



## THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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### *The Jofra & Jordan Show*

*When Jofra Archer needed to prove his fitness before being recalled to the England Test team he appeared in a match for the Sussex 2nd XI against Gloucestershire 2nd XI at Blackstone. The match became one of the most talked-about fixtures of the English domestic cricket season. Bowling at the other end from the World Cup winner was the Sussex Martlets' very own Jordan Shaw.*

I wasn't even supposed to be playing that game with Jofra. I had a week off, but then Sussex asked if I wanted to play the next day, against Gloucestershire. They said there would be a bit of press around but it would obviously be a good opportunity for me. Of course I said yes. I was nursing a small injury at the time but I wanted to play, because if you're out of sight you're out of mind.

Jofra seemed like the nicest guy. He was really personable — but then he got the ball in his hand and it hit me like a train how fast he was. I was standing at

square leg and when he let go of the first ball I just didn't see it. The umpire and I looked at each other like, "Was that a no-ball? I don't even know!"

The pitch we were playing on was a hybrid – half artificial, half real grass – and it played like the Waca. Jofra opened, bowling his thunderbolts down the hill, and Abi Sakande bowled up it for three overs. Luke Wells was captain. He told me that I was coming up the hill, against the wind. I was like, "Of course I am!"

I got two wickets, which was nice. I had a good economy rate, didn't give the batsman much and the first innings was over quite quickly. Jofra got six, I got two, Sakande got two. Then Jofra got a hundred, like he does.

In the second innings there were more press at the match and I think that got to Jofra's head a little bit because he started bowling bouncer after bouncer. It

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2019

was some time after lunch that I began to think, "Jofra, this is great, but you've also got a 95mph yorker. Can you bowl those?" Because at twos level, nobody is keeping those out.

Games like that have made me realise that I'm not going to be quick at that level. I think they put me down on Cricinfo as medium fast. I'll take that! I'll always have height on my side and I can probably hit mid-80s at my peak, which I'm happy with. I now think that I'm more of a line and length seam bowler – and if I can do that for the next six or seven years, that would be great.

The other experience I enjoyed last season was shortly after my first trial with the county. I'd been called back to Hove to bowl in the nets during the pre-season matches against Hampshire and Kent. Then Jason Gillespie, the head coach, came up and asked if I wanted to bowl in the middle. I was like, "Are you serious?" I got my whites on and went out after tea. I was given the ball, came down the hill and got Liam Dawson out with a pretty good nut. That was probably the biggest wicket I took last summer.

I bowled well during the main part of the season but got really unlucky with dropped catches. Often it wasn't even triallists dropping them; it was contracted players. I had Varun Chopra dropped by George Garton at slip, which was a shame because that would have been my biggest wicket of the year. Against Middlesex, Paul Stirling only hit me for six once though, which was good!

In County 2nd XI cricket there's a slight sense of competition between you and your own team-mates - whether you're a triallist like me, or a contracted player coming back from injury. It must be particularly difficult for some of the pro players because theoretically the triallists are threatening their places. Generally though, we all got along well. I think we all had each other's backs.

At the end of last season Philip Hudson, the lead pathway coach at Sussex, said that the county liked what they'd seen in me but wanted me to get fitter and stronger. I spent the winter at Aldridge Academy, told them that I was taking this seriously now, and they've let me use the gym and net whenever I want, so I've lost tons of weight. This whole winter I've been on it. I'm basically just eating chicken and rice.

Because the Hundred is coming up, there are going to be very few contracted players around for the 50-over competition, so there will be places available for academy players and triallists. I think there will be lots of good opportunities for me this year.

*As told to Josh Burrows*



2019 was a golden summer of international cricket, with a closely fought England World Cup win and two fiercely contested Test series. Against that backdrop, I am pleased to report that once again the Sussex Martlets has had a great year.

Notably, our cricket results have taken an up-turn, and we have won more games than lost this season. Importantly our cricket continues to be played in the right spirit, where our teams strive to win while playing fairly. There have consequently been a number of exceptionally close games and it is right to conclude the Sussex Martlets continue to play declaration cricket very well.

With Sussex Martlets cricket being aspirational and inclusive, whilst respecting our traditions, the Club continues to be well regarded by our peers. The committee took the decision to relinquish its Vice-Presidency of the Sussex Cricket Foundation, but notwithstanding this, we have maintained strong connections with both Sussex and Arundel, reinforcing existing relationships whilst also looking to the future to ensure the cause of the Sussex Martlets continues to be well recognised.

You may recall two years ago the committee concluded that the cricket fixture list should be cut back and following reductions in the fixtures for both 2018 and 2019, we are now in a position where a greater proportion of our cricketing members now play cricket for the Martlets, and most of our match managers are finding it easier to raise sides, either through their own efforts, or with support from members of the cricket sub-committee. We now have a WhatsApp group for match managers, which has helped greatly in organising our teams, and our Facebook page continues to provide an effective means of communication to all members of the Club.

