



# The Martlet

Issue Number 13

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## **Sandy Ross - Sussex Martlet 1966 - 2009**

*On July 9th, whilst playing for The Sussex Martlets at Ditchling, Sandy Ross died on the field of play. Sandy first played for the Club as a Junior Martlet, then as a Martlet and has served the Club as Match Manager, Committee member, Chairman and Vice President. 450 friends and relations attended his Memorial Service held at St Swithun's in East Grinstead – a great testament to what he meant to so many people.*

Anyone who regularly played cricket with Sandy Ross will have a special memory not only where and when they heard the news of his death, but also of the last time they saw him.

In my case it coincides exactly with that of Andrew Short of the Jesters C.C, and another of the vast circle of Sandy's cricketing friends.

Andrew wrote, "I last saw him at the Lord's Test when his wave and cheery grin summed up his outlook precisely: 'Isn't this exciting, and isn't it fantastic that we're here to see it!'"

Since Sandy's death, tributes have appeared on the Sussex C.C.C. website. Many others have been received by the family and the addresses both at his funeral and memorial service have emphasised what a loss he is to his family, friends and cricket in general.

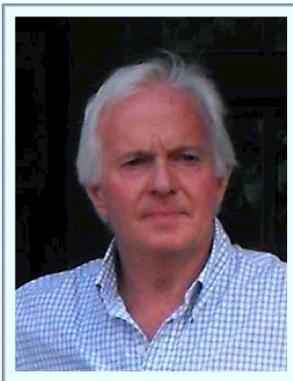
The Committee has decided to replicate our successful venture into Twenty20 cricket and at the same time to create an annual memorial to Sandy. The intention is to include some of his favourite Clubs: Free Foresters, Cryptics, Haileybury Hermits and, of course, the Martlets, competing for the Sandy Ross Cup. We are also commemorating the long link Sandy had with Caterham School by playing the Headmaster's XI at the School.

Lindsay Moody spoke for us all with these words, printed in the Service sheet for Sandy's Memorial Service:

*"Whether playing or not you knew he was around  
The unforgettable laughter rings around the ground.  
The joy he had for this wonderful game  
Cricket without you won't be the same."*

**Desmond Devitt**

## THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



The 2009 season was overshadowed by the untimely and sudden deaths of two Martlets giants within weeks of each other, John Newton and Sandy Ross. The affection both inspired was great and their passing has had a marked impact on us all. Sandy and I first met as 15 year olds netting together at Hove under the infectious

coaching of George Cox and although our working lives took us in different directions and to different countries, we came back together under Martlets colours in the mid '80s; he was a tireless chairman of the Martlets with a love for our Club that ran deep in his core and, rightly, his name, alongside that of Eddie Harrison, will go down in our history as a Martlets' icon.

John was a leading light on the committee when I joined it in the late '80s at a time when the Club was struggling. It desperately needed his business acumen and sound common sense, for he was instrumental in designing and developing the strong and vibrant Club we know today. Even after his retirement from the committee he was seen regularly patrolling the boundary at Arundel, resplendent in his Martlets blazer and, in freely offering his advice on Martlets matters, he ably demonstrated his enduring love for the Club.

Turning to the 2009 season, we "blooded" some new match managers to increase the list of those on whom we rely to take the Club into the future. We are eternally grateful to all who so selflessly and generously give their time to raising sides. Experienced managers will know only too well that it also has its frustrations and the committee is fully alert to the fact that the Club needs to do everything it can to help lighten the management load. The pre-season match managers' meeting will help I hope, but playing members, who will have heard this plea many times before, can help to make life easier by being proactive in applying for matches without waiting to be asked and by contacting match managers as early as possible.

Traditional fixtures, like the hardy perennials they are, define our core list of matches but tourists and new opponents add some spice and last year was no exception. At Arundel, we were delighted to entertain Jersey Island C.C., to whom we lost convincingly and the Bradman Foundation XI from Bowral whom, most appropriately in the Ashes summer, we beat convincingly! And what a treat it was to be part of the inaugural season at Sheffield Park playing the Armadillos for the first time. It is an historic ground, restored to its former glory by the National Trust and the Armadillos, and once the

square matures, I'm sure it will inspire great cricket once again.

The Vice Presidents' Day, which coincides with the Juniors Martlets match at Arundel, seems to become more popular year by year and it is wonderful to see so many old friends including our hugely supportive Patron, Lady Mary Mumford, at our spiritual home.

Looking forward to the coming season, we have the pleasure of welcoming the New Zealand Warriors to Arundel and I'm sure Mark Semmence will be putting a particularly strong side together for that fixture! I mentioned last year that we were hoping to start a ladies section and we're delighted that Colin Oliver-Redgate has kindly agreed to manage this. It will start modestly with one ladies fixture and up to four fixtures for girls at U17 level, in co-operation with the Sussex Women's Cricket Association. It is an exciting and innovative prospect for the 2010 season.

