



The Martlet

Issue Number 16

March 2013



John Ashworth



Stuart Ritchie



Mark Trubshaw

A new team at the top.

With the impending retirement of Nigel Russell (Chairman), Richard Moore (Treasurer) and Patrick Jackson (Secretary), the Committee is delighted to recommend this dynamic trio at the year's AGM to carry on the excellent work of recent years.

John Ashworth was raised in Dorset. His teenage memories of the 70s included the rare sight of Barry Richards starring for Hampshire against Viv Richards for Somerset. After graduating from London University, he played his league cricket with, and served on the committee of Addiscombe in the Surrey Championship. He moved to Sussex in the mid-90s, and was press-ganged by James Lamb and Will Rydon into Martlet cricket. His Martlet debut was against Goodwood, a treasured fixture he now manages.

By day he is a software entrepreneur, specialising in Foreign Exchange technology in the City. He is widely experienced as a company director, and serves as a Governor of Westbourne House School alongside Club President Chris Snell. He lives in Chichester with his wife, two daughters and son, who is currently a cricketing pupil of Richard Montgomerie.

Stuart Ritchie first played cricket for the Sussex Martlets in 2004, following his introduction to the club by Alex Hoare. His first match, like John Ashworth's, was at Goodwood, where a quick half century was followed in his next match by a century at Lancing against their old boys.

His election to membership followed and, notwithstanding the inevitable deterioration in his batting average, he has played regularly for the Martlets every year since, typically playing 5-8 games each season. Stuart's highlight as a Martlet was as opening bat for the Martlets in the final of the inaugural Sandy Ross 20/20 Tournament, where he "bludgeoned" 44 runs including a six and several fours before being gratefully run out by his captain Nick Seager. When not playing cricket, Stuart is a chartered accountant and chartered taxation advisor. Some seem to think having an accounting qualification makes Stuart an ideal candidate to be the next Treasurer of the Club.

Mark Trubshaw has been a stalwart of Eastbourne CC playing 20 years of Sussex League cricket, and serving on their committee for many years, currently as Treasurer. Over the years he has captained every XI and held various positions, including Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary.

A hard hitting all-rounder, he has proven a game changer on many an occasion, noted for his hitting of sixes at crucial times (ask Tony Cottey!) He is now proposed as the new Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2012

If there weren't unfortunate cricketing connotations associated with the phrase, one could be forgiven for referring to last season as being better suited for ducks! All clubs have complained similarly as the wettest summer for over 100 years decimated fixture lists throughout the country. We lost an unbelievable 14 fixtures without a ball being bowled and if one describes this as being nearly 40% of our season, the impact is stark. Perhaps, though, the season is better viewed from the bright side – we managed to play 19 games, winning as many as we lost and the cricket report highlights some of those matches.

I feel for the match managers whose task is never easy, having put blood, sweat and tears into raising a side only to be robbed by the rain, is disheartening to say the least. Rob makes this point more generally in his cricket report and the management of our managers is something we need to get right, urgently. To retain the goodwill of this volunteer band on whom we rely to deliver the fixture list, we are introducing a stronger support network to help share the load and we hope that will encourage members to keep putting their names forward for a job that can bring huge reward and acres of fun.

That may sound a rather dispiriting report on the Club's year and of course that perception would be far from the truth. We continue to put out strong and competitive sides, thanks to the efforts of our match managers, and to attract good young players who view the Martlets' style of cricket as being a welcome contrast to the needle of the leagues. With the odd exception our fixture list remains broadly traditional, the highlights being a continued presence at Arundel, the recent return to Hove for our game against the County Club & Ground XI and the popular T20 tournament for the Sandy Ross Cup, which this year moved to Ardingly College. And this year the Free Foresters produced a side of distinguished quality with seven Combined Universities' players, becoming the third different name on the Cup in as many years – surely it must be the Cryptics' turn next year to complete the set! Watching the Martlets, with a blistering knock by Ed McGregor in particular, score 230 in the Plate Final in their 20 overs was a special moment in the season. And talking of watching matches, it has been a real pleasure once again to visit grounds around the County, to meet up with old Martlet friends and to make new ones. One is reminded continually on these occasions that the Martlet ethos and spirit remains a strong and attractive force.

Your Committee has continued to contribute with vigour and we are blessed with strong attendance for our meetings (nothing to do, of course, with the appeal of the Half Moon at Warninglid, which has become a very popular post meeting watering hole!) Next year will see significant change in the

Club's leadership with the current Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary all standing down.

Paddy Jackson's military activities have intensified over recent months and he feels he can now no longer give us the time needed to carry out the role of Secretary. He has made a terrific contribution and has built up an excellent rapport with the membership as perhaps might be expected of a communications consultant! He will not be lost to the Martlets, I am pleased to say, as he will keep his hand in by match managing.

Richard Moore has been our Treasurer, remarkably and uniquely, for over 30 years having been appointed in Eddie Harrison's time. The financial strength of the Club is entirely due to Richard's diligence and vision during his tenure – properly, much more will be said about his significant contribution to the Club later as the Editor is demanding in terms of column inches!

