



SCOTT'S BABY HEARTBREAK

AS former Pirate Scott Nicholls battled to keep his Grand Prix season on course and lost his place in Britain's World Cup team last year, none of us were aware of the turmoil going on behind the scenes in the Nicholls household.

When Scott's partner Sophie Blake gave birth to their beautiful daughter, Maya, on May 4, 2007, the couple had no insight of the drama that was to follow which has led to TV presenter Sophie having SIX operations after suffering Asherman's syndrome – a hidden cause of infertility.

The long term effect is that Scott and Sophie are unable to have any more children – but what the couple have been through is a quite extraordinary story of courage in which the pair have left no stone unturned to solve a medical nightmare.

The news of their problems recently came to light in a health feature in the Daily Mirror and Scott was happy to discuss Sophie's problems.

He revealed: "I would be lying if I said the last couple of years haven't been difficult.

"But I have kept our personal problems out of the public gaze because I'm a very private person.

"However the fact Sophie wanted to make women aware of Asherman's and talked with the Daily Mirror, I am keen to help give us much projection to this problem and potentially save other couples the problems we have had.

"Our daughter Maya celebrated her third birthday eight days ago. We had a lovely party for her and she really is the apple of her dad's eye. It's an all-consuming love that both Sophie and I share with Maya. She is very precious."

Sophie explained her ordeal: "The medical term I have is Asherman's syndrome - a hidden cause of infertility. It is scar tissue of the cervix and uterus that can be caused after any form of uterine surgery, especially D&C's.

"Unfortunately mine was caused by two D&C's to remove a trapped placenta but I was never warned of the damage they could cause.

"In February 2009 - after a long battle to get answers - we were told that I

had severe scar tissue in the uterus and cervix and that, as my ovaries were fine, surrogacy was our only option.

"I had six operations to remove the scar tissue in 2009 and a failed round of IVF but unfortunately the damage was too extensive."

Scott continued: "The fact we can't give Maya a brother or sister because of the wretched problems Sophie has had is really sad and it's very aggravating that Sophie was never warned of the damage the two D&C's could cause."

"The complications and suffering Sophie has been through over three years has been extensive to say the least.

"I have so much admiration for her in the way she has never let the ongoing internal problems get her down."

And Sophie said: "I now work with the Asherman's support group helping to raise awareness.

"Scott also worked on the Asherman's stall with me at The Fertility Show in London late last year!

"If anyone has any questions in regards to Asherman's and its symptoms they can go to www.ashermans.org



Typically courageous, the SAS – Scott and Sophie – are fighting back ... and the Ipswich No 1 is now a different commodity on track.

He said: "These things have been going on in the background and I'm not going to use them as an excuse for my form.

"I have a huge amount of pride in my racing and my goals have changed from when I first started out.

"At the start of my career it was all about me and what I wanted. Now I'm there just as motivated in my racing but my priorities are for different reasons."

He is also enjoying his racing again and says he is looking forward to returning to Wimborne Road this evening where he spent two years as a popular Pirate in 1999 and 2000.

"I was part of the original Matt Ford revolution when he took over the club in 1999.

I had two great seasons here and the greatest compliment I can pay Matt and Neil (Middleditch) is that when I left at the end of 2000 I was a far better all-round rider than the one that joined at the start of '99.

"It's never an easy place returning because it's always a tough track to come to as an opponent.

"But I love the challenge. It will be great seeing old friends and sponsors here tonight. But everyone knows with me once I pull on the crash helmet, I'm dialed in and I want to win every race I'm in. I'll never change."

For Scott Nicholls and partner Sophie the last three years have been tougher than any of us could ever have imagined – hiding a tragic family secret.

The fact they want to make public their problems despite being very private people is testament to the incredible people Scott Nicholls and Sophie Blake happen to be...

But through it all, one thing's for absolute sure: Little three-year-old Maya Nicholls has two very special and brave parents.

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EXCLUSIVE

Thousands of women risk infertility every year because of a condition most people have never even heard of. Sophie Blake was diagnosed too late and now she's desperate to warn others.

By Vicki Grimshaw

No one ever warned me and now it's too late

... "I had six operations to remove the scar tissue in 2009 and a failed round of IVF but unfortunately the damage was too extensive."

The little-known syndrome that's leaving women infertile

... "I had six operations to remove the scar tissue in 2009 and a failed round of IVF but unfortunately the damage was too extensive."

... "The complications and suffering Sophie has been through over three years has been extensive to say the least."

"SOPHIE'S STORY ...
Daily Mirror, April 30"