Looking for a moment at the broader picture, it is perhaps worth commenting that wandering cricket faces enormous challenges in this era and as a Club we need to face up to them square on. Increasingly I hear of clubs of our ilk who are finding it a problem to put sides out. If our main competitor is league cricket, we can offer an alternative that fits very nicely into the modern pressured lifestyle. We offer a style of cricket that is both competitive and fun (many report that the latter quality is diminishing in the leagues). Matches take place mostly within our county boundaries and travel is not therefore a major obstacle, a problem that many of our fellow wandering clubs face. Our differences are our strengths. But how do we get our message across to others? Although from the inside we know this is not the case, there is still a perception that the Martlets is the exclusive domain of archetypal "jazz-hatters". This has to change and it is up to all of us to promote a modern, inclusive image to the schools and clubs we play. Some may be concerned that this open approach will diminish our playing ethos, but good match management and firm membership selection will continue to minimise this risk. We have joined the Sussex Cricket Forum, a focus for the game in the County, which brings all levels and styles of the cricketing fraternity together; this will give us a wonderful opportunity to sell our brand, to increase membership and to sustain the Club into the future. A new dawn of Martlets cricket is perhaps approaching and your committee, far from being despondent about wandering cricket, is excited about our future and with good reason.

Whilst talking about the committee I hope you will not only forgive but also support my annual public "thank-you" to those who have given their time so generously to the Club. A big "thank-you" to Adrian Ford, who has stepped back into the breach for a year as Fixtures Secretary, and he now hands over to James Chadburn, who is proving to be an influential voice on the committee. Our main business is, of course, cricket and the playing generation who run this sub-committee perceptively

and with such enthusiasm give us all huge confidence in the Club's sustainability for the future. Last year we had concerns that some of our membership processes were not as tight as they might have been, but under Patrick Jackson's ever watchful eye as Secretary, this has been turned around spectacularly and we have over 20 new members for 2010 whom we welcome most warmly into the Club.

Finally, can I wish not only all playing members the best of good fortune and good wickets for the coming summer, but can I also extend an invitation to our healthy band of non-playing members to come and support us at matches – you would always be made very welcome and it would be wonderful to see you!

*Nigel Russell*

## THE 2009 SEASON

2009 was another year blighted by poor weather. Even so, some very enjoyable cricket was played. 37 matches were on the fixture card resulting in 10 wins, 5 draws, 17 losses and 5 cancelled or abandoned.

There were notable wins against Hurstpierpoint College, sweet revenge at Goodwood, after being comprehensively beaten in 2008, and a last gasp success against Christ's Hospital, who needed 21 to win with 5 overs remaining and 5 wickets in hand. Thanks to a superb spell by Patrick Goodwin (3 for 4) the school were all out 9 runs short with 2 balls remaining!

There were a number of hard fought draws and as ever a number of games where we were well beaten, particularly against St.Bede's and Shopwyke Strollers, who fielded a completely different type of side to that of 2008.

We played two touring sides, both matches being played in great competitive spirit. Against Jersey Cricket Club we lost by 3 wickets, but a good win was achieved against a Bradman Invitation XI thanks to an unbeaten 79 by Mark Semmence.

At the Annual Dinner, presentations were made for batting, bowling and Martlet of the Year. Richard (Swampy) Allum topped the batting averages, largely due to his battling 85 not out at Arundel against the Hampshire Hogs to set up a memorable win. Peter Hartland won the the bowling award and Michael Murray was the Martlet of the Year for his all round contribution, playing in 11 games and always being on hand to help out in moments of crisis!

The 20/20 was another huge success. Played at Hurstpierpoint College and expanded to 4 teams it was a very enjoyable day with the OJ's coming out worthy winners. In 2010 we hope to attract more spectators, as this would further enhance an already good atmosphere.

The Annual Challenge Match between the Juniors and Seniors for the President's Trophy was won by the Seniors and in a lovely twist, Sandy Ross's godson was Man of the Match!

This was a good year for the number of playing members contributing and the number of new candidates elected to the playing list. It bodes well for a successful 2010.

As ever, none of these games could take place without the selfless support of all our Match Managers, Umpires and Scorers and a big thank you to you all.

*Rob Walker*

## AVERAGES

Batting	I	N.O	R	H.S	Av.
R Allum	7	2	85*	332	66.4
W Rydon	5	2	72*	192	64
N. Seager	7	1	77	300	50
D Smith	5	0	71	196	39.2
M. Murray	11	2	89	350	38.8
J Maxwell	4	0	51	121	30.25
P Ellwood	5	0	68	149	29.8
A Hartridge	4	0	50	108	27
R Walker	5	1	24*	83	20.75
W Ross	4	1	43*	51	17
J Barr	7	1	33*	87	14.5

Bowling	O	M	R	W	Av.
P Goodwin	14.2	4	54	6	9
P Hartland	41.4	10	148	12	12.3
D Smith	27.3	3	142	10	14.2
R Thacker	16		59	4	14.75
T Peters	17.1	2	60	4	15
M Murray	83	9	309	18	17.2
J Burrows	53	7	201	11	18.3
S Funnell	21	1	124	4	24.8
J Barr	44	10	158	6	26.3
R Frean	21	1	108	4	27
W Rydon	25.5	4	180	6	30

## Twenty20 day – Sunday 9th August



*Mike Harrison in OJ colours. (Shame! Ed)*

In its second year and on a wonderfully sunny day at Hurstpierpoint College, The Sussex Martlets, Junior Martlets, The Griffin and Old Hurst Johnnians competed for the T20 title. A great day was had by all with some sparkling cricket along the way.

In the semi-finals there were some very good games. Two excellent innings from D. Smith and J. Maxwell put the Sussex Martlets within

reach of the 176 scored by the Junior Martlets, for whom A. Hartridge and F. Jordan scored well. The match went down to the final ball and a six was required! The final ball did not cross the ropes and the Chris Snell's Juniors had reached the final for the second consecutive year, knocking out their senior counterparts.

