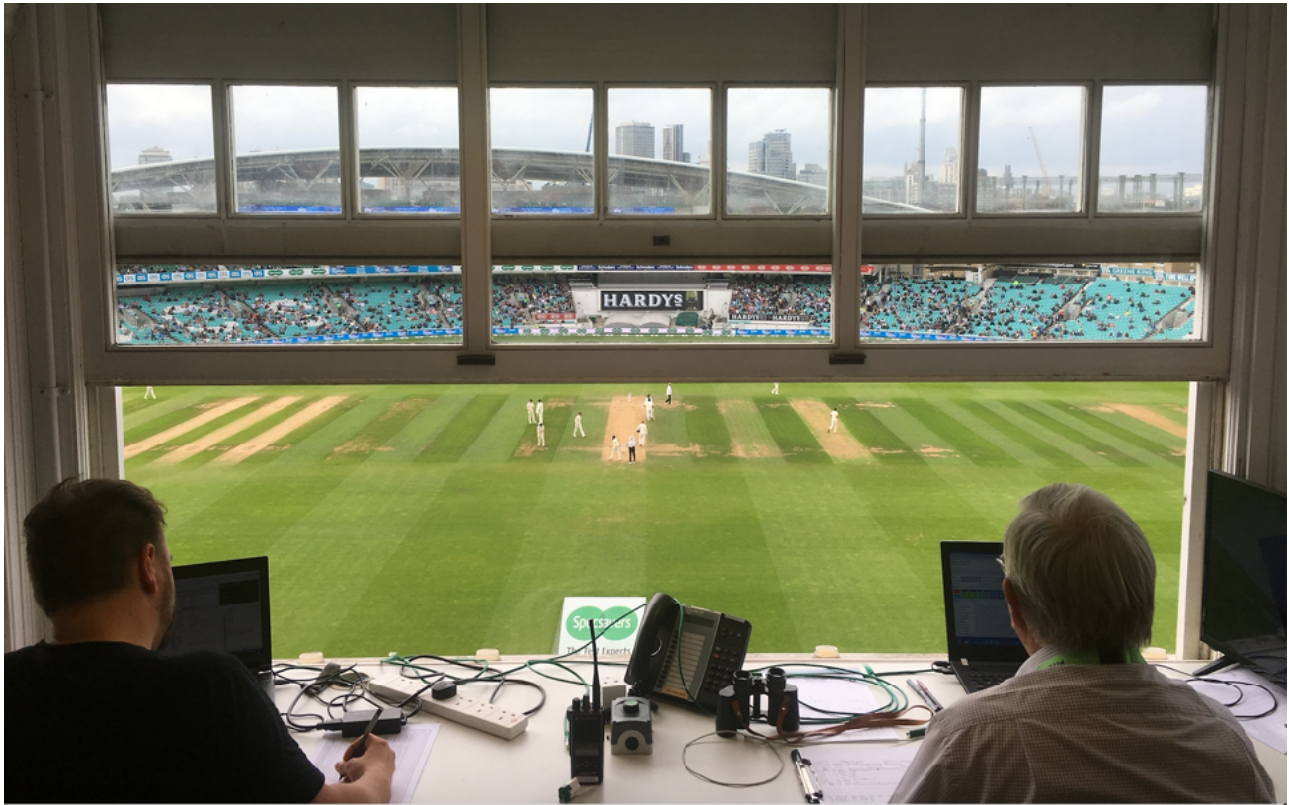




## THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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### *The Best Seat in the House*

When I got a phone call last February asking whether I would be available to score a Test match later that summer at the Oval, I could never have known that I was being offered a box seat for one of the most significant Tests in the history of English cricket.

When the call came through, after all, Alastair Cook hadn't announced his retirement plans and James Anderson was still almost 50 wickets short of Glenn McGrath's world record for a seam bowler. It was only when Anderson finished the summer's penultimate Test just four wickets short of McGrath that it dawned on me that the Oval might be something special. Then, just before the Test, news broke that it would be Cook's last and I realised I was going to play a small part in an extraordinarily week.

The two Test Match scorers are provided by the host ground, but Surrey had recently hired two relative novices and they wanted someone with a bit more experience for this match. As the first-team scorer at

Sussex for more than 15 years, I had the experience they wanted – and being a mate of Phil Makepeace, the regular Surrey scorer, probably also helped get me the gig.

It seems funny to look back now, but the first two days of the match were actually pretty sedate. England were already 3-1 up in the five-match series and most people were only really interested in whether Cook would end his career on a high. From my seat in the scorebox, high up in the Oval pavilion, I was delighted when he got his fifty on day one, and when he was bowled by Jasprit Bumrah for 71 I thought that would have to suffice. After all, this was real life, not some cricketing fairy-tale.

It was only at stumps on day three, with Cook unbeaten on 46 in England's second innings, that I began to wonder if we were going to witness something really special. Every time he walked to and from the wicket during that Test he was cheered to the rafters and when,

on the morning of day four, he went past Kumar Sangakkara on the all-time Test run-scorers' list another huge ovation went up.

Throughout the innings there were little steps, little staging posts, and with each one it felt like the atmosphere in the ground was growing. And then, when he reached his century with those comical overthrows – well, I’ve never experienced so much emotion in a scoreboard. Through our open window, it was like we’d absorbed all the sentiment swirling around the Oval, and when the umpires indicated up to us about those overthrows, Phil and I just leapt out of our seats and started cheering and punching the air.

We managed to retain just about enough concentration to keep the scorebook going, but these days the role of official Test Match scorer is basically ceremonial. We're not providing any real-time information to broadcasters (that's done by their own specialists) and we're not controlling the scoreboard in the ground either (that's done by some technicians sitting next to us). In fact, the information that I entered on my laptop and in my scorebook for that Test isn't published anywhere. So we can afford to, let's say, lose it a little bit.

After Cook reached his ton, the whole ground stayed on a high for the rest of the match, right up until the final ball of the summer when Anderson got the wicket that took him past McGrath as the most successful seamer in Test history. It was the very last ball of the match, which is the busiest time for any scorer, but despite that, Phil and I both found ourselves leaping out of our

seats again. I think I might have hit the ceiling that time round.

Strangely, when I look back now, the Anderson wicket seems almost like an afterthought. But I suppose that's because as glorious as it was, we knew that he'd have other opportunities. For Cook, this was the final match; he wouldn't have another chance.