After six hugely enjoyable and rewarding years at the "helm", and two terms as Chairman it is time for someone new to take charge and I shall be standing down in March. When I took over from Sandy Ross in March 2007 I said I wanted to ensure firstly the Club's relevance at a time many were questioning the future of wandering cricket and by extension, secondly, I wanted to underpin the Club's sustainability. Over the past few years we have increased access to the Club and have introduced some new members directly as a result of our association with some of the high profile clubs in the Sussex League. The Martlets has become a Vice President of Sussex Cricket in the Community Trust, particularly supporting youth cricket in the County. This in turn has raised our profile across the County, it has seen our return to the County Ground at Hove, it has given us special rate corporate packages at high profile games attended by many Martlets over the past two years and it has allowed us to house our archives permanently in the new museum at Hove. In short we have reintegrated with the County set-up to our mutual benefit and this has been a very positive move to ensure our relevance and our sustainability. None of this could have been achieved without the wholehearted and enthusiastic work of the Committee and I thank every one of them for their wisdom and guidance.

John Ashworth has offered to take over as Chairman – many will know John not only as an excellent match manager but also as a governor of Westbourne House School and as a director of a financial software company in the City.

Stuart Ritchie who is also a current match manager, is the senior partner of an audit firm in Broadbridge Heath and is heavily involved in local politics. He is our choice as Treasurer.

And as a replacement Secretary, **Mark Trubshaw** is shortly to take on the role as Patrick deploys abroad once again. Mark has been a prolific player

for the Club over the past three years in particular and is still closely associated with the management of Eastbourne CC. We are excited that the Martlets will remain in excellent hands and your Committee feel these three will bring a fresh dynamism and enthusiasm to the challenges ahead.

On a broader horizon, yet another Sussex Martlet has become President of the MCC and we offer Mike Griffith our congratulations. Records are a trifle hazy on this subject but it thought that he is the 8th Martlet to hold this office. An article on Mike appears elsewhere in this edition.

As I'm sure most will know, with great sadness we recorded in May the death of Di Ross, tragically so soon after Sandy's demise in 2009. She will be remembered by us particularly for her unstinting and unselfish support for both Sandy and Will in their Martlets' outings and latterly for presenting the Sandy Ross Cup at the recently inaugurated T20 competition. Our connection with the family continues with Will of course.

Next season we look forward to welcoming back the Bradman Foundation XI and, for the first time, Singapore CC. A Martlets' tour to Dublin is being organised in the Ashes summer which will see the Australians at Hove at the end of July – watch out for announcements of the Martlets' Club day at the County Ground on 28th July. Another date for the diary is the Club Dinner at Hove on 22nd March and Chris Gray will circulate more details on that in due course.

I look forward to seeing many of you round the boundary in 2013.

Nigel Russell

REVIEW OF THE SEASON

The 2012 season was reduced to 37 matches, down from 40 the previous year. Unfortunately the outright winner this year was the weather! 18 games were either cancelled or abandoned due to the rain. Of the remaining matches there were 9 wins, 1 draw and 8 losses. Unfortunately the game against Midhurst was cancelled due to the lack of a Match Manager. Volunteers for 2013 will be gratefully accepted!

There is the perennial problem of Match Managers struggling to raise sides. This problem is widely known and leads to a dearth of new Match Managers who feel that it is an onerous task and not necessarily something they want to take on. To address this, the cricket sub-committee has developed a plan to work with existing and new Match Managers to alleviate some of the more time-consuming responsibilities.

Although the weather did its best to disrupt the season, there were some excellent wins. May was

almost a right-off with five out of eight games cancelled and the other three lost. Therefore it was not until June that the first win, against Goodwood, was recorded. This was quickly followed by another win against Brighton Brunswick. The Martlets batted first and posted a creditable score of 212-7 dec off 49 overs (Dan Wells 80, Aaron Mullins 70). The opposition were bowled out for 99 in 30 overs - a resounding win by 113 runs. There was also an excellent win against Brighton College. The Sussex Martlets scored an excellent 297-8 in 50 overs with Adam Davies making 145 and Henry Sims 43. In reply, Brighton College were all out for 135 from 49.1 overs with Daniel Smith (3-18) and Mark Trubshaw (3-21) doing the damage.

July saw another win, against West Chiltington in a 50 overs match, with some outstanding Martlet performances. The Martlets won the toss and elected to bat and, unbelievably, the sun shone for most of the day! It had rained for most of the previous day and consequently the square was pretty wet. This resulted in a spicy track with the ball lifting dramatically off a length. Martlets made 223-8 (Andrew Hartridge 123, Mike Murray 66*). In reply West Chiltington made 151 in 36.5 overs (Charles Davies 5-38, Colin Oliver-Redgate 2-28, Jonathan Garforth 2-10).

