



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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Martlets Umpires on England Duty.

Both Barry Peay and Dave Morris (pictured above) are Sussex League umpires and both have featured in the England Over-70 games in the 2014 season – Dave as umpire and Barry as a player.

Dave has stood in a number of Martlets games over the past ten years – often the East Sussex ones close to his home in Herstmonceux.

Barry Peay has been a Martlets umpire for ten years and unbeknown to many, at the age of 71 not only continues to play cricket himself, but represents England in the over-70s. Last summer he played in the “Tests” against Wales. The series was lost 2-1, but Barry top scored in the first game with 46 and made 33* in the third game, which England won.

Both Derek Semmence and Andy Meads have also played for the Sussex over 70s, proving that, in this anniversary year of ‘The Great War,’ Martlets cricketers never die either.

Over 70’s cricket started in 2010 with three sides: Sussex, Surrey/Kent and Hertfordshire/Berkshire. Each side played three games against each other. Sussex won all six.

Gradually there has been expansion and the 2014 competition had ten sides playing in two divisions with home and away games. Semi-finals followed, involving the top two clubs of each division and then a final. Sussex won this last season in a match against Worcestershire. Maybe it is something to do with the air, but good old Sussex-by-the-sea have won four of the five Championships to date, with Worcestershire being winners in 2013 (and Sussex were runners up).

Two more counties will be in the 70+ competition in 2015, making a total of 12 in 2 divisions for the first time.

Test matches started in 2013 with a series of three games against Australia. England won two of the games, with the third being rained off without a ball bowled.

In 2014 a series of three Test matches against the Wales over 65’s was played, which Wales won 2-1. There was some ‘flexibility’ in the Welsh side – by agreement I hasten to say.

There has however been quite some controversy

regarding the staging of a return Ashes tour to Australia, leading to its abandonment. 'Recycling' (retirement after 50 runs) was proposed by the hosts, but violently rejected by the English management. There are still arguments about underage players – originally one 68 year old was allowed, but this is being phased out and only genuine 70+ year olds on the day will be permitted in future.

With regards the standards, the batsmen are good, as are the slow bowlers too. There are few bowlers of any pace, whilst fielding and running between wickets both lack athleticism (to put it mildly!).

Clearly this is just the time for older Martlets to wind themselves up and start the ball rolling by playing "Senior" Martlets cricket. There are four matches planned for 2015. Those dreams of playing for England could still come true! Adrian Ford is waiting to hear from you. And if Barry or Dave are umpiring, you never know, they might put in a good word for you...

Desmond Devitt

THE CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS

2014 was another very fine season for the Martlets. The curtain came down at Arundel in late September after a fine game against the Eton Ramblers which had been decorated with a sea of conkers at deep extra cover. If only 'Health and Safety' had permitted the beer match.

Three themes strike me as I reflect on last season and contemplate the next.



The Extended Cricketing Family.

Technology means that cricket is truly a year-round game. As our domestic season ends, so starts those in the Southern Hemisphere and we can easily track every ball in every continent. We were soon

dismayed to learn that a short ball bowled by Sean Abbott had fatally struck Phillip Hughes playing for South Australia against NSW at the SCG. What made the incident even more poignant was a distant connection to the Martlets, given that 10 of us had played alongside Adam Zampa at Goodwood a few years ago. Zampa was one of Hughes' team mates that day. We all put our bats out. Nearest neighbour connections are important in molecular chemistry and atomic physics and so too apparently in cricket. In more positive news from Down Under, Ashton Turner, with whom many more of us have played, was again part of the winning Perth Scorchers squad in the Big Bash League. Ashton played in every game.

Data. Data has become an important factor in cricket. Perhaps (at time of writing), too important to Peter Moores. Late last year the ECB issued a report examining participation in recreational cricket. It made for interesting reading. It concluded that 845,000 people played cricket last year, down from 910,000 the previous year. Amongst that population, 250,000

played in at least half of the season's 26 weeks, 400,000 played in around 3-11 games and the remaining 195,000 played only a couple of games. On closer analysis, it also concluded that the weather was the major factor in the decline, not Playstations, or DIY superstores. Whatever the quantitative analysis, I'm thrilled that the qualitative analysis suggests Martlet cricket is of a high and improving standard and appeals to all three categories of seasonal commitment. We play an important role in offering high quality, recreational cricket to talented and clubbable Sussex cricketers and long may that continue.

Arundel. Our relationship with Arundel is thriving. The newly installed Board of the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club (FACCC) is doing an excellent job. John Stapleton is a fine Chairman, James Ruffey an energetic and innovative Executive Secretary and Mark Harrison (father of our Mike) has the finances under control. Their work is geared to broadening the appeal of the Arundel offering to its members. The Sussex Martlets continue to be an important part of that. We should continue to support them on and off the field. I hope and expect that all Martlet VPs and as many members as possible, are FACCC members.

And finally... By the time you read this, a new Chairman will be installed. It has been a great privilege to serve on the committee of this great Club and I'm grateful for all the support I've received over the years. I have been constantly amazed by the energy and commitment of the committee members and particularly our President Chris Snell, Treasurer Stuart Ritchie and Secretary Mark Trubshaw.

I wish them and you, all well. Long live the Sussex Martlets.

John Ashworth

REVIEW OF THE SEASON



Michael Murray

The 35 scheduled matches of the Martlets 2014 season resulted in 9 wins, 10 losses, 2 ties, 5 draws (inc 1 with scores level), 4 cancellations and 5 abandonments due to the weather. Of the games cancelled, only one was as a result of the Martlets not being able to raise a side, while the other 3 were down to the opposition. Of the 131 players who represented the Martlets in

2014, 63 were bona-fide members, which represents a slight increase on previous years, but still points to a heavy reliance on guests to make up the teams. The cricket sub-committee has looked at this and will offer greater support to match managers in getting teams together in 2015.

Turning to individual performances, Ben Speake and Darryl Rebbetts both boasted 2 centuries apiece and

impressive averages of over 100, but the leading run scorer in 2014 was Adam Davies, who amassed 4 centuries in 10 innings on his way to an aggregate of 728 runs. Charles Davies (Adam's twin brother) topped the bowling charts with 18 wickets, including two 5-wicket hauls.