In terms of sheer emotional impact, nothing will compare to that match. I was at Hove in 2003 on the day that Sussex won the Championship for the first time, and since I took over as 1st XI scorer in 2005 I've been involved with the county at every competition they've won – but scoring last summer's Oval Test turned out to be the highlight of my career. The memories will stay with me forever.

And to think, when I was offered the gig back in February, I wasn't totally enthused about it! You see, I'm not really a great cricket watcher and if someone had offered me a ticket in advance, I'd probably have turned them down.

But having a very small role to play – and getting paid for it too – was a real privilege. English cricket may never be able to top it: the country's all-time leading run-scorer and all-time leading wicket-taker both reaching huge milestones in the same match. And when people talk about that game going down in the record books, I'll be able to smile to myself knowing that it is my record books that they're talking about. In fact, I've still got the scoresheet at home.

**Mike Charman (as told to Josh Burrows)**

[illegible]

*S.C.C.C. has announced Mike's decision that 2019 is going to be his final season as their scorer – he is retiring. The website has the following tribute:*

“Having served the club as Assistant Secretary (1989-1995), Mike was then secretary of Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club until 2002, after which he returned to Sussex as 2nd XI scorer...

During his tenure, Mike has worked alongside four first-team coaches and five county captains and Sussex have won the County Championship twice, the 50-over and T20 competitions once each and the 40-over competition twice.

As of the end of the 2018 season, Mike has recorded every run and wicket for or against Sussex in 587 matches, including over 210 in the County Championship of which he has missed only three, one through illness and two while scoring the two Test matches to which he has been appointed.

Everyone at Sussex Cricket would like to thank Mike for his tremendous service and fine company over the years.”

## MONEY MATTERS



I considered calling this article “Treasurer’s Report,” but that title went with the official Martlet annual accounts, submitted at the recent AGM at Hove. However, I am aware not many were able to get to this meeting, and at the very least you might appreciate a more general explanation of the state of

the Club’s finances.

Those of you who have read the annual accounts over the past few years will have noticed that the Club’s reserves have decreased from a high in excess of £20k in 2013 to £7k this year. This has been caused mainly by 2 factors:

1. The 2017 tour to Ireland, even after support from the Eddie Harrison/Vice Presidents Fund, made a deficit of over £5k, due to “tourists” who had indicated their potential availability dropping out after funds had been expended in advance, to secure best prices on hotels and air fares. To ensure we were able to fulfil our cricket commitment to our hosts, replacements were sought at reduced contributions. The Club has learnt from this, and future tours will only take place if strict budget requirements can be met.
2. Cricket, and especially cricket at Arundel, has become more expensive and we have regularly seen a deficit in excess of £2k between what we

ask players to pay in match fees and what we are asked to pay for ground hire, catering etc. For instance, when I retired as Secretary at Arundel in 2002, the Martlets were making a donation of £700 per season for at least 7 matches there, and we are currently being asked to pay £500 per match. We have discussed this predicament and whether we should reduce our Arundel matches, but the downside of this is that many join the Martlets to get the chance to play at Arundel, and the loss of them as members would be detrimental overall.

When we foresaw this deficit in 2017 as being unlikely to reverse, we instigated a subscription increase to take place from April 2018. However, we had not appreciated that the incorporation of the Club in 2017 would have an effect on our ability to collect subscriptions by Direct Debit through a Third Party provider, and we were unable to collect the full amount on 1st April 2018. We are confident that these technical problems have now been overcome and we expect by the end of April 2019 to have collected not only the balance of the 2018 subs., but all the 2019 subs. at the increased level.

So your question now may be, “How can I help?”

Firstly, please make sure you sign up to Direct Debits when requested – it is a more efficient method of working for the Club, and you are protected by the DD Guarantee against monies being taken in error. When you have signed up, please cancel any Standing Order to the Martlets directly with your bank. Please also ensure the Club has your current email address, as this is our main method of communication with you for subscription purposes.

If any of your cricketing or golfing colleagues are not Martlets, please try to get them on board – new members mean more income without a significant increase in costs. As part of the new subs. framework, new members will receive the beloved Martlets cap as part of their joining fee.

We are investigating ways that we can attract commercial sponsorship, but it may be that your business or you personally could enter into a deal, say by sponsoring an Arundel match, or even sponsoring match balls, with consequent benefits to you and the Club.

If your circumstances allow it, please consider a donation (however small) – this is especially relevant to Life and Honorary Members looking for ways to provide more tangible support of the Martlets.

Lastly, as a way of extending your support after your passing, please consider leaving a legacy (again, however small) in your will. Most charities rely on legacy income and although a legacy in favour of the Martlets will not have the same tax advantage to you, it will help secure our future.

**Mike Charman**



## SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



The three main social events in 2018 were the day/night 50 overs Australia game at Hove, the Arundel Christmas lunch, and the club dinner.

The social secretary's popularity amongst the (alleged) gun-totting villains of South East England meant a late arrival to see the Aussie bullies and a no-show at Arundel, where

Victoria attended in my stead.

The conclusion of many attendees was that PW's absence greatly enhanced both occasions!

If only he had missed the dinner.

Perhaps there will be a greater turn-out this year if I arrange an evening conference in HMP Strangeways.

Obviously I would not miss the annual club get-together for (almost) anything. If only the same could be said for others.

Those members who chose not to attend, or found attendance impossible, missed an entertaining talk from Rob Andrew, ably assisted by Josh Burrows, who teased out some interesting anecdotes. The food was delicious and the evening was most convivial.

### Events for 2019

<b>Thurs 4 April</b>	Friends of Arundel CC Spring lunch
<b>Tues 11 June</b>	President's Table – 1st day of Sussex v Gloucs. at Arundel
<b>Sun 7 July</b>	Chairman's Table – 1st day of Sussex v Australia A
<b>Fri 26 July</b>	Sussex v Surrey 20/20 at Hove

Further details will appear nearer the time on the Martlet website:

<https://www.sussexmartlets.co.uk>

### VICE-PRESIDENTS' DAY

**Friday 2nd August 2019  
at Arundel Castle**

The annual clash with the Junior Martlets is not just for Vice-Presidents! It is an excellent occasion for Martlets of all generations to meet up and marvel at the abilities of modern Martlets (no "it was much better in the old days" please!) and either join us in the pavilion for lunch or bring a picnic. Much circling of the boundary and reminiscing in the offing.