The Old Hurst Johnnians, playing at the end of their cricket week, successfully chased down The Griffin's 147 after a very powerful and destructive 84 from L. Neil off around 50 balls, which included a ball being put through the pavilion window! M. Harrison scored 74 from 34 balls to help the OJ's contest the final against the Junior Martlets.

A fantastic lunch took place before the 3rd/4th Play-off got underway between the Sussex Martlets and The Griffin. A score of 182 for 7 proved too many for The Griffin as the Sussex Martlets ran out winners, although the excited noise from the pitch would suggest it was a far closer match than many people thought!

The Old Hurst Johnnians won the final, beating the Junior Martlets by four wickets in low scoring encounter. It was the end of the Old Boys Cricket Week at the College and it helped that many OJ players were in form, including D. Burstow who took 4 for 13 in his four overs. Unfortunately the Junior Martlets kept going the aerial route and finding the OJ fielders on the boundary. A score of 83 proved too few and the OJs won the 10 litre keg of Harvey's Ale!

**Mike Harrison**



**WINNER TAKES ALL (the Harvey's!)**  
(And clearly it has begun to take effect! Ed)

### Semi-Finals

Junior Martlets 176-7 (F. Jordan 59, A. Hartridge 42).  
Sussex Martlets 175-7 (D. Smith 71, J. Maxwell 51).

The Griffin 147-7 (L. Neil 84).  
Old Hurst Johnnians 150-5 (M. Harrison 74).

### 3rd/4th Play-off

Sussex Martlets 182-7 (D. Smith 49).  
The Griffin 158-9 (L. Neil 30).

### Final

Junior Martlets 83 (D. Burstow 4-13).  
Old Hurst Johnnians 86-6 (L. Atkins 31, S. May 23\*).

### Martlets v Shopwyke Strollers

*All the results are put up on the Martlet website together, in most cases, with a write-up from the captain. This is his opportunity to crow about a notable victory or cast blame on all and sundry if the result goes the wrong way. Whilst most of the accounts are relatively minimal, the author/captain for this match produced what is clearly the account of the season and thus it deserves to be reproduced for the benefit of anyone who missed the original or hasn't access to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Ed*

**Strollers 302 all out. Martlets 149 all out.**  
**(Strollers won by 153 runs).**

The boys took to the field, in this most beautiful of parks, in buoyant mood. The Strollers had been slain last season at Westbourne House School and it was time to wet the head of the skipper's newly born son with another famous victory. Having been inspired by a team talk which spoke of the glory to be had against an opposition who had arrived late (leading to a 40 over format) and slightly bedraggled, hopes were as high as the nearby cathedral.

How quickly they plummeted to earth. An early wicket, a sharp slip catch by Rydon off the unplayable Cantrell, was a cruelly misleading taste of what was not to come. It soon transpired that the Strollers early display of indifference had masked a psychotic desire to pummel a very pretty match ball to death. We discovered at tea that many of their number had been engaged in a London based, ultra-competitive, 20/20 league since April. The sole purpose of this had been as preparation for the Martlet bowling attack.

Cantrell, Ashworth and Lack toiled manfully but in vain. Walker simply toiled in vain. After 20 overs the score was 200. Guy Tassell reached his century with some lusty blows. The warm rain fell and the humidity would not have been out of place in Bangkok. This was probably the main reason Lack stayed on for so long!!

Much to the Martlets' credit they kept going. Rydon came on and took wickets. Hiley fielded like a man possessed, he really was outstanding. Ferns assisted the skipper with tactical gems, including "put every fielder on the boundary, including the keeper," or words to that effect.

By the time Tucker bowled Jonny Haynes the Strollers had made 302. We got off to a dreadful start before Rydon (50) and Lack (32) helped us to 149 all out.

Despite the undeniable hammering there were glimmers of sunlight behind those warm clouds. All the Martlets joined the opposition for a drink at the

Park Tavern. Everyone had enjoyed the day (or so they told the skipper, who was sobbing into his beer).

Two new youthful candidates, George Holman (a promising wicketkeeper) and Angus Edgell (a talented opener) were signed up. An Anglo-American, passing through blighty en route to Yemen, David MacDonald, made his Martlets debut. Indeed it was his cricketing debut! He showed few signs of nerves as he fielded impressively and strode out bravely to face Tissell. Poor Macdonald was back 2 balls later, but his great grandfather, Ronnie Aird, a former President of the MCC, and his father Ian, a Martlet now exiled in Pennsylvania, would have been proud.

*Paul Walker*

### Vice Presidents' Day

This match was going to be Sandy Ross' 147<sup>th</sup> and final appearance as a player at Arundel Castle. As always, it was also Vice Presidents' Day and this ensured many of his oldest Martlet friends were present. Sandy was very much in all our thoughts throughout the day.

Nothing would have pleased Sandy more than his son Will opening the batting, his godson Tom Gibbs opening the bowling, and his place as captain being taken by President of the MCC elect, Johnny Barclay.

The first Junior wicket was one that Sandy would have enjoyed above all others: ct. Ross (at short-leg), b. Gibbs. This reversal of the previous order of things was noted by David Gibbs, who recalled taking three catches at short-leg off Sandy for the Martlets vs Old Ardinians in 1976. (The OAs were bowled out for 83 with Sandy taking seven for 25, and the Martlets won by six wickets).



*Will Ross, John Barclay and Tom Gibbs*

Tom Gibbs, who opened the bowling for Chigwell 1<sup>st</sup> XI aged sixteen this summer, completed a storybook ending to this bitter sweet occasion, taking 4-13 off 6.5 overs and winning the Man of the Match Award.

"You beauty!!!!!!.....!"