The first action of the season was against the MCC at Arundel Castle and the weather once again played a part, though not in the usual way! After the use of the Arundel weather radar had resulted in the prescient decision to play a 30-over-a-side match in 2013 that finished just before the predicted downpour, a similar forecast led to the same overs reduction in 2014. However, the weather deceived everyone. The wind picked up and took the dark clouds away and the game ended at 2pm in bright sunshine, which remained for the rest of the afternoon. The Martlets won the toss and batted. Brad Gayler (62) and Adam Davies (73) batted more or less throughout to get us to 168 for 4. Sadly, this was not nearly enough, as the MCC polished it off for the loss of just one wicket with 6 overs to spare.

The first win of the season was achieved in the following match at Brighton College. The incessant rain of the previous fortnight meant that the College wicket was going to be even slower & lower than usual, but with one of the opening bowlers still en route to the ground from a casting session in London, the Martlets opted to bat first. Old Brightonian Adam Davies was again in the runs and provided the backbone of the Martlets innings. It was his battling knock of 72, ably supported by 20s from Adam Scott and Paddy Jadeja that allowed us to post a competitive total of 173 from our 35 overs.

In the field we were quickly on the defensive, though, as young Calum Waters proceeded to bat as if he needed to get somewhere in a hurry, which it turned out that he did! Before departing for some A-level tutoring, he smashed the Martlets bowling to all parts and when he was finally bowled by David Twine for a whirlwind 43 from 25 balls, Brighton College had raced to 65 in 7 overs. The home side were unable to capitalise on this start, as our bowlers settled down and started to turn the screw. Three Bridges' Kiwi Ben Speake was the pick of our bowling, taking 4 wickets (including 2 in successive balls) for just 17 runs, while David Twine recovered well from the early onslaught to grab 3. The College's innings petered out at 111, leaving the Martlets winners by a handsome margin.

The fixture at Goodwood CC produced the first of the season's nail-biting finishes, as well as Paul Walker's first entry in the 'Match Report of the Season' competition: "For anyone present on this sunny afternoon, this match will live long in the memory. Forget 2005, forget 2009.....this was nail-biting, top quality cricket. Well, it was certainly nail-biting and it was cricket. There were numerous occasions, when even the clanking construction of the City of the Festival of Speed fell silent. Those lucky workers atop cranes and grandstands gasped at the sight of John Ashworth's diving left-handed

slip catch which removed the Aussie pro off Derek Horsham. They downed tools and looked on transfixed, as a remarkable last wicket partnership between Ashworth and Walker breathed life into an innings which had been heading towards catastrophe. When Lord March himself leant out of his bedroom window (apparently) to order his workers back to their toils, he too was spellbound by the drama unfolding in the far corner of his lawn.

The very first ball was something of a wake-up call. Unsportingly, Goodwood insisted that the "mulligan" rule was not to apply and The Treasurer returned to the picturesque pavilion bemused. An unplayable ball had popped up, stayed low...or words to that effect. In went young Louis Ramsey who with Mark Chapple steadied the ship somewhat. Chapple deserved more than his 20 and Ramsey was unlucky to score only 9. Joe Waylett looked solid, despite the scorebook recording he was stumped for a duck. Jason Galley, making his Martlets debut, was given out LBW by another debutant, Mr KC Lee, the umpire. The Skip, who had done his homework on the match official, had also given a Martlet debut to Martin Allen, football manager and media pundit. Martin had been Mr Lee's hero at Upton Park when playing for the umpire's beloved West Ham.

Will Rydon was the victim of another debatable LBW and it was only an attractive innings of 32 from Craig Talbot that got the Martlets to 124-9 when Walker senior strode out for his customary Goodwood batting disaster. It was difficult to determine who was more surprised, Walker, his team or the opposition, when he and Ashworth declared 50 runs later on a much more respectable 174-9.

Tea was enjoyed under the cedars, before 20 minutes into their reply Goodwood collapsed to 14-5, Horsham and Ramsey having done the damage in fine style. Panic gripped the Martlets, however, as the prospect of an early return home to Countryfile and the children's homework spread through the ranks. Yet the Skip had the answer. Shortly after bringing himself on, Goodwood sprang back to life and the 6th wicket didn't fall until some 132 runs later! The game was becoming an epic. When Will Gammon was finally bowled by Chapple for 86 the tide began to turn. A run-out followed by an LBW to Chapple and a fine catch by Waylett off Horsham meant a Shakespearean climax. Goodwood still required 15 as Johnny Heaven entered the fray. The Martlets had given it everything...fantastic team spirit and a dogged determination. Yet it was not quite enough – Heaven dispatched Horsham for two emphatic 6s over the pavilion and the dream was over."

Four victories followed against Newick, Christ's Hospital, Seaford College and Warwickshire Pilgrims, the latter achieved against a strong side of Birmingham League players, thanks to a century from Adam Davies and a half-century described as "swashbuckling" from George Martin. West Chilton & Thakeham CC denied the Martlets a fifth successive victory, as they held on for a draw

with 9 wkts down and it was a similar story against Lancing Rovers, although Rovers were also very much in the hunt for victory, just 6 runs short when stumps were drawn.

The Martlets held the upper hand for large parts of the match against St James's Montefiore CC at Arundel Castle, with Dom Keats' 4 wickets helping to reduce St James's to 108-7 at lunch, but contributions from two Martlets in the oppo's ranks tilted the game in the Sussex League side's favour. Adam Davies' 125 rescued the St James's innings and Michael Murray's ensuing 4 wickets meant that, despite a fine half-century from Darryl Rebbetts, the Martlets lost by 32 runs.

A fine victory was achieved at The County Ground against Brighton Brunswick. Our bowlers all displayed good control and determination in the face of a flat Hove wicket and one extremely short boundary to limit Brunswick to 219-8 in their allotted 40 overs. Despite a poor start to our reply, the Martlets won with an over to spare thanks to fine performances from Backhouse (67*), Phelps (53) and Campopiano (49).