Please note:

### CLUB DINNER

**Friday 15th November 2019  
at the County Ground Hove**

We are also hoping to have a table at the Friends of Arundel Castle CC Christmas lunch on Thurs 6 Dec.

Feel free to contact me ([paul.walker@5kbw.co.uk](mailto:paul.walker@5kbw.co.uk)) for further details or to discuss any other ideas.

**Paul Walker**

## VET HOCKEY

In most people's minds, the Sussex Martlets is thought of as exclusively a cricket club. But not so, for real tennis was also played at Petworth in the past (happily recently revived) and in the 1960s there was an annual hockey match against the Headmaster's XI at Seaford College. I played in one or more of these matches which were managed by Cliff Hodgetts. The fixture card for 1965 (reproduced in David Gibbs' book *Summers by the Sea*) includes the hockey match on 14th March. (It also shows an extremely ambitious programme of cricket fixtures totalling 112 in all, including a couple of two day matches and the Oxford and Cambridge Universities Tours.)

I can't say I recall the results of any of these hockey matches after some 50 years! However, I reckon the Martlet teams included Nigel Smith (Chichester Hockey Club) and Julian Dawson (Lewes HC). I recall that afterwards we were entertained to an excellent tea in the Headmaster's study. (My memories of being in the Headmaster's study in my school days were usually for a quite different reason.)

The Headmaster's XI did indeed include the Headmaster, the Rev. Charles Johnson. He was by then

in his 50s and played in goal very skilfully, although it was not his usual position. In fact, Charles Johnson had been a fine hockey player. He was a Cambridge Blue (right wing), captained Hounslow Hockey Club and played for Sussex, as well as having a South Trial. His mind was on other things on this occasion – his daughter was born on that day – and he did not progress further.

He was a larger than life character, and with his sporting interest, he raised the standard of both cricket and hockey at the School. He had the remarkable record of holding the position of Headmaster for some 46 years up to 1990.

The connection with Seaford College is a longstanding one and the Martlets have had a regular cricket fixture against the School for many years.

This link between the Martlets and hockey is a rather tenuous one, but the above introduction leads on to a hockey story which I can perhaps be forgiven for telling, seeing that I have been a member of the Martlets for over 50 years. I was lucky enough to be selected for the over 75s England Hockey Team which played last year (2017) in the Grand Masters European Cup in Glasgow, where we took gold and this year (2018) in the Grand Masters World Cup in Barcelona, where we came away with silver. Australia, competitive as always in any sport, took gold.

There was a humorous moment in our match against Australia – in the light of the Aussie cricket ball tampering scandal – when one of our players went out at half time to the centre of the pitch, picked up the ball and started examining it as if to say "has this ball been tampered with?" The Aussies took it very well and saw the funny side.

I am particularly active in trying to keep fit. I often get asked how I manage to continue playing hockey at my age. I put it down to good genes and good fortune!



*Robin Carr & his World Cup Silver Medal*

**Robin Carr**

## REVIEW OF THE SEASON

Won 11, Lost 12, Drew 4, Cancelled/Abandoned 12



In an era in which many cricket clubs struggle for full teams on a Saturday, let alone midweek, the Martlets fixture list remains a subject of justifiable pride. There were a total of 51 matches scheduled for 2018, including eight Over 40s fixtures, five Juniors fixtures and the annual Martlets v Junior Martlets match at

Arundel Castle.

This year, the regular XI (ie. not the Over 40s or Juniors) was less successful than the previous season: winning 11 times, losing 12 times, drawing four matches and suffering 12 cancellations or abandonments.

Such a high number of unplayed matches may seem strange given the joint-hottest summer on record, but it is mainly the price we pay for an impressively long season, starting in mid-April and ending in mid-September. Uniquely last summer, one game was also called off owing to the England football team's potential (although thwarted) progress to the World Cup final.

### The best of the batting

The first Martlets century of the season was made by **Harry Rollings**, against his old school, Ardingly



*Martlets batsman of the Year: Darryl Rebbetts*

College. The symmetry was even more pleasing given that Rollings had scored a century in the corresponding fixture last season — for the opposition. **Ollie Bradley** also knows about life as a double agent after making a century for the Martlets against Nomads CC in June, and then against the Martlets in late August, in our match against St James's Montefiore.

**Sam Cooper** made the highest individual Martlets score of the season with 138 against Christ's Hospital. **Darryl Rebbetts** made easily the most destructive ton, reaching three figures at St James's off 68 balls, with his second



*When the clouds gather, it is time for a Martlet huddle ...*

half century coming in just 28 balls. Probably the classiest and most important century, however, was made by Christian Davis against the Sir Paul Getty's XI at Wormsley — an individual performance that held together the team and resulted in victory, pulled slowly but surely from the jaws of defeat.

Other Martlets centurions were **Dhiren Salvi** against Lancing College; **Jens Richardson** against Lancing Rovers; **Joe O'Gorman** against Hampshire Hogs; **Simon Warrender** against Horsham; **Toby Pullan** on VPs' day, against the Junior Martlets; and **Martin Goff** and **Julian Hunt** for the Over 40s against Wadhurst and Rottingdean respectively. There were no centuries for the Junior Martlets, but this did not stop the youth team racking up an astonishing 417 in 40 overs against the junior Hampshire Hogs side.

### The best of the bowling

Among the bowlers, remarkably only one Martlet took a five-wicket haul: **Paul Lack** recording 5-60 for the senior side against Wadhurst. The relative lack of success with the ball may owe much to the long dry summer and the relative lack of spinners in our ranks. There was a hat-trick though: **Hector Maclean** being largely responsible for Horsham collapsing from 200-1, with five overs of their chase remaining, to 228-8 in an unexpectedly nail-biting finish.

Your correspondent took four tail-enders' wickets for two runs in 11 balls in the final Arundel match of the season, against Band of Brothers, but the most impressive bowling was the season-long hostility of **Jordan Shaw**, who took nowhere near the number of wickets that his speed with the new ball and skill with the old ball deserved. No team enjoyed facing him.



*Bowler of the Year: Jordan Shaw*

### The best matches

Over the course of a 51-match season, there were nine fixtures in which the result was still in the balance with two overs remaining — three of those matches going down to the very last ball. Perhaps the pick of these was the game at Goodwood CC, in which **Will Rydon** was the Martlets bowler required to defend one run in the final over of the match. The first four balls he bowled were dots, followed by a caught-and-bowled dismissal on the fifth. Off the very last ball of the game, Goodwood snuck the one run needed for victory.