*Desmond Devitt*

### JUNIOR MARTLETS 2009

**15<sup>th</sup> July v. Babes of Kent at Linden Park, Tunbridge Wells (40 over game).**

**Babes of Kent 234 for 8. Junior Martlets 144. Lost by 90 runs.**

After losing 3 wickets for 49 runs, the Babes of Kent batted very well and their total of 234 was almost entirely due to a high class innings from Fabian Cowdrey – the next highest individual score being 36. Charles Davies bowled very well taking 3 for 35 off his 8 overs. The Junior Martlets were handicapped by only having one opening bowler, the other having failed to arrive. In reply the Junior Martlets made a sound start against a good opening attack and were 84 for 2 after 15 overs. A middle order collapse ensued and the Juniors were bowled out for 144 in the 32<sup>nd</sup> over. Michael Chapman (36), Tom Woodall (28) and Andrew Hartridge (24 not out) all made valuable contributions.

**29<sup>th</sup> July v. Preston Nomads at Fulking (40 over game).**

**Junior Martlets 241 for 4. Preston Nomands 185 for 1. Match abandoned.**

The Junior Martlets batted very well to reach a total of 241. Eswar Kalidasan batted resolutely for his 55 with admirable support from Jack Metters (58), Tom Woodall (47 not out) and Felix Jordan (29 not out). The Preston Nomads openers played splendidly, putting on 159 for the first wicket and when the heavy rain came and play was abandoned the Preston Nomads were 185 for 1, needing 57 off 11 overs for victory. Charles Davies was the most economical bowler, conceding just 16 runs off his 5 overs.

**9<sup>th</sup> August 20/20 Day at Hurstpierpoint.**

**Junior Martlets 176 for 7. Sussex Martlets 175 for 7. Won by 1 run.**

This was a wonderfully close game of cricket, as the result shows! The Juniors' total of 176 at a rate of just under 8 runs per over was indebted to two splendid innings by Felix Jordan (59) and Andrew Hartridge (42). In reply the Sussex Martlets were 72 for 3 after 10 overs, thereby needing 104 runs off the final 10 overs. Despite 4 run outs, an excellent innings by D. Smith (71 not out) almost got them over the line. Charles Davies and Jason Hong both bowled their 4 overs economically.

**Junior Martlets 83. Old Hurst Johnians 86 for 6. Lost by 4 wickets.**

The Junior Martlets batted first in this second game and against a strong attack made an encouraging start and were 34 for 1 after 3 overs, but collapsed to 65 for 6 off 9 and were finally bowled out in the 16<sup>th</sup> over for 83, due to some poor shot selection. The Old Hurst Johnians, despite 3 run outs, eased to a comfortable win by 4 wickets with 5 overs to

## JOHN BARCLAY - MCC PRESIDENT 2010



*Presidents John Barclay (M.C.C.) and Geoff Wills (Martlets)*

*On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, Martlet Vice President John Barclay became President of M.C.C., having been nominated by his predecessor Derek Underwood. (Maybe this was some recompense for the pair John picked up at Hastings in 1973, courtesy of "Deadly"). John first graced the Lord's turf at the tender age of 14, playing in the 1968 Eton v Harrow match, in which he took 6 for 100 off 31 overs.*

### PRESIDENTS OF M.C.C.

When, in 1787, Thomas Lord, the net-bowler and general factotum of the White Conduit Club in Islington, was asked by the Earl of Winchelsea and Colonel Charles Lennox to found a new club nearer the West End – he chose Dorset Square – he would have been supremely unaware of two things. First, that he would twice move his sacred turf to parts of the St. John's Wood estate, the second time, in 1814, to where the famous ground now stands. Second, that the Marylebone Cricket Club, as it was called from the start, would play such an important role in the story of world cricket.

The early records were unfortunately destroyed by a fire that broke out in 1825 – after a match between Harrow and Winchester. Wykehamists have a shrewd, even if unfounded, view as to who was responsible for the outbreak! As a result of the fire M.C.C. has a record only of Presidents since 1825.

What club is there – apart from M.C.C. itself, of course, and IZ, and perhaps the Eton Ramblers and the Harrow Wanderers – that can boast more Presidents of M.C.C. than the Sussex Martlets? The commendable tally of seven stretches from the Duke of Norfolk (our Patron from 1935-75) in 1957 to Johnny Barclay, proposed in the time-honoured

way by his predecessor Derek Underwood, in 2009. Between them they comprise, in chronological order: Arthur Gilligan, Billy Griffith, the author of this piece, Ted Dexter and Robin Marlars.

In his *Double Century* Tony Lewis writes: "The president (I would have put a capital!) was originally an aristocratic figurehead, a good name to have on the letter-head and in the chair at the anniversary dinner; however, the Bodyline and the d'Oliveira affairs are two of the consternations which have persuaded the club to nominate presidents with diplomatic skills as well as a love of cricket." How well Bernard Norfolk and Johnny Barclay match up to these qualifications.

Johnny's appointment was very well received by the cricket world. He will be welcome as a congenial host at Lord's and, even more important, he will exert an admirable influence at the many matches and meetings, formal and informal, that he will attend. In addition, he will, as always, be an eloquent upholder of "The Spirit of Cricket", which means as much to him as it does to M.C.C. He carries with him the very best wishes of all cricket-lovers, not least of all who read *The Martlet*.