The game at Tonbridge School against the Yellowhammers was a truly memorable one that produced the first of two ties. A young Martlet side (the manager was 12 years older than the next youngest player!) was gathered together to play on the Head at Tonbridge School. The Martlets won the toss and elected to bat on a typically flat wicket made for batting. At 10-2 from 6 it was a difficult start, losing Adam Davies and David Twine, but then Brad Gayler and Alistair Stanley came together to put on a 129 run partnership, with Brad scoring 81. Ali and Philip Ellwood then put on 100 for the fourth wicket, with Philip scoring an excellent 40. Ali continued to bat superbly well and when the manager joined him he continued on to his century in fine style off 104 balls. With a quick 29 off 12 balls from the manager to support Ali, the score moved briskly on to 310-5 when the Martlets declared with Ali scoring a superb 138* off 119 balls.

A generous half time declaration was rewarded as the Martlets took to the field for the 50 mins before tea to see Nick Kent and Rob Noble bowl superbly. Nick bowled four consecutive maidens whilst Rob took 4-29 at the other end leaving the Yellowhammers 43-4 at tea...perfect cricket so far from the Martlets.

However, the game was turned on its head by Chris Morgan as he dispatched every bowler around the park scoring 134 in just 99 balls. He was ably supported by some young Yellowhammers scoring some brisk runs too, including one 15 year old Tonbridge boy scoring a 50 off just 20 balls. In just 20 overs after tea, the Yellowhammers smashed 200-1 and the game looked like it would be over before the last 20 could begin. Fortunately a wicket from Ben Twine, some excellent spin bowling from Eddie Blake and Omkar Khot and then a superb second spell from Nick Kent, in which he took three

wickets in three overs, took the score to 295-9 with 11 overs still left in the match. Runs still came freely as the 10th wicket partnership reached 309-9. David Twine then bowled a superb over to concede just one run to tie the scores. Rob Noble bowled the first ball of his next over, induced a leading edge from the no.8 (who was set on 37) and had him caught at extra cover to scenes of relief, jubilation and emotions at the most amazing fixture and tied result of the season. Rob quite deservedly recorded a rare five-wicket haul on the Head with 5-40 with Nick taking 4-52. In all, 620 runs and 15 wickets for a tie....

A victory against Osians CC, the sporting branch of a Mumbai auction house on their UK tour, was achieved thanks in large part to another Adam Davies century, before an unbeaten 150 from Kiwi Ben Speake was the highlight in the win over Cryptics CC.

In a season remarkable for the number of close finishes, the highlight, due to the occasion and venue, was probably the Martlets v Junior Martlets fixture on VPs Day. The details of this match are recorded in the Juniors section (see p.??) so suffice it say here that Michael Murray's excellent early declaration had two effects. Firstly the closest of close finishes and secondly, the necessity for the older VPs present to be dispatched home a little earlier to avoid any need for coronary care.

Two days later, there was another extraordinary game at The Castle, against Lady Mary Mumford's XI. Set a target of 252 for victory by the LMM XI, the Martlets innings started with a flourish of back-foot strokes and rapier-like square drives from the bat of skipper James Chadburn before he was dismissed for 32. Two further wickets before tea put us slightly behind before an authoritative innings of 55 from ex-Sussex man Toby Pierce put us back on track. The stage was set for a mighty innings and in strode Trubshaw. Wielding his bat like a battle axe, he proceeded to smite the Lady Mary XI attack to all parts, including burying John Barclay's bowling into the sightscreen at the Castle end. But even he fell tamely for 39. Talbot quickly followed and the Martlets looked like they might snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. There was a hush in the close, 9 to win and the last man, Ben Speake, at the crease. But even he, off the back of a golden summer with the bat, couldn't drag the Martlets over the line and incredibly we ended the game with the scores tied on 251 with 9 down.

September saw Tim Dodd mastermind our regaining of the Sandy Ross trophy with a 77-run victory over Free Foresters, thanks to an innings of 110 from Kiwi Steven Rae and a miserly spell of 3-21 from The Secretary, before we ended the season with a 7-wicket loss in the resurrected fixture against Eton Ramblers at Arundel.

Michael Murray

WINTERING CRICKETERS



Not long after the final over of the 2014 County Championshipandy Carter, the Nottinghamshire fast bowler, was in rubber boots on a farm, preparing pheasant and partridge for winter shoots.

Although 12-month contracts mean that the age of the part-time county pro is in the past, it is encouraging to know that there are still professional cricketers who, like their club counterparts, spend the winter thinking of anything but the kink in their bowling action or that nagging tendency to fish at the outswinger.

For Carter, his winter jobs (he is also a qualified plumber) are about making sure that there will be life after cricket. Unlike professionals in other sports – notably football – he knows that he will not be spending his retirement littering the gossip magazines with poolside selfies.

“There’s a lot of professional cricketers who fall by the wayside after cricket. Unless you’re one of the top top England players, I don’t think you can earn enough money to retire on,” he laments.

“I’m not frustrated that I won’t be able to retire from being a bog-standard county cricketer, but there is an argument that we do as much as footballers. We probably put our bodies on the line more than footballers do.”

At 15 and working as an apprentice, Carter never thought he would make it as a sportsman. It is that worldliness that has helped him get through a torrid 2014 in which he was ruled out of the Nottinghamshire side with a stress fracture to his back.

“We have lads who are in a bit of bad form and you see them moping. If you were a plumber working on a building site and you thought like that, you’d get smacked,” he says. (A lesson there for all the middle-order prima donnas playing in the Sussex League and beyond.)

Stephen Peters also knows all about professional anxiety. After 20 years in the game, the man dropped as Northamptonshire’s captain after relegation in 2014, readily admitted to nerves earlier this winter when he swapped whites for white collar at Aon, the insurer.

“I’ve been very nervous most of the times I’ve been into the office, but you have to get over that and embrace the fact that you are trying to learn some new skills,” says the 36-year-old veteran of 250 first-class matches.

