally Operated Route Information System or SatNav) and other stories about modern life and tales from the Taj Mahal, the London Olympics, Royal Ascot and our very own Sherston!

Our club president, Neil Forster also kept the crowd enthralled with stories of his life as a foremost portrait artist.

He explained the approach he takes to capture not only the familiar physical appearance, but the personality of his subjects. He also included a moving story about his visit to see the gorillas of Rwanda in 1986.

There was always going to be an appearance by 'Dame' Kevin Smith but Kevin also performed as Arthur Shakespeare (William's lesser-known and very brummie brother), a Welsh outdoor-clothing salesman advising Ernest Shackleton, Guy Fawkes and Sherston's lesser-known 1016 hero Douglas Gee (could Nick's inspiration have been our very own Matty G?)



SMILING OUT LOUD!

A silent auction of three paintings by Neil, two fantastic commemorative collages of the London Olympics by Nick and a hand-crafted coffee table by Andrew Tremellen also added to the fundraising on the weekend. The Saturday evening included the draw for the Christmas Raffle with a first prize of a £500 hamper crammed with Christmas goodies.

How it started?

John Weeks has long been a friend of Sherston Magna and claims he can still remember the days when he played! He explained to the Sherston Cliffhanger how 'Smile Out Loud' came about.

'I thought you all might like to know how a chance remark made to Nick Burrige to record his poems that he had written and used whilst he was Chairman of Sherston Probus Club to close our monthly meetings.

These embryo remarks also resulted in Neil Foster offering his artistic skills to illustrate the book. Members of Sherston Magna got to know Nick when he starting taking many photographs of players in action which were displayed as part of the Sherston Arts Festival. It was suggested that members formed a committee to work towards using the photographs and the book to assist fund raising for new practice and training facilities in Pinkney Park.'

'The results are now history with two great evenings of entertainment.

The performances of Kevin Smith will remind many people of the evenings. Many thanks must go to Nick and Neil amply guided by the administration skills of James Kutchera, Tony Towle, John Burgess and of course the lady members of SMCC.'

After the launch

After the launch weekend, the remaining books were offered for sale at the second Sherston Market on Saturday 14 December. Thanks to James Kutchera for sitting outside and manning the stand. The colour book was on sale for £14 and a black and white version for £9 (still available from the post office). There were also audio CDs (£2) and video DVDs (£4) of the live performance – including the unforgettable performance of 'Dame' Kevin Smith.

The results so far

The two evenings have so far raised a quite remarkable £5,200 towards Sherston Magna's new practice facilities. An enormous debt of gratitude is owed by the club to Nick Burrige for writing and putting on such a great show.



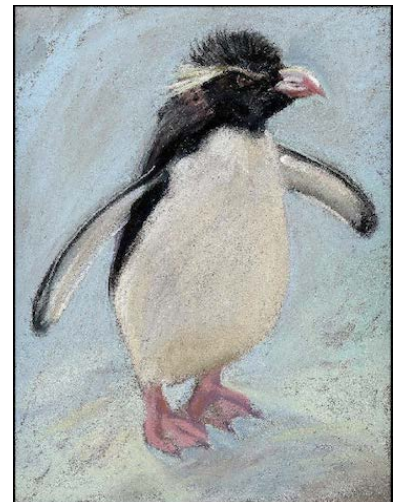
A great deal of thanks are also due Neil Forster and Kevin Smith for their part in a fantastic event.

If you missed the chance to buy 'Smile Out Loud' on the launch weekend or at the Sherston market you can register interest at

www.smileoutloud.info

or email

sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk



THE LIGHTNER

SIDE

Our man Matty in trouble? It would appear so, apparently he's struggling to find anything to moan about - it can only mean it must be the closed season.

Well, what a situation to find oneself in.. ? I have actually had to think quite hard to think of a topic demanding a full bore Goodwin-whinge.. what is the world coming to?!

It has to be the RAIN...



We all know rain is the number one enemy of all things cricket.. it prevents play, it stops play, it generally buggers up the game of cricket. Well, we have had an awful lot of it recently, as any devotee of BBC Points West will tell you.

It has ruined my garden as Sabs insists on still tearing around chasing balls or sticks, or Jack, and my lovely garden now resembles Glastonbury, after the festivities.

It keeps kyboshing (is that a real word?) Jack's football matches as the football pitch is forever under water and he is in a permanent sulk about it and with me as it is somehow my fault, and most importantly...

It has 'helped' us discover a leak in the shed roof! Anyway, all the more reason to daydream forward to a summer full of cricket.. the sound of leather on willow, Caroline laughing loudly, Harmer's latest excusing for a low score, and the Keeper shouting at anyone he can find.

Indoor Cricket

Sunday 9th February vs. Bradford-upon-Avon

Sherston batted first and made a solid start with Matt Goodwin retiring in the 4th over with 25*. Some quick-fire scoring from the next few batters, continued the good start and we ended up with an impressive score of 109-4 off 10 overs.

Unfortunately due to inconsistent bowling and good batting from Bradford, they managed to reach the total with the loss of 3 wickets in the 9th over.

The round robin matches have now been completed, so the league has been divided into two. The top four teams and the bottom four teams split in to two separate mini leagues playing each other again to decide the final positions. Sherston are unfortunately in the bottom half of the league.

Indoor Cricket Future fixtures

9th March vs Biddestone A (6:25pm start)

23rd March vs Christian Malford (5:30pm start)

Let's look forward to a summer full of enjoyable, winning cricket. We all realise this is a big year for SMCC what with our return to our rightful place in Div 1, the exciting investment in our practice facilities at the ground, and the always vital search for new players especially of the young variety.

As players we have a big responsibility this year to look after the health and success of the playing side of the club. Over the winter months we have witnessed huge efforts to fundraise for the club, and maintaining the club's central role in Sherston life. It's our turn again now. We need to turn up, turn out, play well, compete, enjoy it all, and most importantly enjoy each other's company for another season of cricket. Here's to a memorable, DRY, 2014!

Matty G

Editor's comment - interesting life you're leading Matty 'BBC Points West Devotee' - Points of View must also be a favourite?

Dates for your diaries

Indoor nets - all welcome - Sundays 2 - 3pm Activity Zone

Ground Force Day - April 5th 10.30am

Pre-season drinks - Saturday 26th April

Junior BBQ - Monday 12th May

Sherston Sixes - 6th July - watch this space!

Presentation dinner - 11th October

DFP's Tips for the Cheltenham Festival

Cheltenham Festival is upon us and DFP has gone for the following horses, and in case you needed any more help JK has offered you a few choice selections: -

Champions Hurdle –

DFP	JK	OK (lucky dip)
Hurricane Fly	The New One	Jezki

Gold Cup –

DFP	JK	OK (lucky dip)
Silvinano Conti	Captain Chris	Bog Warrior

Please gamble responsibly folks!