The Yellowhammers game in July was outstanding, and for once ended in victory for the Martlets. The ever-strong Yellowhammers lost the toss and were inserted due to the unbelievably good batting wicket that always seems to be produced at Tonbridge. The bowlers on both sides toiled all day without much luck and the Yellowhammers reached 291-2 declared. 18 year old J. O'Neill scored 108. The declaration was very generous giving the Martlets 49 overs in reply. Daniel Wells scored 117 and Adam Davies 78 as the Martlets were in a commanding position of 240 for 1 with 10 overs remaining. The manager said he would retire if the Martlets did not win from this position and suddenly five wickets fell! The manager's blushes were saved as the Martlets crossed the line six down and 292 on the board. A day for batters in 30 degree heat for once! Having lost to the Yellowhammers two years in a row it was pleasing to get a win.

The match against the Juniors was contested on one of the best days of the summer and the strong Juniors side, many back from last year, were keen to bat first. Unusually, their wish was granted, but this was not their best decision. They batted well enough, especially in the first hour, when the conditions favoured the bowlers. They found it difficult to accelerate and were pegged back to 211-6 in their 62 overs. School bullies Nick Seager and Andrew Hartridge then set about their bowling attack, with Nick reaching a 50 ball ton, and the score raced to 212-2 off only 27 overs.

It was good to reverse the 2011 loss against Horsham with a closely fought win. The Martlets won the toss and inserted them on a flat wicket.

Charles Davies was the pick of the bowlers with 5-22. There were also wickets for Nick Kent and Greg Wisdom as Horsham reached 144. In reply, 14 year old Joe Ludlow scored 70. He was well supported by Pete Wooldridge (21) and Brad Gayler (30). A strong win by 4 wickets!

The last three games against the Armadillos have resulted in two losses and an abandonment due to rain. Therefore it was about time that the Martlets registered a win and they duly did so. Early September at the delightful Sheffield Park ground produced a dampish and challenging outfield. The Martlets elected to bat first and it soon became clear that the effects of the outfield were to play a significant role in the game. Hitting boundaries could only be achieved following an aerial route, and lowish innings' totals were anticipated. The Martlets lost wickets at regular intervals until steadied by a 5th wicket partnership of 67 between Henry Cope (34) and Mike Murray (45*). Hector Loughton batted fluently for his 27 and a late charge by Josh Burrows (15) brought the Martlets total up to 153-8 off 40 overs. The Armadillos struggled equally in the conditions but some effective spin options produced by Rich Allum (3-23) and Mike Murray (2-2) restricted their run chase as they lost wickets regularly and were all out for 109. All the Martlets bowlers contributed successfully with the old master, Derek Semmence, wrapping up their innings. Although the spirits were dampened, there was some enjoyable cricket played and surely it cannot be as bad next season?

Rob Walker

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2012

Played 5 Won 2 Drawn 2 Lost 1 Cancelled 1

v Babes of Kent. Cancelled.

v St James Montefiore. Junior Martlets 192 all out (Greg Wisdom 52, Jay Barclay 50, Nico Mendoza 20). St. James 136 all out (Ed Blake 3-14, Henry Cope 3-32, Jonny Newland 2-7). Won by 56 runs.

This was possibly the first day of Summer and the Junior Martlet cricket matched it. Greg Wisdom won the toss and batted first. As it turned out, the track kept low and the ball didn't really come onto the bat; a legacy of the extended monsoon no doubt. Greg Wisdom and Jay Barclay showed skill and patience to take the score to 89 for the first wicket. The spinners restricted the following batsmen, which, in fact, was a useful sign for the Juniors. Nico Mendoza did boost the score at the right moment. 192 was a very defendable total given the conditions.

St James launched into the seam attack with only Dan Stokes taking a wicket and the score galloping to 72 off 11 overs. The leg spin of Ed Blake and left

arm wrist spin of Henry Cope then turned the game, for the batsmen had little answer to their guile. Jonny Newland chipped in later on with a couple of wickets too. This was a very decisive victory and the game was played in an excellent spirit.

v Hampshire Hoggets. Hampshire Hoggets 121 all out (Alex Harbourne 3-23, Ed Blake 3-28, Henry Cope 2-13). Junior Martlets 123-1 (Greg Wisdom 58*, Joe Ludlow 56). Won by 9 wkts.

The Junior Martlets fielded a young but strong side for this re-established Hoggets fixture. A second day of wonderful weather and the picturesque Warnford ground made for an idyllic cricketing setting. The Hoggets opted to bat but, apart from their captain, none of the batsmen had an answer to the Junior Martlet bowling attack or fielding. Henry Cope's superb catch off Dan Stokes started the fall. Marcus Campopiano had two fine stumpings off Alex Harbourne, who took three wickets in two overs. Ed Blake's spin worked the trick again, as did that of Henry Cope to finish the job. Joe Ludlow scored 11 fours in his 56 while powering to the target with Greg Wisdom. Victory was achieved in 17 overs.

v Brighton & Hove CC U.16 XI. Brighton & Hove CC 259-4 dec. (Sam Cooper 2-39). Junior Martlets U.16 XI 193-4 (Alex Harbourne 94*, Alex Cooke 36, Ben Dunkerley 20*). Match drawn.