*Jordan Shaw strikes and the Band loses another Brother...*

In another last-ball thriller, in the rain at East Grinstead against the Cryptics, **Chris Hartland** was charged with bowling the final six balls, defending nine runs. To add to the drama he slipped on the penultimate ball and was unable to complete the over. Shaw stepped up to defend three from the last delivery. The Cryptics scored two, taking their batsman to a century but guaranteeing a draw for the Martlets that means the Sandy Ross Trophy is retained — until the 2019 fixture at least.

In the same week as the Cryptics thriller, the fixture against Mayfield was cleverly engineered by the Martlets into a similarly tight last-ball affair, this time with the Martlets losing the game but — of course — winning friends.

In other close results: Ardingly College held out for a draw while nine wickets down; Horsham collapsed from 200-1 to 222-8, drawing a game that they surely would have won were it not for the Maclean hat-trick mentioned above; Christ's Hospital beat us (nervously) by just one wicket, having needed 19 with three wickets remaining; the match against Lancing College looked like going the distance only for Martlets captain **Hector Loughton** sadly to concede 12 off the penultimate over; the last pair for Wadhurst Seniors held out in the last over; and the inaugural match against the Sir Paul Getty XI required the Martlets to score four runs from the final over, which Davis achieved with relative ease at the end of his special innings.

## Marquee fixtures

Five of our fixtures always feel a little more special than regular Martlets matches, no matter what the result. The first of those is the match against MCC. This year we were hammered at Arundel by a very strong Marylebone side who accelerated from 138-4 to 312-4 in the space of just 20 overs. In reply, the Martlets were 100 all out.

The match between the Martlets and the Junior Martlets was a similarly one-sided affair, with John Bettridge's junior side significantly weakened owing to a clash with a Sussex Academy game and various school rugby tours. The senior team batted first and declared at 248-6, thanks largely to Pullan's century. The juniors fell well short at 94 all out.

This year we also welcomed two new fixtures. The first was against Petworth Park at their picturesque home ground. **Paul Walker's** Martlets team lost that one, but we are already looking forward to returning in future years. The second was a highly-anticipated trip to the famous Wormsley Cricket Ground on the Getty estate in Buckinghamshire. The match itself was worthy of the occasion, with the Martlets collapsing to 175-6 only to chase down 271 to win, thanks to Davis's century.

The match against the Cryptics for the Sandy Ross Trophy was one of the games of the season (see above) but sadly the annual fixture at Hove County Cricket Ground, against Brighton Brunswick, was abandoned in the rain.



*Wormsley Cricket Ground - second only to Arundel?!*

## Other notable moments



*Joe Akers-Douglas: most dismissals (+ dirtiest pads!)*

**Joe Akers-Douglas** equalled the club record for most catches in an innings, snaffling six batsmen from his position behind the stumps against the Yellowhammers.

Frankie Ashworth completed a five-wicket haul for Eton Ramblers by bowling his father **John Ashworth**. But that was not the only example of patricide: in the match against St James's, **Ian Hartland**, playing for the Martlets, dismissed his father Peter Hartland, who is a Martlets regular himself.



*Ashworth father and son negotiate the toss.*



**Sam Carter** (above) fell two short of yet another century at Arundel, this time against Eton Ramblers



Lastly, it would be churlish not to mention an extraordinary innings by a member of the opposition: **Matt Machan**, the former Sussex and Scotland batsman, made 189 from just 91 balls, including 13 sixes, in a second-wicket partnership of more than

250 runs for Nomads CC in their victory over the Martlets in June.

*Josh Burrows*

## JUNIOR MARTLETS 2018

**Played 4, Won 2, Lost 2.**

**T20 Competition: 2nd place** (played 2, won 1, lost 1)



The Junior Martlets had an encouraging season in many ways as, once again, we bled a number of new and promising young players into the team and I hope into the Martlet ethos. We had what I call a "home" season as all our games were played within the county, and all bar the Arundel match at the end,

at Hurstpierpoint College. Apart from the excellent facilities, surroundings and a good tea, Hurst provides a perfect central location within Sussex, which means no one needs to travel too far to reach the match. Most of the cricket was played in the tropical two weeks of late July.

The first game, a 40/40 match against the Hampshire Hogs proved, sadly, to be something of a mismatch.

It was a fine performance and excellently orchestrated in the field by Ash Kumar, the captain. More about this game in due course...

**Junior Martlets 417-3 (Toby Shepperson 101 rtd, Ash Kumar 62 rtd, Ted Bloomfield 58, Mason Robinson 40). Hampshire Hoggets 180 (Lewis Turner 3-18, Nathan Cooper 3-34). Won by 237 runs.**

Three days later the Junior Martlets had another successful afternoon at Hurst against the Junior Band of Brothers. Winning the toss, the Juniors wisely again decided to bat in the heat of the afternoon session. Two young players, Oscar Jago and Hashim Riaz, both 14 year olds, made their first appearances for the Club and impressed with the strength of their attacking stroke play. Others, including the 'keeper Mason Robinson, made useful contributions that took the Juniors to a very handy 40-over total of 308-9. The Junior Band of Brothers rather wilted in front of the seam assault from Greg Iago, with the spinners tidying up at the end. It was at this point that the captain, Ash Kumar, having handed over the gloves for the day to Mason Robinson, decided to prove the point that 'keepers always think bowling a skill they have learnt by watching! Well, with 2-4 perhaps he's right!

**Junior Martlets 308-9 (35 overs): (Hashim Riaz 63\*, Oscar Jago 52, Mason Robinson 38). Junior Band of Brothers 137 all out (Greg Iago 4-48, Ash Kumar 2-4, Toby Shepperson 2-9). Won by 171 runs.**

Every year Matt Parsons brings a Brighton & Hove City Clubs Select XI to play us and it always proves to be an excellent game of cricket. This year the Junior Martlets faced a strong side but watchful batting, particularly by James Scott, Jack Turner, Charlie Weir, Joe Willis and Finn Kirkland, took us to a reasonable total of 197-6. Again, all of them were playing for the first time in a Junior Martlets cap. Sadly, however, one fledgling Martlet had fallen out of the nest somewhere along the line and we were a man short. Hugo March and Dominic Morgan opened up, but the shortage of a fielder left a hole for the batsmen to exploit. Hugo bowled one of the openers, as he toiled manfully through an unbroken 7 over spell. Dom Morgan then dislocated and broke a finger in the field....down to nine fielders. Nathan Cooper, the captain, kept morale up as Ted Bloomfield, who had played for us in the two previous games (!), played a superb attacking innings to set up victory for the Clubs side. A struggle perhaps, but there was determination to the end.