**Hubert Doggart**

## THE FORMER PRESIDENTS



Duke of Norfolk  
(1954-5)



Arthur Gilligan  
(1966-7)



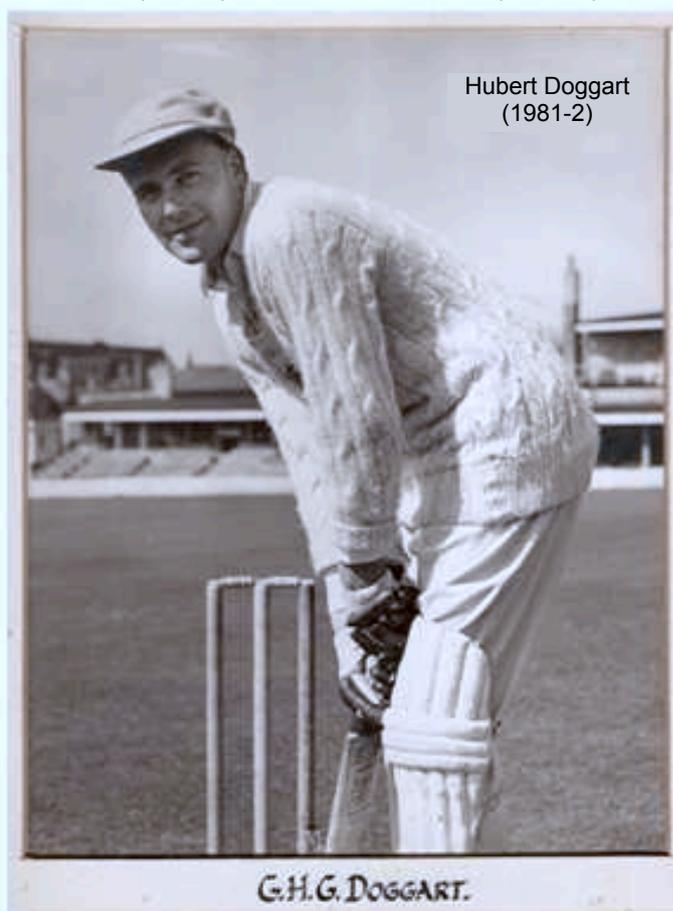
Billy Griffith  
(1979-80)



Ted Dexter  
(2002-3)



Robin Marlar  
(2005-6)



Hubert Doggart  
(1981-2)

*(Hubert surprised the English cricket world in 1948 when he made 215 not out for Cambridge, on debut, against Lancashire. In 1949 he and John Dewes put on 429, undefeated, for the second wicket against Essex, an English record that stood for 25 years. He captained Cambridge in 1950 and Sussex in 1954, playing for the county in the other years between 1948 and 1960, after either the Cambridge season or the summer term at Winchester. He was called on in 1961 for one final game – that against Leicestershire at Worthing, where Maurice Hallam made 346 in the two innings and Hubert had the pleasure of having Dickie Bird l.b.w. It is something the famous umpire-to-be has never forgotten!*

*Hubert played in two Test Matches in 1950 against the West Indies, the first a victory for England at Old*

*Trafford, the second the first-ever victory by the West Indies in England. He was four times the victim of the famous, and delightful “spin twins”, Sonny Ramadhin and Alfred Valentine, who were both unknown before the tour and wrought such havoc on it.*

*Hubert was made President of M.C.C. in 1981 and was Treasurer from 1987 until 1992. He was also President, between 1965 and 2000, of the English Schools Cricket Association, of which he is now Patron, and Chairman of the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club between 1992 and 2002. He became a Vice-President of the Sussex Martlets in 1981 and very much enjoyed the matches he was able to play – both for and against the club. Ed)*

spare. This was a very enjoyable day for everyone concerned and a big 'thank you' to Mike Harrison for organising everything so efficiently.

**21<sup>st</sup> August v. Sussex Martlets at Arundel Castle. Sussex Martlets 195 for 4 declared. Junior Martlets 157. Lost by 38 runs.**

The Sussex Martlets won the toss and lost both opening batsmen for 14, but a wonderful innings by Mark Semmence, who made 129, enabled them to declare after 46 overs. The Juniors made 50 for the loss of 3 wickets, but a very good fifth wicket partnership between Andrew Hartridge, who made a superb 80, and Matt Sewell (23) gave the Juniors a sniff of victory. However, once they departed excellent fast bowling from Tom Gibbs, who took 4 for 13 off 7 overs and so deservedly won the Man of the Match Award, ensured a Sussex Martlet win by 38 runs. Altogether this was a hugely enjoyable game of cricket on the most beautiful of grounds and it was splendid to see so many Vice Presidents and friends at the match.

Congratulations are due to Michael Chapman (Captain), Andrew Hartridge, Felix Jordan, James Silk and Tom Woodall on their election to the Seniors. Finally many congratulations to Andrew Hartridge, who deservedly won the Junior Martlet Player of the Year Award.

**Chris Snell**



*Andrew Hartridge – Junior Martlet Player of the Year*

## NEW MEMBERS

In addition to the Juniors promoted (see above), the Committee is delighted to announce the election of following new members of the Club:

Alex Armstrong, Theo Barclay, James Caffyn, Tom Carr, Nicholas Cole, Michael Krause, James Oakden, Phillip Roper, Mark Trubshaw, Will Wild and Alex Willis. In addition we are delighted that Martin Hole is rejoining the Club.

## INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

It may be that some of the committee are unknown to you. So here our newest member, James Chadburn, introduces himself:

*Name:* James Chadburn. (aka "Chadders")  
b. 21/1/81, Aylesbury, Bucks.

*Family:* m. Emily + 2 cats and chief cricket supporting dog 'Paddy.'