This game had a strange side to it as it began as an overs game with a strict interpretation of the wides rule, but had to change to a time game for domestic reasons on the ground. The consequence was that extras did awfully well! Brighton and Hove batted first and scored freely. The Juniors only had one spinner available for this game and this was telling. Sam Cooper demonstrated what this department could have done. The Juniors faced a daunting total but began well with Morgan Griffin hitting hard, but luck was not on his side. Alex Cooke and Alex Harbourne stabilised the ship after two quick wickets, to take the score to 118. Alex Harbourne didn't have quite enough time to reach his 100, but it was a fine performance. Interestingly, without the wides there were only 11 runs between the scores! The side was captained with great philosophical calm by Dan Stokes.

v Brighton & Hove City Clubs XI. Junior Martlets 169-5 dec. (Alex Harbourne 57, Dominic Keats 32, Greg Wisdom 23). Brighton & Hove City Clubs XI 154-9 (Ed Firth 2-19, Tom Stewart-Green 2-21, Henry Cope 2-29). Match drawn.

This game was hosted by Preston Nomads and organised by David Bowden and Chris Bidwell. Greg Wisdom won the toss and elected to bat. The bowling was tight and scoring proved difficult, but Greg Wisdom and Alex Harbourne set up a sound base for the first wicket. Dominic Keats and George Garton both upped the tempo towards the end of

the innings. Once again the Junior Martlet bowling and fielding were impressive. Ed Firth and Tom Stewart-Green both produced good opening spells taking two wickets apiece and bowling tight, accurate overs. Dominic Keats and George Garton kept turning the screw and Henry Cope took the final wickets. But try as they might, one wicket remained at the end. This was an exciting finish and the whole game was played in a great spirit of good humour.

v Sussex Martlets. Junior Martlets 211-6 dec. (Marcus Campopiano 57*, Joe Ludlow 56, Greg Wisdom 36). Sussex Martlets 212-2. Lost by 8 wkts.

The Junior Martlets were keen to break with tradition and bat first. Jonny Wills obliged and ushered Greg Wisdom and Joe Ludlow to the wicket. They gave the Juniors an excellent start, taking the score to 94 before Joe Ludlow was out for 56. There was sound batting to follow, but it proved hard to increase the tempo. Marcus Campopiano, Jack Troak and Ed Blake accelerated towards the end and 211 looked a substantial score to defend. Nick Seager and Andrew Hartridge, however, had other ideas! The onslaught was verging on the merciless! The bowlers didn't really perform badly but there seemed little to stem the flow. Jack Troak did lure Nick Seagar into an indiscretion towards the end and Marcus Campopiano completed a fine stumping. Nevertheless cricket at Arundel is always a treat.

This was a successful and enjoyable Junior Martlet season. Greg Wisdom once again was the main captain and his style added much to the overall success and enjoyment of the team members. In all 30 players represented the side.

Thanks are due to all the hosting clubs and the officials who acted for us. I am also particularly grateful to those who suggested new players, for advice along the way from those who know, the support on the boundary and to Greg Wisdom and Dan Stokes who captained the teams.

John Bettridge

MARTLET PRESIDENTS OF THE M.C.C (No 8).

Mike Griffith is the eighth Sussex Martlet in the past 55 years to serve as president of MCC. No longer strictly true to say, as Sir Pelham Warner wrote in 1929, that this is 'the chief post which cricket has to offer', it is nonetheless today a position of distinction and authority. No doubt, too, that Mike follows in illustrious footsteps – the last great cricket-loving nobleman, Bernard Fitzalan-Howard, 16th Duke of Norfolk (1957), Arthur Gilligan (1967), father of Mike, Billy Griffith (1979), Hubert Doggart (1981), Ted Dexter (2001), Robin Marlar (2005) and John Barclay (2010). All of them, except the Duke, have captained Sussex.



But what does the president actually do? And how does he (there has not yet been a she) get there? What indeed is the role of MCC in a very different cricketing world from when it was founded in 1787, or even when it celebrated its Centenary?

At its heart MCC is a private club with 18,000 members, of whom some 2,500 are active, playing approximately 500 out-matches a season, at home and abroad. Reassuringly, Mike has said that one of his priorities is to focus on this core activity. Having developed as the foremost cricket club in the world, inevitably it has had thrust upon it public responsibilities:

- Owning and running Lord's, the best known and loved ground (note, never a stadium) in the world. Inevitably also its development will end up on the president's desk at some stage during the year.
- Guardian of the laws of the game, it also has a role as the promoter of its 'Spirit', its morals you might say.
- Supporter and promoter of the game – organisationally, financially, historically as progenitor of the ECB and the ICC, and of particular contemporary relevance, women's cricket at all levels, the six MCC universities, and the Young Professionals, and evangelist for the game throughout the world.

Until 1841 the president was elected by the whole membership. Since then he has been nominated by his predecessor at the Annual Dinner in May, and takes office in the October following, serving for one year. In the 19th century the social connections of the president were paramount, cricketing prowess or even commitment were secondary. Most had a title, and many came from the great families in the land who also established a grip on

church and politics. Only in the latter half of the 20th century have prowess and renown in the cricketing world been a significant factor.

Standing over and above the Committee (led by its own chairman), the president is a figure-head who is expected to show the flag at home and abroad. Like Bagehot's monarch, he possesses authority, if no real power, but nonetheless will be expected to take a lead if some great dispute blows up out of nowhere – links with South Africa, and tensions with the ICC in the 1980s, for example, and recently the Masterplan for the development of Lord's which has become such a vexatious issue.