“For 20 years as an individual every season you try and be better than the season before. I wonder whether that will be the same in an office environment. I’m hoping part of what makes you a successful sportsman can carry through to an office.”

Peters is not the only cricketer who sounds like an employer’s dream. Ben Wright, the Glamorgan batsman, experienced a mediocre 2014, then downed batting gloves and returned to work with the Cardiff glaziers that installed new glass outside the dressing rooms at the SWALEC Stadium.

“I was looking to go as far away from the sport as possible. I was desperate to do something I had no idea about,” he says. “It was about going into a manual labour job to test myself and learn a bit more about myself.”

“Being a professional sportsman you set quite high standards for yourself. When you walk into a job you don’t know anything about it is quite daunting, but the more I got into it the more I enjoyed it.”

Wright, like Carter, feels that his winter job, where he works in production management, has helped his cricket and vice versa. “I find that I can go into the season with a bit more hunger than probably I have done in the past because of it.”

For some cricketers, of course, the lure of professional sport is too strong to be swapped for civvy street, even when they are broadsided by the reality of luck and favour.

Will Smith was captain of Durham when they won the County Championship in 2009. By 2013, however, he was out of form and realised that his contract was due to expire. A huge horse-racing fan, he spent days on the phone finding work experience in the equine industry.

Happily for Smith, he was picked up by Hampshire and was back in the runs last summer as the county won division two of the County Championship. During this winter though, those work experience placements have yielded a punditry job with Racing UK and William Hill Radio.

“I was apprehensive about applying for other work, but not embarrassed,” he recalls. “I had an inkling that it might be the last year that I played for Durham and who knows what would have happened beyond that? Would I have found another county? Turning 30? You just don’t know. This great game of ours can be quite fickle sometimes.”

“What I do in the winter actually benefits my state of mind and helps me when I do come to play during the summer,” he adds.

“Cricket is a very strange profession. If you can maintain some kind of balance then it is incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. On the flip side, it can be incredibly angst-ridden and full of heartache if you don’t give yourself that balance.”

Josh Burrows

Josh Burrows is currently writing for anyone who will pay him - mainly The Times.

KEITH JENKIN & BRIAN O'GORMAN

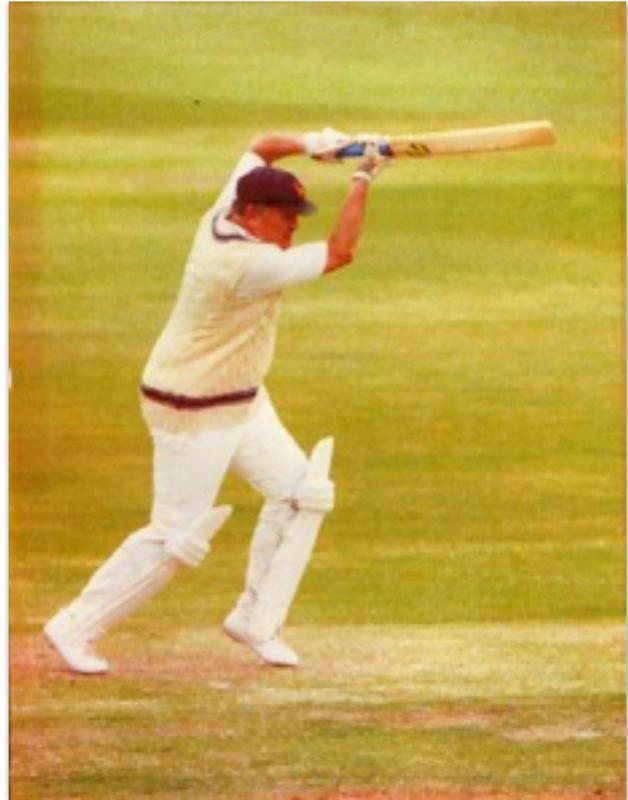
This summer is the 100th in which Sussex Martlets cricket has been played. Founded in 1905, the Club is 110 years old but, of course, ten of these seasons (1915-18 and 1940-45) were lost to the two World Wars.

Remarkably we have direct personal experience of more than 60 of these playing years from Keith Jenkin and Brian O'Gorman, both of whom first appeared in Martlets colours aged 17, Keith in 1948, Brian in 1954. Their personal experience of the Club and many of its leading personalities goes back even further since when they started out a number of their older team mates had themselves been playing in the 1920s and 30s.

They were both very considerable cricketers whose playing careers lasted nearly half a century, both accomplished batsmen and occasional off-spin bowlers with a deep knowledge and understanding of the game. In a later age they might well have played at First Class level. When Keith completed National Service in 1952, a career with Sussex was a distinct possibility. However £4 per week from April to September only was not an immediately tempting offer for an ambitious young man and instead he set out on what was to prove a highly successful business career. He started in the family business, Jenkin's Dairy Limited, the last independent dairy in Brighton and Hove, which by the nature of the industry with its early starts gave him the opportunity to play up to 80 matches a season in the mid-1950s. Spreading his business wings, he joined Unilever before becoming a leading figure in the City with United Dominion Trust.

Brian played a lot for Middlesex II but in a county where Compton and Edrich were just two of many stars, a career as a teacher had better prospects. His father, Joe, the great Music Hall comedian had played a few games for Surrey as an amateur in the 1920s, whilst his son, Tim, played regularly for Derbyshire in the 1990s. By this time the ethos and nature of County cricket had changed and it was acceptable for a 'gentleman' (St George's College, Weybridge and Durham University) to be paid to play. Brian, of course, had a long and distinguished career at St George's and in retirement taught at St Andrew's College, Buenos Aires. His recent and highly acclaimed book on the history of the Music Hall, 'Laughter in the Roar', captures a world which again has been lost and also, incidentally, had many cricketing connections.

It is remarkable how often Keith and Brian came up with the same names of the veterans of their younger Martlets years. Ted Avery, ex-Surrey II, was one of the best players outside of the First Class game and had come from the Oval to run the Little London Press in Chichester. He was a back foot player, very powerful behind square on the off-side and a prolific run scorer for Chichester Priory and the Martlets.