**Junior Martlets 197-6 (Joe Willis 43, James Scott 39, Charlie Weir 36). Brighton & Hove City Clubs 201-2 (Ted Bloomfield 88, Chris Barnett 73). Lost by 8 wkts.**

The three-way T20 tournament between the Junior Martlets, the Junior Band of Brothers and the

Hampshire Hoggets could not start until 1 o'clock because the very heavy early morning rain had soaked the surrounding wickets and outfield. As a consequence, the games had to be reduced to 15 overs per team. (F15!)

By winning both their matches the Junior Band of Brothers were well-deserved winners of the Chris Snell Salver.

**Game 1 – Junior Martlets 123-3 (Ted Bloomfield 46, Alex Bushell 28, James Scott 27). Junior Band of Brothers 124-5 (Nathan Cooper 2-30). Lost by 5 wkts.**

**Game 2 – Junior Band of Brothers 164-3. Hampshire Hoggets 139-3. Junior Band of Brothers won by 25 runs.**

**Game 3 – Junior Martlets 189-3 (Ted Bloomfield 52\*, Charlie Weir 52, Ash Kumar 39). Hampshire Hoggets 99 all out (Alex Bushell 4-5, Lewis Turner 2-3). Won by 90 runs.**

The final game of the season was, of course, the Vice Presidents' Day at Arundel in mid-August. Sadly, the initially selected side was somewhat mauled by unexpected county call-ups and other clashes (pre-season school rugby tours in particular) so it was a rather young team that faced the main side. They bowled and fielded well with Nathan Cooper being the pick of the bowlers with 4-48. There was the confidence of youth in the dressing room, but Arundel was a very big arena for some of the younger members of the team, and in the end the batting proved brittle. The Martlet fielding was also on fire! Although there was disappointment in the camp, this was tempered by the fact that they had played at Arundel and that was special.

**Sussex Martlets 248-6 dec. (Toby Pullan 101, Harry Rollings 56, Hector Loughton 39. Nathan Cooper 4-48). Junior Martlets 94. Lost by 154 runs.**

Earlier I wrote that the Hoggets game was something of a mismatch, for despite the prior arrangements for the usual 18-and-under age-grouping, the side that arrived looked particularly young. I had about four V11th formers playing, but the younger members of the side were good. We accumulated runs with something akin to indecent haste off an inexperienced but nonetheless determined attack. Toby Shepperson reached 100 and the beckoning finger of retirement brought him back to the shade of the pavilion. Others followed down the same route having troubled the scorers considerably and me, to a degree; the score was mounting and the fortieth over was but a distant prospect. Here lay the dilemma. If you declare in an overs game it's almost insulting to the opposition. Also your players have come to play and in a wandering club you rely on them

wanting to come back. So retiring individuals seemed the best course. I was almost hoping for an England-style middle-order collapse, but the Martlets are too good for that! Sitting next to a somewhat choleric Hog grandfather, who kept muttering "this is ridiculous" didn't help my peace of mind, although he assured me he wasn't pointing the finger at me. I wasn't so sure when Ted Bloomfield's late innings plundering brought us to the incredible 40-over total of 417!

The whole point of describing all this is what happened next, or to be more precise, what was said next. All the Martlets realised they'd reached a staggering total by just batting properly. I took Ash, our captain, to one side and said, "Look this is an overwhelming target and they are young; we don't need to destroy them, they are cricketers. Just play with the bowling changes." The reply came back, "John, don't worry, we'll send some back with smiles on their faces."

The man was an infectious genius. Nothing patronising happened; the bowling just changed hands. Inevitably we won but the Hoggets scored 187, used a lot of their overs and were not crushed. They did smile as they left and wandering cricket for fun is still understood and played by some fine young men in Martlet colours.

## Best Junior



This year's winner of the Junior Award has completed his second season for the team. He has been a very consistent and reliable seam bowler and was the leading wicket taker by some margin. He also captained the side on one occasion. Apart from playing for the Juniors, he has put in a useful performance or two for the main side as well this year. Most importantly, he possesses two qualities on which this type of club depends; he has developed a great loyalty and commitment to the Martlets. This year's winner is **Nathan Cooper**.

*John Bettridge*

## MARTLETS' OVER 40s CRICKET



The Martlets Over 40s continue to grow in strength and this has been reflected in the increasing number of requests for fixtures from both clubs in Sussex, as well as from touring teams.

With our average age only being artificially inflated by John Goodacre (the vet will have to consider putting him down soon) the Over 40s squad has been bolstered by the acquisition of a number of quality cricketers, including Guy Keeling, Deepak

Kapadia and Phil Savage, who scooped "Player of the Year" due to his consistency with the gloves and the bat. Phil has also joined the list of match managers for next season – a job that is getting easier each year, as players make themselves available on a regular basis (honestly!) Julian Hunt followed a close second, but the century that he scored against us for Streat & Westmeston counted against him!

Last season saw us play new opposition in the form of Petworth Park – die-hard cricket enthusiasts who toiled hard to reinstate the club, uncovered the old artificial wicket and secured sponsorship for boundary ropes, pavilion etc. A great example to us all, and we will continue to support them. The youth of their team reflected the youth of their revitalised club, but we are still perplexed as to how we came to lose a close fought and very enjoyable game! Similarly Heathfield, Wadhurst and Streat & Westmeston were new fixtures where the result was secondary to the spirit in which the game was played, and we look forward to returning there again next season.

It was good to see Will Rydon, Patrick Jackson and Jeremy McGahan bowling again, but it was Andrew Cantrell who topped the list for the third season in a row, with tight, accurate bowling that was too good even for the Aussie pro. at Heathfield. With the bat, there were some fantastic cameos during the season and that is part of what this game is all about.

Managing a match would seem to be an arduous task but with the Over 40s, it is made all the more simple by our fixtures secretary, Alan Newman, continuing to secure great fixtures for us. We are expanding the fixture card, our membership (and our waistlines) but the strength of the Over 40s is evidenced by the camaraderie that we have and the post-match attendance in the pub!

Again, if you want to continue to play entertaining but competitive cricket, join up, you will be welcome.