Mike's own distinction as a player will bring its own authority – three Blues at Cambridge (1963-65), and a regular member of the Sussex team (1966-74) – there were many dimensions to his game, determined middle order batsman with a wide range of strokes, first-class wicket keeper, magnificent cover point when Jim Parks took the gloves, brilliant runner between the wickets and a resolute and thoughtful captain of the County (1968-72) in waters that through no fault of his own were not always calm.

When Sussex commitments permitted, he played for the Martlets on a number of occasions, notably captaining them with distinction on the ground-breaking tour to South Africa in 1972. The author, also a member of this team, will long remember Mike's brilliant hundred at Groot Drakenstein in the Cape.

He was a fine all round games player, winning Blues also for rackets and hockey, representing both Sussex and England at the latter.

He brings to the presidency as well, a knowledge of the modern commercial world through his post-cricket career in the City, and of the inner workings of MCC as a member of its Committee since 2000, and its influential Cricket Committee since 2007.

It is his good fortune to preside at Lord's in an Australian summer. He will have happy memories of previous Aussie visits – 50s in both innings at Hove in 1964, and captaining Sussex in their glorious victory against the tourists in 1972, the County's first since 1888.

Having read history at Cambridge, he will know that some things never change! This is what William Nicholson (he of the gin family) wrote to members at the beginning of his presidential year in 1876: "Last year many members were refused carriage tickets owing to want of space. It has come to the knowledge of the Committee that carriage tickets were in several cases disposed to persons who were not members of the Club, it desires to remind members that carriage tickets are not transferable, and that it is most unjust that strangers should have carriage tickets when many members cannot obtain them".

Assuredly the new president will bring a sound grasp of reality and a sure touch to these, and all other matters which come his way. MCC continues to evolve as the game seeks to come to terms with the huge changes and finances sweep into the cricketing world, and the Martlets are proud that once more one of its members has been chosen as its president. They wish Mike a fulfilling, successful and thoroughly enjoyable year.

David Gibbs



Mike Griffith, Arundel Castle (26/4/69) v the West Indies

THE FAT LADY IS WARMING UP...

Some time in December, as one of the weaker cricketers in the Martlets family, I shall pop my King Charles Spaniel, Alfie, on his lead and we will walk out of The County Ground for the last time as Chief Executive and Chief Dog. And we will look back with some pride at what has been a fantastic four years.

In 2009, I was appointed – amid a little uncertainty from certain Board members I am sure – from the baking industry to take Sussex CCC forward. Tasked with making sure the team stayed successful on the pitch, devising and delivering the ground development project, driving the commercial incomes, and moving the professional and recreational games into a more integrated model, I pitched up and got ready to rock.

And actually, we have done pretty well . . .

Two trophies and a Lord's Final in 2009, plus a trip to India for inaugural Champions League was not bad for a first season. And in 2010 we won the 2nd Division Championship . . . oh, did I forget to mention our relegation in 2009? It must have slipped my mind . . . And 2011 and 2012 has seen strong progression with 5th and 4th place finishes in the Championship, a Twenty20 quarter final and semi-final, plus two CB40 semi-finals in that time. It



would have been great to push on but each year we look back with pride, if a little frustration too.

And the Ground is looking really good. The Spence Pavilion has had a £2m make-over, the 1,700 seat Herbalife Stand has risen from the rubble of the old South West Terrace (which did not even face the pitch directly), a new Media Centre has replaced the Gilligan Stand (probably the ugliest construction in pro cricket), new hospitality facilities called The Boundary Rooms stand where marquees once flapped noisily in the wind, international standard floodlights have saved the neighbours a fortune in lighting costs, and our extension to the Indoor School now houses a gym and hydrotherapy pool offering our players the best facilities anywhere in the Country.

All that for £8.50m, built on time over two winters, with no disruption to cricket and the lovely northern grassy banks covered in deckchairs and benches still remains. A perfect mix of old and new . . . somewhat like Derek Semmence opening the batting with Adam Davies!

Sussex CCC income is at record levels thanks to the fantastic support of our sponsors (got to name check Farnrise Construction in particular who enter their fourth year of shirt sponsorship as the domestic game's biggest supporter) and members and supporters.

And the link between club cricket and the pro game has never been stronger with all sorts of events and finals taking place at Hove . . . with an ever growing number of cricketers coming to the ground to watch cricket and enjoy our facilities, especially as we corner the market in cricket dinners . . . I could go on (and I may, if I ever get asked to write another piece)

And the Martlets have of course played their part. As Vice Presidents to the Sussex Cricket Community Trust, with "Martlets Days" at the cricket, the annual dinner in the Pavilion, and the big highlight – the annual fixture against a Sussex Club & Ground XI at Hove. Two games in, I truly hope that this becomes firmly established as both games have been played in a great spirit. It is superb to see the traditions of Club & Ground XI's return, and I may even get one team to ask me to play one year !