*James Chadburn at Arundel – ball hopefully outgoing rather than in-coming...*

*Education:* Ardingly College 1992-99; King's College London (Law) 2000-03; College of Law (LPC) 2003-04.

*Day Job:* Solicitor at Dean Wilson Laing, Brighton.

*Cricketing Career to Date:* Felbridge CC Colts, aged 11; moved to Three Bridges Cricket Club in 1995. Had a short stint at East Grinstead CC from 1998-2001 before moving back to Three Bridges CC in 2002. Now Vice Captain of 1<sup>st</sup> XI and active member of the TBCC Management Committee.

*Representative Cricket:* Sussex YC 1993-2000 (Captain 2000); Sussex Academy 1997-2000 (Captain 2000); Sussex Cricket Board XI 1998-2001; Sussex CCC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 2000 (1 Match 1 Run!); Sussex YC Tour to Barbados 1997; Sussex Academy Tour to Cape Town 1999.

*Wandering Cricket:* MCC Playing Member & Match Manager; Sussex Martlets Member & Match Member; occasional Catchiteer.

*Cricket Administrative Roles:* Three Bridges CC Management Committee Member; Overseas Player Landlord; Sussex Martlets Committee, taking over as Fixtures Secretary from close of the 2010 season; Three Bridges CC General Decorator!

*Best Cricketing Moment/Achievement:* 106 n.o. for Sussex YC U19 v Warwickshire U19 in the Under 19 County Championship Final at Hinckley, 2000 (Wisden Cricketers Almanack p.1039!)

*Life Outside Cricket (is there any?):* Hockey for Mid Sussex in the Kent/Sussex Premier League;

Haywards Heath Harriers in the Sussex Cross Country League and occasionally horse riding on the Downs and elsewhere.

Otherwise my time is taken up walking Paddy with Em on the Downs or other scenic parts of the country. We enjoy socialising, especially dinner parties and fancy dress – I do a pretty mean Batman!

*Thing you are least likely to know about me:* I was detained by the Anti-Terror Police in London in 2000.

*Favourite Film(s):* Zulu; Anchorman.

*Favourite Book:* All Quiet on the Western Front.

*Favourite Food/Cuisine:* Obviously anything produced by my darling wife; Indian.

*Lifetime Ambition:* to own a pair of mustard coloured corduroy trousers!

## MARTLETS GOLF 2009



We have enjoyed an excellent year. The results have been most encouraging with a particularly good win in the last match of the season against a strongish Rye side, a win at West Sussex and a hard fought half at Ashdown. We have been lucky with the weather, most matches having been played in sunshine.

We have been pleased to welcome three new golfing members, David Laing, Willie Boone and Richard Foster. We hope they have enjoyed themselves and will play more matches in 2010.

It was not possible to play the Littlehampton match this year, but it has been reinstated for 2010. We have managed to find a later, and hopefully drier, date for the Crowborough day in April.

Congratulations to Colin Oliver-Redgate for winning the Martlets golf day in May. He played extremely well and fully deserved his win. However the day was not well attended and so we will not be running it this year. It is difficult for members to get away on a weekday, so it has been decided to give the day a rest for a while and see whether we can reinstate it at a future date.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking publicly our host clubs for their continuing generous hospitality, the match managers for all their hard work in raising sides and running their matches, and of course all those Martlets who play in and enjoy

our golf on some of the finest courses in Sussex. Why not come and join us?!

*Ham Whitty*

## OBITUARIES

### Derek Lattey (1930 - 2009)

It is with great regret and sadness that I report that Derek, my younger brother, died on 3 June 2009. We enjoyed our cricket together as schoolboys. Derek seemed to do most of the batting on our back lawn, and I was very happy to bowl to him. We played together in school teams and for Horsham Cricket Club, and I was delighted at Derek's successes as a hard hitting batsman and change bowler.

He opened the Horsham innings in the first match of one season and deposited the first ball of the game on the Horsham pavilion roof, much to the fury of the opposition quick bowler. He also had the misfortune to play for Sussex under 18's when fiery Fred Trueman devastated the innings on behalf of Yorkshire under 18's.

He played regularly for Clare College and the Crusaders at Cambridge, and was elected to the Hawks Club for his sporting abilities in both Rugby Football and Cricket. He captained a Crusader team against the Arabs (I think) at Clare College cricket ground (a difficult ground to find), and tossed up with only one other batsman member of his team present. Fortunately he won the toss and he and his colleague had to bat for a long time, whilst the remainder of the team turned up. After University he was articled to Price Waterhouse as an accountant, living in Hampstead with his wife, Mary, and playing cricket for Hampstead Cricket Club, where he had the courage as captain of one of Hampstead's teams to send a difficult member of his team off the field for gross misconduct on it.

Derek played a lot of Martlet cricket, starting in his school days, shortly after the war. In those days there were some delightful but disorganised match managers, and the nadir occurred when he played in a Martlet team at Ifield with five opening batsmen, three good wicket-keepers, and only one regular bowler. He did a lot of bowling that day! The apex of his Martlet career was to score the highest Martlet individual score of 176 in the two day match against the Old Brightonians, and to play for the Martlets in the Golden Jubilee match against a Sussex team on 3 September 1955. In the latter match he made the second highest score of 36 (David Sheppard got 42), was dropped by George Cox off Robin Marlars before Robin got his revenge – stumped Webb.

He joined a small London accountancy firm and moved home to Redhill. He continued playing for the M.C.C. and the Martlets, and occasionally for Reigate Priory; he also joined Reigate Heath Golf Club and served on its Committee for a few years.