Here's looking forward to next season.

*John Goodacre*

## THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2018



On behalf of all the Golfing Society members, my thanks to all the match managers for their efforts in raising sides and running their matches. Your hard work is really appreciated by the members.

Of our 8 matches, we won 2, lost 3, and tied 2 matches. One was rained off.

### West Sussex GC (8th April).

Played on a very wet day, we were lucky to play at a course that drains so well. Playing 16-a-side we had an

excellent match, narrowly leading at lunch, but losing by the same margin in the afternoon, resulting in a tied match at 8 all. Robert Forster and Richard Foster managed to win both their matches with respective partners.

**Royal Ashdown GC (22nd April).**

A twelve-strong Martlets team headed out on the Old Course against Royal Ashdown on a beautiful warm and sunny spring day. The Martlets got off to a fast start with a 4-2 lunchtime lead.

The team then headed out on the West Course in the afternoon, overcoming a Royal Ashdown fightback. The result was a win for the Sussex Martlets 7½-4½. Patrick Hole, Robert Reed and Adrian White all won both their matches.

**Hampshire Hogs GS (25th April).**

We invited our friends from the Hampshire Hogs GS to lunch and an afternoon's golf at our home club, West Sussex. It was a typical spring day, with wind, hail and rain, but also a little sun. Nevertheless our guests enjoyed the day, and we had a good match, which was tied at 2½ points each.

**Crowborough Beacon GC (10th June).**

We played once again for the Grant Skinner Memorial Trophy, on a fine day on a course with some of the best views in Sussex. Although most of the matches went the distance, it was not, unfortunately, a successful day for the Martlets, losing by 4 matches to 2.

**Sussex Martlets Golf Day at Mannings Heath GC (22nd June).**

We had 14 players, with David Scrivens joining us for lunch, which was held under parasols on the upper Club patio. The chef produced a super 3-course meal.

The golf course was in great condition and one or two found that the combination of warm weather and its hilly nature a trifle too challenging, so they retired at the 14th hole. Steve Pook won the day with 33 points and now holds the Sussex Martlets GS Shield. A good time was had by all.

**The Purchasers at Piltdown GC (29th June).**

We played a fourball match on a very hot day in mid-summer with 10 players a side at Piltdown. We were lucky to play this lovely course on a fine day, as we

were not so lucky for our later match at the club. We recorded a win by 3½ matches to 1½.

**Piltdown GC (23rd September).**

Unfortunately rained off.

**Cooden Beach GC (30th September).**

After last year's washout, the weather was perfect. It was Ryder Cup day and Cooden kindly served lunch in the lounge, so we could watch the exciting end of the match.

The Cooden match was not such a success from the Martlets point of view, losing 4-2, with three matches giving away 8 shots to the home team. Allan Gormley and Steve Pook managed to overcome those odds, with Robert Reed and Simon Hodgkinson the other winners.

**Reciprocals Day West Sussex GC (3rd October).**

Once again we held an Invitation event at West Sussex Golf Club, when we invited two players from each of our host clubs to lunch and an afternoon's foursomes golf. The Purchasers representatives (Tony Bauckham and Toby Osborne) carried off the prize with 33 points.

**Rye GC (14th October).**

Played on a warm and humid Sunday morning, the morning result was a disappointing 5½-2½ to Rye. The successful morning pairings were Nigel Cook and Adrian White, unusually shaking hands on the 10th green, and Allan Gormley and Robert Forster who won 3 & 2.

Despite offering the Rye team members a generous supply of wine and Kummels, sadly they won the afternoon round by the same margin and took the match 11-5.

Ben Burrows & Steve Pook won their match 1 up, and Robert Forster, playing on his own, won 2 & 1.

Allan Gormley remains undefeated in all of the matches he has played at Rye since he joined the Golfing Society three years ago.

We were delighted to welcome Steve Pook of West Sussex GC, and Ronni Schrevel of Cooden Beach GC as new members. Both have already made valuable contributions to our matches.

**Adrian White**



Cooden Beach GC

## AN ACTING MARTLET



It may come as a surprise to those who know me, that I am naturally unreliable. "Never! Why?!" I hear you bellow! Because I am a professional actor. Aspects of my life such as family gatherings, school pick-ups, holiday planning and especially time spent with my cricketer family, are governed by my availability to audition and procure a 'gig'.

Nowadays, I find the auditioning process a rather social affair. After nearly 15 years of meetings, with pretty much the same core group of casting directors (CDs), it is only natural for us to have developed very pleasant acquaintance over this time.

At a typical commercial casting, I'd generally walk into a casting suite, where 6 to 10 people (clients, agency, director, CD and cameraman) would be seated. A script would probably have been emailed to me a few days earlier. I proceed to state my name, agent and show hands to camera... just to make sure all digits are present! The CD then films a selection of options based on the storyline, with a pinch of improvisation thrown in. I conclude the meeting by acknowledging their collective wisdom and astuteness in calling me in. It's all over within 5 minutes, on average. Customarily, I will attend 40 to 50 of these castings, with a conversion rate of 5-10%. You win some, you lose some!

I have loved films from the age of six. As an only child, time was spent watching the Saturday afternoon matinees on BBC2. The likes of Ronald Coleman, Fred Astaire, June Allyson, David Niven, Deborah Kerr, Powell & Pressburger – the list goes on – were magnetic to watch. Back then, the Beeb were showing 'horror double-bills', from the 1930s studios of RKO and Universal Pictures; showcasing Lon Chaney Jr., Bela Lugosi and cricket-loving Boris Karloff!

I developed an interest in lighting, sound and stage management as a teenager, working on school productions. During my early twenties, I periodically helped out as a 'runner' on a handful of music videos and short films. Invaluable experiences.

Having had the fortune to pursue a brief career in cricket, parading as a club and school professional both here and abroad, I saw parallels between performance art and cricket: chiefly, teamwork appears to be the crux of it all.

Availability – that is the key to success. You just have to be available, even if it plays havoc with the rest of your life. One example of this began with my fabulous agent calling to inform me of a recall to meet the

producer and director of a commercial, and that the job was pretty much 'in the bag'. Unfortunately, my family and I had stepped through the Gatwick departure gates minutes before receiving the call, Sweden bound! On arrival in Stockholm I wrote off the hire car two miles from our destination, booked a return flight to Stanstead, walked away from the meeting with a job to show for it and touched back down in Sweden. Phew!!!