It has been a pleasure and privilege to be part of the Sussex Cricket Family for the last four years, and as I now move on, I do hope I will get the chance to weaken few more Martlets XIs by making myself available to scratch a few more runs through third man slashes and fine leg nurdles.

Thank you Sussex!

Dave Brooks

RMJ – MEMORIES....

If I had a pound for every time someone asked me if I miss playing professional cricket I would probably double my teacher's salary – this definitely wouldn't make me a rich man but it would soften the blow! Yes, the salary is one thing I miss, I suppose, but there are others too. Mainly, it is the camaraderie and dressing room banter, but with the likes of Nick Creed in the Common Room at Hurst there's always a bit of banter just round the corner...

I often get asked what my best memories from my playing career are. I remember my first game for Sussex quite vividly. I was ten years old. I turned up at Scaynes Hill on a wet summer's day to play for the under 11s against Essex and I remember being extremely nervous. Everyone seemed huge. I took 2 wickets and scored 18 runs before being caught behind from a loose shot. Same old thing, same old thing I hear you cry!

Some 18 years later, in 2003, I was joining my team mates in the lap of honour around the county ground having won the championship for the first time and I thought back to that day at Scaynes Hill. It was an emotional time; winning the title was something I had often dreamed of since my dad brought me to Hove to watch Imran Khan and Garth LeRoux steam in down the hill.

Then three years later, another lap of honour, this time at Lords. More tears all round. My end of summer holiday treat as a boy used to be a trip to the Natwest Final (as was) every year. I saw some great matches, not least Sussex's victory in 1986 and the oh so near miss in 1993. But here I was soaking up the atmosphere having won the trophy as a player -- I would have retired a happy cricketer that day at Lords in 2006. And I haven't even mentioned the back-to-back titles in 2006/7!

What I'm trying to say is I feel immensely privileged to have been part of such a successful Sussex team over the years. And when I say 'team' I don't just mean the ten players who took the field with me. I mean the coaches. I mean the groundsmen. I mean the stewards. I mean the admin staff. I mean the whole shebang and caboodle. Something very special has evolved at Sussex and long may it continue.

The highlights? Apart from the obvious joy of winning seven trophies since 1999, they have



mainly revolved around the characters I've played alongside. My room-mate for my first class debut at Scarborough was Ed Giddins. I could tell you some of the things that happened that week, but this is a family publication...suffice it to say it was quite a different experience from sharing with my long-term room-mate, Richard Montgomerie. Latterly it was a privilege to play alongside people like Chris Adams, Mushtaq Ahmed and Matt Prior, to name but a few. They will quite rightly be remembered as Sussex legends.

The lowlights? Undoubtedly the death of Umer Rashid in 2001. Umer was a great friend to us all. He was one of life's givers and will continue to be sorely missed at Sussex. The tragedy put life, and cricket especially, into perspective for me.

So teaching is my life now, and a jolly good life it is too. But the memories of 15 years of cricket at Sussex are lovely things to tap into, especially when a Year 10 boy is being irritating at the back of the class.

Robin Martin-Jenkins

NOTES FROM A CRICKET-BOOK EDITOR



When not scoring 150s at Arundel Castle, Sam Carter is the editorial director of a London publishing firm, grappling principally with heavyweight non fiction (though he is always always available for selection to moonlight on cricket projects). He has contributed to The

Authors XI: A Season of Cricket from Hackney to Hambledon, a book about a revived Edwardian literary cricket team, to be published by Wisden in June 2013.

In summer you play cricket and in winter you read about it, said Robert Menzies, the great Australian Prime Minister.

But books don't spring into life fully formed straight from the mind of the author, and perhaps this is true of sports books more than most. You don't need to be an expert in a subject to edit a book on it, but it certainly helps. Nothing has given me more pleasure in my publishing career than to develop a side-line as a midwife to cricket books – it hardly feels like work. And there are so many of them about, with more written on cricket than on all other sports put together. There's some essential connection between cricket and words: great players, great writers are drawn to put pen to paper. You could pick a distinguished XI of writers who were also cricketers: Samuel Beckett (the only Nobel Prize winner to feature in Wisden), Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard, PG Wodehouse, JM Barrie, John Fowles, Edmund Blunden, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle...

As is their right, many authors disdain the services of an editor, believing that, as Brendan Behan thought of critics (another tribe of literary hangers-on) they 'are like eunuchs in a harem; they know how it's done, they've seen it done every day, but they're unable to do it themselves.'

However, in the main cricket writers tend to be a sympathetic lot, and even the loftiest appreciates a second pair of eyes, if only to see whether they've spelt the name of that Sri Lankan bowler correctly... Wijegunawardene anyone?

I actually prefer working with writers who are prickly and defensive. It shows that they care. I edited a book by Scyld Berry a while ago – a most rewarding process (especially after I learned how to pronounce his name correctly ... Shield), but towards the end he summoned me down to Bristol and insisted on going through every single comma and semi-colon in the book one by one. One would expect no less of an editor of *Wisden*.