He was the tax specialist for his firm and retired to build 5.25" gauge steam trains at his home in Redhill when the firm wished to expand, much against his wishes as a partner. He was an enthusiastic sailor, based at Chichester, and sailed his yacht, Shandie, crewed by Mary and his daughter Sue, to France and down the South coast. Mary and Derek sailed it round Britain and finally left it at Oban, subsequently sailing round the Western Isles after Sue married Rob Heath and moved to Leeds. Sue inherited his love of sailing and now sails from Hartlepool.

Derek maintained a great interest in cricket after he gave up playing, and very much enjoyed watching matches at Lords and Hove with his friends. He became a Life Member of the M.C.C. when he had been a member for 55 years, and was a member of Sussex C.C.C. and the Martlets for over 60 years.

Derek loved his family and was delighted when Sue made him a grandfather to James. He died peacefully from a chest infection in a Reigate nursing home, having had several strokes. He is survived by Mary, Sue, Rob and James.

**John Lattey**

### **Malcolm Mould (1935 - 2009)**

Malcolm Mould, who rendered valuable service to the Martlets as an umpire, has passed away.

Born in Sowerby, Leics, into a medical family, Malcolm was educated at Trent College. Both his father and uncle were cricket enthusiasts and so Malcolm was a frequent visitor to Trent Bridge for Test matches and county games.

He umpired for the Martlets through the late seventies and early eighties, officiating most weekends at numerous grounds all over Sussex. On his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday he celebrated by raising two sides, the game being played at the Saffrons in Eastbourne.

Malcolm was a member of the M.C.C. for 45 years and visited Lords regularly. He also umpired frequently for Eastbourne and was a member of Friends of Arundel C.C. and Sussex C.C.C., where he acted as a steward for two years and was a keen follower of the county game and a collector of cricket memorabilia.

Malcolm will be sadly missed by his wife Valerie and family and, of course, for his life-long passion for cricket.

**Ted Lewis**

### **John Newton (1940 - 2009)**



Francis John Newton was born on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1940 in Selsey, West Sussex. Known as John, he was the second son of four boys. In 1946, the family moved to Radlett in Hertfordshire and John continued to visit his granny in Selsey for many years after and this cemented his life-long love of the sea and West Sussex.

Like most young boys, John enjoyed all sports, especially playing football with his brothers. He was a talented right half as a teenager, but according to his brothers, he was more concerned about maintaining his good looks than furthering his football career and so became a goalkeeper!

His first love was cricket and as a youngster, he started playing for Radlett C.C., where he used to field for the England captain of the bodyline series, Douglas Jardine. John was a talented top order batsman and an effective off spin bowler and by the age of fourteen was a regular in the Radlett 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

In 1962, due to work, John moved to Nottingham. However, this was not to get in the way of his cricket so he commuted at weekends to play for Radlett. He had a lean start to one season with his batting and claimed that in the month of May he averaged 120 miles per run scored!

In 1963, John joined Notts Amateurs C.C. and remained with them until he moved his family to West Sussex in 1971. Shortly thereafter he joined the Sussex Martlets and proved to be a stalwart member of the Club for many years. He played many matches each season and always featured in the annual batting and bowling averages. He was a long serving member of the Committee and spent many years acting as "liaison officer" for which his brief was to act as "Mother Hen" (as he termed it) to Match Managers, assisting them with any issues they encountered in managing their games. This proved to be a vital and pivotal role at a time when the Club was experiencing difficulties and John's dedication ensured that Martlet cricket survived the crisis.

John was appointed as a Vice President of the Club in 1999 and he was thrilled and extremely proud of the honour.

John is survived by his wife, Judith, and their two sons, Ben and Tim, both of whom are members of the Club and have played for us with distinction over the years.

**Adrian Ford**

## Peter Norris

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that our old 'compadre' Peter Norris is no longer with us.

I played with Peter at Littlehampton in the 1950's/60's. He was a stylish opening bat, a splendid wicket-keeper, and had a delightful anecdotal sense of humour. Peter played for the Sussex Martlets, the Forty Club, and for Middleton as well as for Littlehampton. He was also a member of the M.C.C., a great supporter of Portsmouth F.C., and also loved horse-racing. He was one of the old school, and had spent much of his life in India working for civil engineers Binney Bros., and helped to improve the country's water and sewage infrastructure.

Earlier on in his life he was a Colonial Officer in Malaysia, and was duly caught up in the Pacific War, but managed to escape from Singapore before the Japanese arrived.

He passed away quietly in his sleep, aged 95, and had a quiet funeral at the Littlehampton Crematorium, organised by his much adored daughter Penny. He was a most gracious English gentleman, and a fine cricketer to boot.

*Colin Oliver-Redgate*

## Gerald Plumbly (1914 - 2010)

The death was announced recently of Gerald Plumbly, at 95, who many Martlets will remember with affection as the man who virtually ran the Stoics cricket club for many years. He was a member for over 70 years.

It was one of the oldest Martlet fixtures and they were always a very social lot at close of play. The writer will always remember a match at Hove in the sixties when the score after one over was 24 for no wicket. (Sandy Ross bowling!)

A full and colourful obituary appeared in the Daily Telegraph, noting amongst other things, his enjoyment of alcohol – sometimes in the company of Denis Compton and Bill Edrich. The stories of his driving experiences and various veterinary encounters – including one disentangling a boa constrictor from a stripper in a Soho club – make entertaining reading, to say the least!