Two weeks later, during the ad breaks, having not received a single update on the previous meeting, I witness the commercial we were due to shoot, being shown by the Spanish Board of Tourism!

Back to square one for the Agency creative team, and to the doghouse for me after conflicting our account to the tune of several hundred pounds, wounded by the fact no Emirate Airlines dough would be touching down, ever! I've had better moments.

High point? Playing Blofeld's guard in *Spectre*. I need say no more.

Anyway, enough about me. What about YOU?... What do YOU think of ME...!

Vive Le Martlets.



***XDegs (aka Derek Horsham)***

*Degs opens the bowling in 'Doctors', Series 18. Sarah Moyles' line here was "I normally only have a cheese and pickle for lunch," (to which Degs presumably replied, "Whatever. I have to be bowling from the Castle end in 30 mins, so let's get on with it!")*

*Derek joined the Martlets in 2011, since when he has taken around 50 wickets for the club. His most successful season was his first, when he claimed 15 wickets, including 9-36 against Lancing College (the seventh best bowling figures for Sussex Martlets). Derek won the Bowling Award in 2011 and 2015.*

*He has been Match Manager for fixtures against West Chilmington, Mayfield, Nomads and Bradman Foundation, so clearly he is not totally unreliable... Ed.*

## OBITUARIES

**NICK CHAMBERLEN** (1939-2018)

Nick ran the Martlets game in the Hurstpierpoint cricket week for many years.

He was a big noise in the city as the C.E.O. of Clive Discount, the money brokers. He or his deputy, clad in silk top hats would go to the Bank of England at 11 a.m. each day to set the borrowing rates. He did me a great favour, unwittingly, in my city career. We had just had a new chairman, Sir Alexander Ross, and I was summoned to see him. He had had lunch with Nick who had told him we were touring South Africa shortly (this was in 1972). I was able to deliver a personal message to our M.D. out there on his behalf.

Nick went with the fearsome reputation of a man who had taken a hat-trick on the perfect Saffrons pitch. Bowling at the Country Club ground in Jo'burg, he was struck a mighty blow. I was quite interested at long on until I realised it had gone straight up and Nick was going to catch it. Unfortunately he missed it. The crunch of breaking nose bones could be heard all over Jo'burg I should think. He returned two days later with the most spectacular black eyes I have ever seen.

**Keith Jenkin**

*(Nick played in 13 matches against Old Hurst Johnians between 1972-84. His best bowling in these games was 4-33 in 1973, when he was captain. His highest innings, was 21, out of a Martlets total of 233-8, in 1972. The OHJs chased down the total with the loss of only one wicket, Keith Jenkin scoring 158\* – Peter Hartland)*

**ALEX HALLIDAY** (1971-2018)

Probably few men (or women) are called on to write an obituary for their child, but to commemorate the life of Alexander Halliday (Alex to his many friends and colleagues) is relatively simple. He was in love with

Eastbourne from the moment he arrived with his family in September 1975 (his father came to teach classics in that year). He embraced life there from the start: games with his dad and his brother William on College Field, several years at Meads Primary School and a happy time at St. Andrew's. Here he scored the first of his 49 centuries (in 1985 at St. Bede's).

Cricket and all sports featured largely in his five years at the college, where he captained the cricket XI in 1990 and played for the 1st XV. After Bristol University and a spell on the staff of St. Aubyn's, Rottingdean, he

returned to the College in 1995 to teach history, and spent two happy years as resident House Tutor at Wargrave with David and Anthea Stewart.

Cricket always played a big part in Alex's life, and in 1997 he captained the Eastbourne C.C. side which won the national knockout club tournament at Lord's. This was a notable triumph over a super-confident bunch of cricketers from Harrogate, and it sealed his friendship with the Saffrons Club, which staged a commemorative match in 2017, 20 years on from that Lord's victory. Later he played a leading role in the O.E.'s early games in the prestigious Cricketer Cup. More recently, life in Hampshire included plenty of happy cricket with the Hampshire Hogs at lovely Warnford.

Teaching must have been in his blood, for he became a successful and committed schoolmaster, with spells at The Dragon, Radley and latterly at Pilgrims' in Winchester, where he was Senior Master. This is where he met his wife Emily, and settled to family life with her and Georgina (born in 2016).

To be cut down by a particularly aggressive cancer brought to a premature end a life that still promised so much in work and play. He faced the final challenge of his life with typical calmness and fortitude.

Alexander was much loved and will be greatly missed by his family, colleagues, pupils and his host of friends. He was a son for both Juliet and me to be proud of.

**Charles Halliday**

*(Alex scored one century for the Martlets, in 2001. In 2007 he scored 92 in a little over two hours, opening the batting against Hampshire Hogs at Warnford. He also played in one of the more notable games of recent years, at Hove in July 2005, against a strong Sussex Academy XI, including Ollie Rayner, Ben Brown and Will Beer, which was lost by only 20 runs – Peter Hartland)*

*There can have been fewer more impressive Memorial Services for a club cricketer than that for Alex Halliday in February at Winchester Cathedral; it boasts the longest nave of any Gothic cathedral in Europe, and it was full. A number of Sussex Martlets were amongst this congregation of over 1,000 friends and admirers. Ed.*

**ROBIN WATERS** (1937-2017)

Robin Waters was a prominent Martlet and a figure in the game. Educated at Shrewsbury, where he was Captain, he played for Junior Martlets and Sussex Young Cricketers. After National Service with the Middlesex Regiment in Cyprus during the Emergency, he was

able to play a full season for the Martlets in 1959, scoring 1,000 runs. He was always a tower of strength in our matches, correct and stylish.

At Oxford he was soon playing for the University, under the captaincy of the Nawab of Pataudi, and was awarded his Blue (1961) as a wicket-keeper batsman. Sadly, he was unable to play at Lord's.

He played subsequently for Sussex, but found progress barred by keepers Jim Parks and Terry Gunn.

Moving to Ireland, he became Cricket Professional at Belvedere College, Dublin, for many years and played for Ireland, defeating the West Indies in 1969. His photo, opening the batting, is in the pavilion at Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Robin was a total cricket enthusiast and it was always a pleasure to be on the field with him – a most agreeable companion.

He will be sadly missed.