*Keith Jenkin in majestic form at Hurstpierpoint in the 1980s.
Photo taken by fellow Martlet, John Goodacre.*

Graham Doggart, Cambridge Blue (1922-23) and Middlesex in the heyday of Hendren and Hearne, was an inspirational captain of Middleton post-War where Brian began his career, a notable all-rounder he knew the game backwards. Middleton, a great centre of cricket especially in the long summer holidays, had close links with the Club with two fixtures each season and as Brian pointed out the Martlets blazer (another object of a by-gone age) much in evidence.

There were many families active in the Club in these years, one of the best known being the Matthews'. There is a wonderful photo in 'Summers by the Sea' of Jack and the youthful Keith, representing the Club against the Duke's XI at The Castle in 1952 and later Brian served under Jack's captaincy. He was a founding member of the Club, who played between 1905 and 1958. He also played 40 matches for Sussex, as well as hockey for England. His three sons, Dan, Tom and Pat were notable sportsmen. Keith played a lot with Pat who won Blues at Cambridge for golf, hockey and cricket and cricket for Sussex on six occasions in 1950 and 1951.

The Locks' were another father and son combination. John, was a forcing bat, very strong and adept, mainly on the leg side from a free and swinging pick-up and hit. A West Sussex farmer, he was a pillar of Middleton and also the father of David and Ian, both active Martlets.

C.R. Gerrard was an apparently innocuous and unthreatening medium-paced bowler, who took huge numbers of wickets for the Martlets and also for the Old Hurstjohnians. His name however could not be found in the School Register. This conundrum was resolved when it was discovered, discreetly, that as a boy with Germanic origins his surname had been changed to a more English sounding title in 1939.

Keith reminded us that the Martlets have played in the OHJ Week every year since 1922. This week still flourishes, unlike many of the old boy weeks and tours which used to be such a characteristic feature of the summer programme in Sussex. Remarkably there have only been three Managers of the OHJ Week, M.A. Pitcher (1921-56), George Hill (1956-96) – one of the many Martlets headmasters – and Tom Moulton (from 1996 and still counting.)

Other names from these years who stand out in their memories are: Bill Stewart, tall, formidable all-rounder, county hockey player and headmaster, Brighton College, as well as father of David, stalwart of both the Club and Eastbourne College; Jack Langmead, farmer, match manager for Keith's first Martlets match v Worcester College, Oxford at Middleton and also an ice-hockey player for Sussex; the Fuentes, father and son, Norman, lithe and athletic and dynamic left-hand bat and Peter, his son, a fine all-round sportsman, both Middleton based; R.G. Stainton, Oxford Blue, briefly part-time captain of Sussex in 1938, headmaster, Glengorse Prep School, Battle, who later taught in Greece; Peter Rushton, opening bat and surgeon, who arrived at Christ's Hospital for an 11.30 start to say that he had already removed six sets of tonsils that morning; and Reverend Arthur Evans, headmaster, Bishop's Stortford College, before the War, a sound batsman with lots of strokes, interested in and attentive to all around him and who later ran a parish close to the County Ground in Hove. Vicars and schoolmasters were regularly to be found in Martlets teams in the post-War years.

It was, of course, a different age. Only public school and university men were eligible for membership of the Club until this archaic regulation was changed in the 1970s. Britain still had an empire. Keith and Brian both played in Nigeria: Brian whilst on National Service where he played a lot of cricket including for Nigeria, on one occasion against Gold Coast (later Ghana) who included another Martlet, Johnny Brookes, a lively player and vital personality; Keith when posted there by Unilever (1956-60), played both in Lagos and Kano, mostly on matting laid on the red laterite soil.

Retired pillars of the Empire who played Martlets cricket at this time included Lt. Col. W.H.R. Dutton, MC, clipped moustache and ram rod straight back, playing crisp and correct strokes, he had won his MC



Brian O'Gorman returns to the pavilion following the final 50 of his career, Old Georgians v Old Cranleighians in 2000

whilst serving with the Frontier Force Rifles in India; Geoffrey Allen, also with clipped moustache, of imposing bearing, often wearing a luxurious silk scarf and always known as 'colonel'. He had in fact served for many years with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. An orthodox bat, he bowled very slow leg-breaks outside the leg stump from round the wicket, tempting batsmen into indiscretion with a packed and deep set leg side field; and Garth Wilkinson, an enthusiastic cricketer who also played for Henfield and had spent many years working for ICI in India.

It is a joy to meet with Keith and Brian to reminisce and hear about characters who date back to the years between the Wars and those who have helped to create such a lively and successful cricket club in the 70 years since War came to an end in 1945. These two distinguished Martlets, amongst others, have played a notable part in producing very good cricket, amongst convivial and congenial company, on some lovely grounds in one of the greatest cricketing counties. Watching cricket with them at Arundel, Hove and indeed Lord's, is a wonderfully rich, evocative and enjoyable experience.

David Gibbs

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2014.

Played 5 Won 3 Lost 1 Tied 1.

Junior Martlets v The Babes of Kent (Hurstpierpoint College).

Babes of Kent 225-5 (40 overs). Junior Martlets 233-6 (38.2 overs). Won by 4 wickets.

The Babes won the toss and elected to bat in perfect conditions. Will Wright and Fraser Coombes opened the attack and, once they had found their length, proved a steady pair with Wright making the initial break-through. George Read and Dominic Keats (2-27) contained the batsmen, supported by some excellent fielding. In the spin department the leg breaks of Ben Candfield restricted the batsmen, while Michael Wood also made scoring difficult. The run rate then accelerated before Keats returned to put a brake on affairs. The Babes ended with a score of 225 by the end of their 40 overs.

Joe Ludlow, the captain and Dominic Keats played some excellent shots as they took the attack to the bowlers so that after 10 overs 59 runs were on the board. Ludlow's fine display came to an end when one stopped on him and he was caught and bowled for 40. Keats moved on to his 50 in the company of Harrie Smith. Sam Cooper then arrived to carry the team through to the end, making a very fine 77*. He demonstrated a real ability to hit the ball hard with style and he was well supported by Marcus Smith and Ben Candfield.