Neville Cardus (certainly in the 1st XI of cricket writers) once warned critics not to be too harsh on the badly written cricket autobiography as 'you never know who's written it'. The shadowy figure of the ghost writer haunts the cricketing genre. I had a

lovely time on Mushtaq Ahmed's autobiography. We had a dream combination of a ghost writer who left all the cricket to me, photos from the incomparable Patrick Eagar and a foreword from Imran Khan. Or so we hoped, as far as the final element was concerned. 'Oh, Imran has most definitely promised me' assured Mushy. Entreaties were sent as deadline day approached, but Imran was off campaigning for election in those parts of Pakistan that appear on Foreign Office 'Here be Dragons' lists. Nothing for it but for the editor to ghost the piece. I speed-read both of Immy's autobiographies in a vain attempt to 'get' his voice (my previous knowledge largely gleaned from Johnny Barclay's after-dinner turns) and nervously sent the finished piece to the Great Khan. Finally an email:

'Just change that one sentence Sam, and the rest is fine. Best wishes, Imran'

He called me Sam. Years on, that one still nestles in my inbox.

The outcome is not always so smooth. After much lobbying, a former Prime Minister with a well declared interest in the noble game graciously deigned to supply an introduction for a cricket book. Alas, there was a rather glaring grammatical error in the first sentence. I duly corrected it. First proofs came back and the correction had been statted (editor-speak for 'struck out'). Again I put the matter right, but as the book was about to go on press there it was, staring up at me like a rogue dandelion on an otherwise immaculate wicket. I raised this with the publisher who told me sadly that, although I was in the right, 'we're not allowed to correct the copy of Prime Ministers'. So that told me.

You do win the odd one. I took particular pleasure in holding firm against the historically illiterate suits at a certain Test ground in south London, who would only grant access to some key source material under the stern condition that their sponsorship responsibilities, as they saw them, were met. I tried gently to point out that it would be, to say the least, mildly anachronistic to print a book containing a sentence along the lines of: 'Len Hutton scored 364 during the Investec Ashes at the Kia Oval', or whatever it was. They didn't seem to get it, alas. To strike a small blow against the relentless encroachment of sponsorship, when my England call-up finally comes (I'm here Alastair, always ready...) I'm not going to be one of those players who turns his bat the wrong way to show the logo to the cameras around when saluting his century – I'll do it in the traditional manner, thank you.

The cricket-reading public rejoiced when Sussex's own Christopher Martin-Jenkins decided finally to distil his years of wisdom, acute analysis and great good humour into book form.

Delighted to have the chance to work with CMJ on his autobiography, I eagerly hop on the train to

Horsham where he picks me up and we have an excellent lunch before settling down to work. All charm so far. Then we retire to his study, a treasure trove of cricketing memorabilia, and looking down his nose he bowls me a tricky one first up: 'Well Sam, my previous eighteen books I sent to the publisher and they've just been published. What on earth do you think you can do?'

A mouse's squeak to a lion's roar. 'Not much' is the answer. I'd grown up with his voice on Test Match Special, read his reports in *The Times* and *Telegraph* and treasured his anthology *The Spirit of Cricket*, a rattle-bag of some of the finest cricket writing ever. Plus he was known on Fleet Street to be the scourge of ham-fisted subs who'd commit lèse majesté and alter his copy. We get on better once I clarify my credentials as a Sussex Martlet, and I assure him I'm just there to check those Sri Lankan spellings.



The book starts with the moment the young CMJ sees Barrington's cut shot at the Oval sending the ball skipping on its way to crash into the fence just by where he is sitting. CMJ is hooked, and so too the reader. He writes as well as he speaks and the book is a joy, the product of the perfect marriage of a great writer and his subject. Here's a book all Martlets can treasure when they're not on the field, and you should watch out for the appearance of some old companions within these rich pages: 'Sandy Ross, who had perhaps the warmest smile of anyone I have known, seemed either to play or watch cricket every day of every English summer.' We all thought it of Sandy, but how well Christopher sums up the joie de vivre of our much-missed friend.

And then at the start of 2013 came the desperate news that Christopher had lost his battle against cancer. There was a thread running through the myriad tributes, the heartfelt feeling that the cricket world had lost a uniquely civilised and truthful voice. 'Summer's lease hath all too short a date'.

Sam Carter

MARTLET SOCIAL DIARY

The Club Dinner was held in the Long Room at the Sussex County Cricket Club, Hove on 30th March. In attendance were some 55 members and their guests and a splendid meal was enjoyed by all. We had two entertaining speeches from Geoff Wills in his capacity as President of the Club, and this was his last occasion in that post as he was standing down after six very fruitful years in the post. Our chief guest was Sussex stalwart Les Lenham who let us into a few secrets about Geoff and their years together at the County (not however, for publication here).



Les Lenham and Geoff Wills

The general feeling of those present was that the venue for the Club Dinner was ideal but that we still need to attract a quorum of younger members to the event. The food and hosting of the evening by the Sussex C.C.C catering staff was splendid.

Further Sussex Martlet events were held during the 2012 season. These included the T20 fixture between Sussex and Kent under lights on the 29th June, which included dinner in the Dexter Room and excellent seats to watch the home team's comfortable win.

On the 22nd July members also attended the CB40 game at Arundel between Sussex and Northants in the comfort of a private marquee.