**Brian O'Gorman**

*(Robin is the only batsman ever to have scored a thousand runs in a season for Sussex Martlets. He made 1,021 runs in 1959 and was also leading run scorer the following year with 638 runs. His career lasted from 1959-63. He scored 2200+ runs for the club, including four centuries. He was also one of several high-class wicket-keepers to represent Martlets at that time – Peter Hartland)*

## JOHN WHITTAKER (1932-2018)



John was at school at Wellington, for whom he kept wicket and scored lots of runs. Following National Service he joined the Ford Motor Company, I think for quite a short time, before rejoining his old prep school, St Peter's, Seaford on the teaching staff. John remained at St Peter's for many years, until he was appointed

Headmaster of Sussex House School in Cadogan Square, London.

Upon retirement he returned to live in Seaford where he took up golf at Blatchington, and was captain for a year. Golf became his life when not with his many children, so much so that he joined Piltdown Golf Club when he met and married Jane.

Keith Jenkin recalled once watching John, in I think a County 2nd XI match against Yorkshire at Hove, knocking a young man called Trueman round the ground at Hove for 80 odd!

**Ham Whitty**

Very sorry to hear the sad news about John Whittaker. As Ham Whitty says, he was at Wellington and, though I was some two years younger, I knew him not least as I played a lot of cricket there and had some aspirations of getting into the eleven as a leg-spinner. However, I never reached those dizzy heights, as one Maurice Fitzmaurice (who has lived at Forest Row for many years) was the first eleven 'leggie' in what was an extremely strong Wellington X1 in 1951.

I can still remember most of the names, including Robin O'Brien, opening bat and also brilliant golfer, who was a member at Crowborough where I also lived and played golf as a child. Robin went on to gain a Blue at Cambridge at both cricket and golf, but tragically died while still in his 20s. David Fasken was another leading light in that powerful team and he went on to gain a Blue at Oxford three years running as a fast-medium opening bowler. I subsequently worked in the same London advertising agency as David. Other names from that team were Peter Dobbs, a golfing stalwart of Wellington's Halford Hewitt team for many years, Mark Douglass, Robin Norris and "Fred" Heatly. I mention these names in case any Martlet was a Wellingtonian of that vintage.

Post Wellington I used to meet and chat to John while commuting, he from Seaford, and me from Haywards Heath. He was always very good company and in spite of his hugely superior cricketing pedigree we reminisced about those "distant sunlit days" at Wellington in 1951.

John Whittaker, R.I.P. I will always remember your cheerful demeanour, brilliant batting and wicket-keeping that epitomised the best of public schools cricket in that distant Corinthian era.

**Nigel Pullan**

*(John played for the Martlets, not all that regularly, between 1958-75, scoring two centuries, in 1968 and 1975. He was also on the Committee, running Junior Martlet cricket 1993-97 – Peter Hartland)*

*We are also sorry to hear of the deaths of John Lawrence, John Tanner and John Tylor. Ed.*

## VIEW FROM THE PAVILION

*(This anonymous piece was received at the end of last season by someone claiming to be the Martlet pro. Ed)*



So another season over, gone are the days when I hand the keys of the sponsored 1.2 Fiat Uno sport back to the County; now it's more a careful wrapping of the Martlets kit, supplied gratis, of course, by the fantastic Wisdom Sports and a chance to reflect on another season providing a bit of professional nous for the amateurs. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoy my time as the 'de facto' (I thought this was French until Matt Prior told me from his time there, that it's actually Afrikaans for 'highly talented') Martlets pro, even if the position seems a little underpaid.

For me, once a pro always a pro. The next few months will involve pulling the County 2nd XI hoody on and giving the roads of Hove and my aging knees a nightly pounding, in between coaching the future talent of the County on how to play the ramp. Still beats me what was wrong with the 'Derek Semmence' late cut, a shot of pure beauty, by the way, if you weren't lucky enough to be at the non-strikers end, but nowadays it seems to me that you need to look more like Max Whitlock than Max Waller to succeed in this game. Last winter I had to end a group session in the indoor school at Arundel early after trying to demonstrate a new shot I'd devised and ending up needing to call the chiropractor. Think I might even have heard one of the youngsters saying I looked like a baby deer on ice on his way out... no respect these kids... they even turned the lights out while I was waiting in a heap for the ambulance.

Anyway I digress, this isn't about me and more about how I would sum up the season for the club. Personally a bowling and batting average around the 30 mark suggests 'could do better'; but not wanting to make excuses, there were times when I had more weight on my shoulders than Theresa May giving Boris Johnson a lift in the annual Houses of Parliament piggy-back race.

The highlight of the season for me was not a particular performance or match, but the Vice Presidents' lunch at Arundel Castle during the Junior Martlets game. Modesty forbids me to recount all the details here but needless to say I was humbled by the words of the President running through my list of achievements for the club ever since I was asked to take on the mantle and frankly, when former Sussex captain Johnny Barclay

asked everyone to join in with a rendition of 'For He's A Jolly Good Fellow', in recognition, well I think a baby Martlet must have flown into my eye because I had to produce my Martlets silk hanky (£19.99 from Wisdom Sports and an excellent Christmas present I should add – not that I'm on commission) to dab away a tear. Lucky I had a few copies of all my achievements for the club to hand out for anyone not totally aware of all that I've done for the Pink and Blues.

To end, I think only Jose Mourinho could find the stats to argue that a season which had more L's than W's was an unqualified success and, let's face it, in the hottest summer on record only the Martlets could register so many games abandoned because of rain. But thankfully as a club, regardless of the performance, our mantra, that we are 'here to show how the game should be played rather than focussing on the result,' means that we can enjoy our winter looking back at more wonderful memories on the cricket fields of Sussex and more importantly, I can expect a call any day soon, hopefully (must check my contact details are right in the handbook\*), asking if I will do another season at the helm of this fine club.

Enjoy your time off. Get in the nets in the new year and if anyone needs a one-to-one with the Martlets pro just get in touch.

Yours

The Smartlet

\*Topical joke there, I am available for after-dinner speaking, if you know of a village club looking – for references please contact Tony Cottey at The County Ground. Actually on second thoughts don't... Newick didn't go well last year... how was I to know that they were sponsored by Harvey's beer? OK, maybe I shouldn't have said that when I was playing for the County I preferred a pint of Heineken, but still people can be so touchy these days... rather than touching the parts others cannot reach, but less of my physical stature these days – sorry, once a joker....!

**Martlet Pro**

*Many thanks those who have supplied the pictures especially Malcolm Lamb and SCCC. Ed.*

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

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