Junior Martlets U.16 XI v The Hampshire Hoggets (Hurstpierpoint College).

Hampshire Hoggets 203 all out (39 overs). Junior Martlets 141 all out (31 overs). Lost by 62 runs.

We found ourselves facing a very strong Hoggets team, who having won the toss elected to bat. They made a strong start, despite the promising opening attack of George Ainsley and Olly Bradley. It was Will Collard's leg spin though that made the opening break-through. Both he (3-36) and Jack Troak (2-33) induced errors from the batsmen with Joe Gilligan catching the top scorer behind the wicket. With his next ball Jack bowled a bemused batsmen round his legs. We then moved into the ascendancy with wickets from Will Collard (two in his final over), Olly Bradley (who ended up with 3-41), George Ainsley and Alex Brazier. At 156-8 things looked promising, but the Hoggets number 10 took the score to over 200 in the space of 5 overs.

In reply, Josh Medley and Ed Fairfax made a steady start, Medley scoring a promising 49. Aided by some fine Hoggets catching, three wickets then fell on 84. Two run-outs didn't help affairs – the old cricketing adages of “catches matches win matches” and “don't run to a miss-field” still hold good! But having said that, there are always positives to draw from any game; Josh Medley and George Ainsley are both handy finds for the Martlets. Above all, the dressing room spirit of the team could not have been better.

Junior Martlets v Brighton & Hove City Clubs XI (Hurstpierpoint College).

Junior Martlets 289-8 (40 overs). Brighton & Hove City Clubs XI 162 all out (33.1 overs). Won by 127 runs.

Having won the toss, the Junior Martlets decided to bat and Joe Ludlow and Dominic Keats scored quickly before Keats was caught with the total on 20 in the third over. Ludlow and Toby Pullan then dominated the bowling with some fine stroke play to take the score to 158, when Pullan fell for 85. Joe Ludlow remained to complete a well-deserved and mature hundred, ending on a Nelsonic 111. He was backed up by a quick fire 30 from Sam Cooper, which included four sixes in one over! Will Wright also chipped in with a useful 25, which helped to take the final score to an impressive 289.

The opening spells from seam bowlers Joe White and Ed Firth were tight and the Martlet ground fielding top class. All this combined to make scoring difficult for a fairly young Clubs side. Will Wright, an excellent change bowler and Ben Candfield continued to exert the pressure, which really put the target out of sight. The surprise leg spin of Dom Keats (2-31) offered temptation, while Dan Stokes' seamers also made in-roads (3-31). It was a very convincing win and again a fine team performance.

Oh yes. A first. The originally selected side of two weeks before was the one that took the field!

Junior Martlets v Brighton and Hove Cricket Club (The Nevill Ground, Hove).

Junior Martlets 151-8 (40 overs). Brighton & Hove CC 137 all out. Won by 14 runs.

Following overnight rain, Jack Troak, always a man to delight in a challenge, lost the toss. That notwithstanding, Harry Rollings (27) and Ed Fairfax (28) in fact moved the score on rapidly, until one stopped on Harry. Runs became harder to score but Ed, joined by George Axton, showed admirable patience at the crease. The spinners made it quite hard work, but the accumulation continued with useful later contributions from Ollie Bradley and Adam Cooper. The final total of 151 was good in the circumstances.

Brighton & Hove made a confident start, but Ed Firth (2-29) struck in the 9th over with two wickets: a catch behind by Will Hanley and the first of three fine slip catches by Harry Rollings. Adam Cooper's accurate off spin turned the screw at one end, while George Ainsley's pace made a real difference too. They ended with 4-22 and 3-26 respectively. At 92-9 some would have thought the game was over. However the number 11 had clearly been saved for just this moment and the score advanced to 137. Jack Troak then came on and finished the game in three balls. It was an excellent win and the game was played with real spirit and a sense of fun.

Junior Martlets v Sussex Martlets (Arundel Castle).

Sussex Martlets 235-4 dec. Junior Martlets 235 all out. Tie (on the last ball of the match).

If the Club's Vice Presidents needed any convincing that the future of Martlet cricket is safe, then this game must have left them with a warm feeling of security. The Juniors won the toss and elected to field on a green wicket. Tight bowling from Joe White and Will Wright had the openers working hard to find runs. The two "school bullies" of recent years Andrew Hartridge and Nick Seager, were removed cheaply, while Greg Wisdom resisted doggedly. He eventually was caught behind by Rob Cope off the accurate bowling of Dominic Keats. When the Chairman was bowled by Ben Candfield, 26 overs had been bowled and the score stood at 69-4. Darryl Rebbetts was then joined by Michael Murray and they began to rebuild the innings. 38 overs were bowled before lunch and the Juniors were happy viewing a score of 104 for 4 on the board. The partnership accelerated after lunch and Rebbetts moved to a very fine 126* while captain Murray made 58*. Of the bowlers, Will Wright's economy of 2.2 an over was remarkable, while the spin of Ben Candfield and 15 year old Alex Copeland was worthy of note. None looked out of place in senior company.

Joe Ludlow (21) and Harry Rollings made a steady, confident start and some fine shots flowed from the bat. A moment's indecision while looking for a third run was Joe's undoing, while catches in the deep accounted for Sam Cooper, Toby Pullan (31) and Dom Keats (27). Harry Rollings was sent home by an

astonishing catch in the slips. The Juniors were 100 behind the target when the sixth wicket fell and at this point Joe Gilligan was joined by Ben Candfield and what followed was an outstandingly mature rebuilding performance. Chanceless clean hitting characterised the Candfield batting and they put on 50 for the 7th wicket to bring the target ever closer. Michael Murray had kept the gate temptingly open with his bowling changes, which to a large extent had paid off. After Gilligan fell for 22, Candfield was supported by Will Wright briefly and then by some delightful straight hits by Joe White. The 9th wicket fell with the scores tantalisingly close....11 needed off 3 overs and the last man in! Unruffled, Ben Candfield and Alex Copeland closed the gap and 8 were scored off the last over to level the scores with still 3 balls remaining. Two dots; one needed off the last ball; a push to short midwicket... Ben didn't quite make it... Run out for 65... a tie! What a day! It was a real privilege to have been there to witness such a game; cricket at its best.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the 31 players who have represented the Club this Summer and particularly Joe Ludlow, who has been a fine captain. at this level. I was impressed by the really positive approach adopted by all those who played. Finally I would like to thank the President for providing the caps, which did make us look like a real team.