Committee members also made up a table at a 'Murder mystery evening' fundraiser held at Folkington Manor in September, where the team's expertise saw us triumph to the tune of a case of wine!

The 2013 dinner will again be at the County Ground at Hove, and it is hoped that more members will support this important evening for the Sussex Martlets.

Chris Gray



THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2012

It is unusual for our golf matches to be cancelled due to adverse weather, and although we were more fortunate than our cricketing counterparts, we did lose one fixture due to unplayable course conditions. Unfortunately the cancelled match was to have been our first game at Littlestone GC.

In our eight other matches we played for pleasure rather than victory, avoiding a whitewash only due to a strong win at Rye.

Of our 57 members, 37 played at least once during the year.

v Littlehampton (March 10th). Happily we have restored this fixture after a couple of years absence. We enjoyed a lovely spring day, playing one round of fourballs followed by lunch. We lost narrowly $3\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$.

v West Sussex (March 25th). Always a popular match and played on a bright spring day. We played two rounds of foursomes either side of an excellent lunch. The match was lost to a strong West Sussex side 12-4.

v Crowborough (April 1st). A lovely place to play golf. On a cold but sunny day, the Martlets were outclassed, losing the morning series $5\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$, but coming back slightly in the afternoon $4\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ to lose overall 10-2.

v Royal Ashdown (April 22nd). Played on a sunny morning, but perhaps seeing the start of the poor summer with a wet afternoon. Once again we started badly, losing the morning session 5-2, and the afternoon rounds 4-2, to lose 9-4 overall.

v Littlestone (April 28th). Cancelled due to an unplayable course.

v Piltdown (September 9th). Played on a fine day, we won the morning round $3\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ but fared badly in the afternoon rounds losing 5-1 to lose $7\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$ overall.

v Seaford (September 30th). A fine day's golf enjoying lovely views (perhaps we should have been concentrating on the golf) as we played one round of fourballs, losing $4\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$

v Cooden Beach (October 7th). A traditional match of two rounds of foursomes either side of an excellent lunch. We lost a hard fought match 4-2 in the morning and $3\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ in the afternoon, with a $7\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$ overall result.

v Rye (October 14th). On a fine day at this famous old course we were pleased to record a win for the second year running: 7-5 overall.



Colin Oliver Redgate wins the SMGS shield (Again!)

The Sussex Martlets Golf Day (September 28th).

The annual Golf Day was held once more at Singing Hills. We played the Lakes and Rivers course, which was in excellent condition. The winner of the SMGS Shield (again) was Colin Oliver Redgate, who accepted the trophy from last year's winner. Terry Moore.

New Members. It has been our recent aim to attract some younger players to the Golfing Society, and I am very pleased to report that we have elected several new members, most of whom fall into that category, namely Ben Burrows, Mark Bowden, Peter Johnston, Paul Sperring and Dan Gabriele (both masters at Brighton College). We look forward to seeing them at a number of matches next year.

Adrian White

LATE NEWS

If you played in the MARTLETS v GOODWOOD match this year, you may remember leg-spinner Adam Zampa was a team-mate. **John Ashworth** has spotted that he has got into the NSW side (v. Queensland) and in his first match picked up 5 wickets.

"Zamps was the overseas pro at Chichester Priory Park this summer, and played for our winning Martlets side against Goodwood in June. I had the privilege of captaining him in that game, and Mike Margason had the even greater privilege of standing behind the timbers - an honour Mike can now claim to share with Brad Haddin!"

For the details see: <http://www.espncricinfo.com/australia/engine/match/576098.html>

NEW ELECTED MARTLETS

The Committee are delighted to announce the names of those who have been invited to join the Club: Olly Altendorf, Stephen Gray, Hector Loughton, Alistair Mavor, Charlie Smith. Promoted from Junior Martlets: Jay Barclay, Freddie Marlow, James Newland, Louis Ramsay and Joe Waylett. Non Players: Roy Carey and Brian Jeffries.

OBITUARY

The Club is sorry to announce the death of Dr Michael Field FRGS, who ran the Junior Martlets for a number of years, and was recently elected a Vice President of the Club.

MARTLET AWARDS 2013.

The Junior Martlet of the Year is **Marcus Campopiano**, whose wicket-keeping and an impressive 57* against the Seniors at Arundel clinched the Award.

Batsman of the Year: **Andrew Hartridge**, who scored 319 runs in 6 innings, averaging 63.80. His highest score was 123 against West Chiltington & Thakeham.

Bowler of the Year: **Charles Davies**, who bowled 88 overs for the Club, taking 18 wickets for 313, at an average of 17.39. His best bowling figures were 5-22 v Horsham and 5-38 v West Chiltington & Thakeham.

MARTLET OF THE YEAR: Nigel Russell



Nigel Russell

It is most fitting that Nigel should receive this award as he ends his tenure as Chairman of the Committee. It was the unanimous feeling of the Committee that this recognition was just recompense for all the hard work he has put into running Club affairs over the past year in particular. He has represented the Club with distinction throughout the County and although he is now standing down as Chairman, he will continue to serve on the Committee

As always, ideas and articles for *The Martlet* are gratefully received.

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