See: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/sport-obituaries/7245355/Gerald-Plumbly.html>

*Keith Jenkin*

## Sandy Ross (1948 - 2009)

A Great Man of Cricket.

For more than 40 years Sandy Ross was one of the best known and loved figures in Sussex club and M.C.C. cricket. An accomplished medium-paced in-swing bowler with a devastating leg-cutter, he took over 3,000 wickets in the Sussex League (figures of 16.4-4-27-10 for East Grinstead v Bognor Regis in 1981 have never been surpassed in this league), and for a wide variety of wandering sides, notably the Sussex Martlets and the M.C.C.

A wonderfully warm and outgoing personality, enduring smile and zest for sporting society, meant an overflowing address book and diary, both totally incomprehensible to all but himself! Much in demand as a match manager, his qualities were also recognised by M.C.C., for whom he managed tours to Greece, Italy, Denmark, California, South America, and most recently last year its U19 team to India. Following retirement as Bursar at Caterham School, he became its highly successful Master i/c Cricket. Always cheerful, unflappable and very particular, cricket under his stewardship was played competitively and in absolutely the right spirit.

Influential in the Membership Committee at Lord's, long-standing pillar and Chairman of the Sussex Martlets, including the brilliant orchestration of its Centenary Year in 2005, Chairman also of the Haileybury Hermits and the Sussex Youth Cricket Board, his deep understanding and profound knowledge of the game and its world was put unconditionally to the use of others, and especially the young.

Sandy was blessed, too, with a happy and secure home life where many young Antipodeans and Indians playing in the Sussex League found a supportive base a long way from their own homes. Several of them went on to play Test cricket. It housed, too, his remarkable sporting (cricket mainly but also football and rugby) library, one of the great unknown treasure troves of the nation, a place in which to be shipwrecked!

He died as many of us would choose to go, instantly of a heart attack, whilst playing for the Sussex Martlets on the beautiful Ditchling ground in the lee of the South Downs, having spent the previous five days at the Lord's Test watching every ball of England's momentous victory. For us though it was 20 years too early.

He leaves his wife of 37 years, Diana, daughters Emma and Lucy, son William (a well established Martlet all-rounder) and one grandson.

*David Gibbs*

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## REMEMBERING SANDY

Any member who would like to contribute to, or indeed would like a copy of what will be a booklet of about 50 - 60 pages compiled in memory of Sandy, should write to the Editor by **JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**. It will include extracts from the addresses given at the Funeral and Memorial Services, along with other tributes and memories from his cricketing friends.

All contributions (anecdotes, memories etc) will be much appreciated – and included.

Please contact:

Desmond Devitt ([dpdevitt@btinternet.com](mailto:dpdevitt@btinternet.com))  
Flat 3, 15 Rawlinson Rd., Oxford OX2 6UE

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## BOOK REVIEW

### Chasing the Fat Lady – Adrian Ford

How refreshing and enlightening it is to read the story of a courageous and determined man with no hint of celebrity to spoil the journey. You will find that this tale takes the reader back to a world when life was inevitably different and values better defined. Throughout its content, the strong theme of teamwork shines out and shares a comfortable home with individual prowess. This, I believe, is never more important than in the world of sport where both rugby and, even more so, cricket have played such a prominent and influential part in Adrian's life...

Adrian is a great optimist. A life in cricket and wine probably requires that. Success and failure are fickle beasts and often strike when least expected. Adrian has experienced both. Life has for him been quite a struggle and yet, what is so heart-warming about his book is that through many a troubled time it is written with endearing passion, which encompasses the social, sporting and business history of half a century.

This is a proper book written from the heart and one which harbours no bitterness and also tells a special tale – of course it must be – of a life filled with adventures, many of which have I'm sure been fuelled by the strength and quality of his family, which has given him the best possible roots for success and happiness.

**John Barclay**

*(Chasing the Fat Lady is available from Turnley Publishing, 5 Birklands, Kithurst Lane, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 4BF. Price: £17.24 inc. p&p.)*

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## Life Beyond The Airing Cupboard

Reviewed for The Martlet last year by John Woodcock – was the Cricket Society & MCC Book of the Year. The award was presented to its author, John Barclay, by Christopher Martin-Jenkins.

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## WHERE IS HE NOW?



Do any Martlets remember Johnny Wills? Yes, that's the guy. Disappeared off to Essex a couple of years ago and hasn't been seen since. "What has he done wrong... been fiddling his expenses?" we asked ourselves. "Does he get time off for good behaviour?" Well, apparently not enough to make it

back to civilization and some decent Sussex cricket. However, if you live in that part of the world you see him regularly as a presenter on News Anglia (when they have any). Clearly his time in the wilds is beginning to get to him, as BBC Radio 1 picked up. Rather than ending his broadcast with the word "lovely" he told his audience (and both of them were actually listening at the time), "I love you." Subsequent correspondence with the patient was as follows:

Oh the shame of revealing my softer side...a moment of weakness... Please tell all players that if I ever take another Martlet again I will try and keep my emotions in check and that they have nothing to fear! Best wishes, Willsy, or Doctor Love as I'm now known in certain parts of East Anglia ...and Brighton.

Oh dear, a sorry tale indeed, Johnny. It may be a case of separate dressing rooms at Arundel, you know.... Ed.

I've just realised that I left the crucial word... 'wicket' out of my previous email which makes it sound even dodgier...its getting worse!!!! As in 'if I ever take another Martlet wicket again....oh dear oh dear.....! Willsy

Any members who would like to contribute to the cost of therapy should contact Johnny without delay.