John Bettridge

Congratulations to Joe Ludlow who, chosen for the Sussex Academy Tour in December, top-scored (52) in the match against Sri Lanka's u.19 Development XI. Ed.



Junior Martlets at Arundel 2014

*Alex Copeland, Toby Pullan, Sam Cooper, Harry Rollings, Joe White, Joe Gilligan
Rob Cope, Will Wright, Joe Ludlow (Captain), Ben Candfield, Dominic Keats*

THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2014

It is with great regret that I have to record the tragic death of Grant Skinner. Grant was a long standing and very popular member of the Golfing Society, who successfully managed our fixture at Crowborough for a number of years. Crowborough have very kindly offered to make this a special Memorial match in future. The Golfing Society have also commissioned a Grant Skinner Memorial Shield, which will be played for each year in his honour.

His great sense of humour and larger than life presence at our matches will be sorely missed.

v Littlehampton, March 8th.

For the first time for a number of years we were unable to raise a side of sufficient numbers to play this match. While it was early in the season this was a great disappointment and as a consequence, we have lost this fixture after many years.

v Crowborough Beacon, March 23rd.

The Martlets put up a good fight going into lunch at 3-3. Clearly we enjoyed lunch too much, going down 5-1 in the afternoon, managing only 2 halved matches. The match was lost 8-4.

v West Sussex, April 6th.

West Sussex fielded a strong side in this 16 a side foursomes match. The Martlets went into lunch 4½ - 3½ down, a score that was repeated in the afternoon. Only Robert Reed and Willie Boone were able to claim points with their respective partners in both sessions. The match was lost 9-7.

v Royal Ashdown, April 13th.

Played on a lovely Spring day, we again got off to a good start, winning the morning foursomes 3½ - 2½. An unhappy pattern repeated itself with the home side winning the afternoon round 4½ - 1½. The match was lost 7-5.

v Littlestone, April 27th.

A perfect day at this excellent course – only our second match at the club. We performed well again in the morning round with a lead of 3-2. For once we were able to maintain our form, winning the afternoon series 4-2. The match was won 7-4.

v The Purchasers, July 4th.

Our second match against this charitable organisation, played at Piltdown GC. Perhaps more of a friendly than a needle match, we played with a side made up of both Martlets and guests. The Martlets went down 3-2, but all agreed it was a good day, to be repeated next year.

v Piltdown, September 7th.

Due to some last minute drop outs, the match was restricted to 8 a side. Despite that, we had a very enjoyable match on a fine day. The Martlets lost 2½ - 1½.

Sussex Martlets Annual Golf Day at Seaford Golf Club, September 28th.

In late summer conditions which couldn't have been better, we enjoyed a marvellous day's golf at Seaford (Blatchington). The views from the Downs are outstanding, but the course punishes any loss of concentration! Sixteen of us played a stableford competition for the Martlet Trophy. The 'Nearest the Pin' prize was won by Tim Mynott and the Longest Drive was (appropriately) won by a visiting Australian guest, Bradley Copp. The Trophy was won by Adrian White with Gregory West in second place. We then enjoyed an excellent lunch and the day was completed watching the Ryder Cup in the lounge. A good day all round.

v Rye, October 12th.

Arranged as a traditional match of two rounds of foursomes, the weather interfered and the afternoon matches were shortened according to the determination and rain gear of the various pairs. Once again we were treated to an excellent lunch to compensate. The Martlets lost the morning round 4-2 and although the first pair out in the afternoon (Julian Hunt and Robert Reed) won their match, honours were agreed shared on all the other matches, so overall the Martlets lost 6½ - 4½.

v Cooden Beach, October 19th.

Once again a traditional match of two rounds of foursomes for our final match of the season. The weather held after a wet week and the course was in fine condition. Amidst a number of halved matches, only James Goddard and Ben Burrows managed to record a win and overall the Martlets went down 8½ - 3½.

Adrian White



Littlehampton Golf Course

OBITUARIES

GRANT SKINNER



A much loved son, husband and father died at the tragically young age of 52 from heart failure last spring.

Over five hundred people turned out to say their goodbyes at St Mary's Church in Felpham, on a beautifully hot, sunny day that carried on to Middleton Sports

Club where Grant had spent many years playing squash, hockey, cricket and socialising.

Grant was a talented all round sportsman, winning more squash trophies than I can remember. He represented Sussex in Hockey and captained Martlets cricket and golf teams with great success. Grant started to play golf for the Martlets some fifteen years ago and quickly became part of the backbone of the Society, always making himself available; it was always more fun when he played.

Grant was much loved by his team mates and opposition alike, which made him so special. He always had a word to say and was first to the bar to buy drinks for all.

Grant always had the biggest plate of food at lunch and if you played against him in the afternoon you were guaranteed to be full of Kummel with plenty of banter, not only on the first tee but ALL the way round. Needless to say, he would be the last to leave in the evening.

We have lost a huge personality and a gentleman. Our golfing and cricket days will never be the same without him.

Simon Morgan

JOHN BARTLETT



John Bartlett's early cricketing days were spent at Chichester High School, which he attended from 1939-46. I was in my first year whilst he was the much respected school Vice-Captain and certainly not one to be approached under any circumstances at that stage in one's school career!

John's natural skills as a fine slow left arm bowler were recognised at an early stage in his career. Although no formal county matches were played during the war years, numerous counties, including Sussex, held a series of "friendly" matches.

He first came to the notice of Sussex as a sixteen year old in 1944 when playing against a London Counties XI – originally formed by W G Grace – on the Bognor Regis ground. The Wisden Almanac of that year reported, "John Bartlett, a 16 year old slow

bowler, took the first wicket of the day – that of W F Price of Middlesex, bowled for 33."

Further evidence of his developing skills and ability is contained in the July 1945 edition of 'The Martlet' – the school magazine of Chichester High School – which read, "We offer our congratulations to J N Bartlett, 1st XI Captain, on his selection for the County Association against the Australians at Eastbourne."

He featured in a strong University XI containing a number of mature pre-war players whose studies had been interrupted by wartime service. Martin Donnelly, arguably the greatest New Zealand batsmen of all time, played in this match, although not troubling the scorers in any way. John bowled many more overs than any of the other University bowlers in the first innings and his four wickets included James Langridge, H T Bartlett, Don Smith, and our own Eddie Harrison! Incidentally the University beat Sussex – those indeed were the days.

Later in the season John played for Sussex against the Indian tourists at Hove. This was a match where the first four Indian batsmen each scored centuries – that of Vijay Merchant being a double century (204). Only three wickets fell in the day – John taking that of Lala Amarnath.

John's achievements in first class cricket include his selection for the MCC tour to Canada in 1951.

His early departure from first class cricket was to the gain of many prep school students and to club cricket generally. He joined the Sussex Martlets in the early 1950s, eventually becoming a Vice President in 1977. In later years he regularly attended the Junior Martlets match at the Castle. It is not widely known that he was the instigator of the VP day, having broached the subject with me during my time as President.

Since being incapacitated, John has been sadly missed at many functions which he had previously regularly attended, in particular the annual VP day held in August at the Castle. His passing has not only brought a merciful end to a long period of suffering, but has also drawn attention to the extent his ongoing absence from various functions will be missed. His wife Carol accompanied him on so many occasions and I understand that the level of support and care she provided John with at the end of his days was inestimable. The sincere sympathy of all Martlets is extended to Carol at this very sad time in her life.

John was a "big" man in every respect, whether it was on the sporting field or in academic circles, where I understand he had achieved a high level of respect from both pupils and academic colleagues alike. One was aware of his presence at any function, typified by his ability and readiness to communicate at all levels and accompanied by a dry sense of humour. He will be missed in so many circles. The Martlets have indeed been fortunate in having such a respected and talented player, and a Vice President, as a member over so many years.

Geoff Wills

T20 CRICKET

Sussex's Mike Yardy, a former England one-day International, shares some thoughts on the shortest form of the game.



As we approach another new season I think it would fair to say cricket around the world is moving at a very fast pace. When I started 16 years ago things were very different. Test cricket was about scoring at just around 2 to 3 runs an over. In one day cricket, a winning score was anything in

excess of 250. T20, well that was played on a Wednesday night by junior club teams.

Now, it's played all over the world with grounds full for home fixtures. Franchises are appearing in a number of different countries with the same players playing for sometimes up to five different teams. It is great entertainment for the crowds watching and audiences on TV, but is it possible now to expect teams to become real teams? Tight units? Can they develop that feeling that they are playing for the team's badge, (particularly if it has no history or playing tradition behind it?)

Probably not and this, I believe, makes the coaches' jobs even more important. They may only have six weeks with a team of players, during which time they have to get a good understanding of what makes the players tick and how to get the best out of them. They must get the team members playing for each other.

In any team you need one common goal that unites them. They need an awareness of what they stand for – a team ethic. Of course winning is the ultimate aim, but what common ground brings that team together when the going gets tough? Or is it just about individuals doing their job and it all 'coming together' on the pitch?

My opinion is that it starts with the environment created. Players need to feel valued and challenged at the same time. It's important for most players to feel they have 100% support from the guys around them. There is a care and also organisation in that team. If everything off the pitch is done well: training facilities, time-keeping and team tactics, for example, then results will follow. If a player feels the club or franchise will go the extra mile, then he will go the extra mile on the pitch. In life, I think if someone does an unconditional act for someone else, that person is very likely to reciprocate. It is no different in a cricket team.

A lot of talk now is about the English game having a T20 franchise competition. I believe, if English cricket wants to continue to be successful in all forms of one day cricket, it is a necessity.

The ECB introduced T20 cricket to the world, now the world has left us behind. A system could work well with nine franchises over a six week period – very much designed on the Australian model.

One thing I hope will never change is that Test cricket should still be the pinnacle for every player in this country. I believe the Ashes is still the biggest event on any cricket calendar.

Although I have never represented England in the longest form, when I started it was always my ambition or dream to do so. I hope this is the same with all young players starting their professional careers now, to play for the three lions on their cap or helmet.

I'm sure 2015 will be a very exciting season domestically and internationally and hopefully England can win the Ashes!

Michael Yardy

CRICKET'S BOUNTY

I prefer to think of Hubert not just as Hubert but as 'Hubert and Sue.' I can't think of one without the other, a bit like Hobbs and Sutcliffe or Compton and Edrich, if you know what I mean – such is the strength and warmth of their partnership. For me, more than anything else, it is that warmth which shines through the pages of this lovely book and brings together friends and friendship from all over the world and from all corners of cricketing life (and more besides) in verse and prose. To open the book and read the words makes me feel part of a large family, welcomed in as it were to the inner sanctum and sharing a glass of something fortifying as testimony to legendary Duggart hospitality, full of fun with humour never far from the surface. Love is sometimes hard to define but whatever it is will jump out at you as you read, slowly I would suggest, and absorb 'the batting order' or indeed change it if you wish.

I think you will all empathise with the sad tale of Hubert's autograph book, which appears early on.

'Loss and Joy,' he writes, 'are self-evidently two of the shortest words in our language, but – like their relatives, Life and Death – carry more weight than their brevity suggests.'

It is a charming and simple sentence made all the more moving when set in the context of a much treasured possession. Read on with a light and receptive heart and you will find much more from which your spirits will be uplifted and inspired. You have a treat in store.

John Barclay

(Cricket's Bounty by Hubert Duggart is published by Phillimore Book Publishing in association with M.C.C)

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

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