The quality of our fixtures remains high. For the second year we had a fixture at Wormsley against the Sir Paul Getty XI and it is pleasing to note we will be hosting a reciprocal fixture this year at Arundel. On the subject of Arundel, our spiritual home, we are scheduled to have six games this coming year, with the Club day on Friday 14 August when the Club plays our Juniors – and all are welcome to attend this fixture.

Congratulations continue to be due for the establishment of our Over-40s side. Age grade cricket is proving to be popular, usually being midweek afternoon matches with the occasional Sunday game. A strong band of cricketers has been assembled to

represent the Club and I expect this aspect of our cricket to continue to be well supported.

The Golf Society continues to go from strength to strength. There is a group of younger golfers now playing for the Club and "home course" status at West Sussex Golf Club has clearly aided our standing with the clubs we play, as we are now able to offer a reciprocal match in the autumn.

The re-introduction of real tennis into our repertoire continues and a challenge match against Petworth (and possibly Lord's) remains in prospect.

The Club is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who make possible the activities of the Sussex Martlets. However, changes are afoot within the committee. John Bettridge has given notice that 2020 will be his last year as Juniors' manager and great store will be placed on finding a successor. Likewise Adrian White has indicated his intention to stand down as Golf Society Secretary and Robert Forster has been appointed as his successor. Our grateful thanks go to all who give of their time voluntarily to keep the Sussex Martlets in good heart. One of the committee's tasks will be to consider the members' survey carried out in the autumn and to determine the changes that should be made to our activities.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you in the coming season on a cricket field, a golf course, or a real tennis court.

**Stuart Ritchie**

## TREASURER'S REPORT



I entitled last year's treasurer's notes "Money Matters" and in one context that still very much applies – a club like ours can only continue and develop if we fund it appropriately, either through subscriptions or by other means. However, as witnessed by one of the High Street bank's advertisements, we are in general unwilling to talk about finances and assume that if we ignore financial considerations they will quietly go away.

This is certainly the impression I have gained over the last two months of 2019 as I, assisted by 2 committee colleagues, have taken the personal approach with members to bring their subscriptions up-to-date. Having between us approached probably 160 of our members who owed the Club money, I would suggest that only about one-third of them actually have taken the trouble to action our request for payment. Even fewer have made the requested switch to payment by Direct Debit, which will make collection of future subscriptions so

much easier, for not only the treasurer/committee, but also for the individual. We will continue to strive to get members onto the new system by April, but this can only happen if members respond to our communications – ladies and gentlemen, please, if the cap fits!

Enough of my rants, and now onto some more pleasing news. Writing this early in the New Year, as I am preparing the draft year-end accounts, I am delighted to say that initial indications are that we have managed to reverse the worrying trend of the past few years and have recorded an encouraging surplus. This is mainly down to a legacy and generous sponsorship, neither of which can we rely on in future, and therefore we continue to seek alternatives to keep the Club afloat.

By the time this newsletter is published, you will have already been approached by the Chairman over ways of helping out [*since deferred for obvious reasons. Ed.*], but I repeat my plea of last year – 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.

As I also mentioned last year, please consider the possibility of leaving a legacy in your Will. One or two members have taken this a step further and decided to pass over the money now rather than wait until their "innings" is over – another suggestion for you to ponder as you await the start of what we all trust will be another successful Martlets season, both on and off the field.

**Mike Charman**

## REVIEW OF THE SEASON



There were 33 matches played by the main Martlets team in 2019, with the Over-40s side playing an additional nine fixtures and the Juniors featuring in another five. Of those 33, the Martlets won 16, lost 10, drew 2 and had 5 abandoned or called off.

Reports from the Over-40s and the Juniors are elsewhere in this year's magazine. Here are the highlights of the season for the main side.

### Best matches

How pleasing that the most entertaining finish of the summer was in the annual fixture between the Martlets and the Junior Martlets on a balmy Vice Presidents' Day at Arundel.

An ill-disciplined batting performance from the Martlets side opened the game up for the youth team, who were

set 220 to win. Their victory should never have been in doubt, but when the otherwise excellent Toby Shepperson holed out seven runs short of his century, the chase lost momentum. Nevertheless, with two overs of the match remaining and the scores level, the result still looked assured – only for the Juniors to panic inexplicably and lose two more wickets. In unexpectedly dramatic scenes, the winning runs were scrambled with only two balls to spare, completing a famous victory for the Juniors.

Similarly extraordinary was the game at West Chiltington and Thakeham. On probably the finest batting pitch of the year, the Martlets racked up an eye-watering 302-4 in just 46 overs, only for the hosts to reach 224-3 in reply, apparently cruising to victory. It was the reintroduction of two part-time bowlers that turned the game on its head, however, with Abi Raut winking out three batsmen and match-manager Hector Loughton somehow convincing a succession of West Chilts batsmen to hole out in the deep. In the final over, with just two runs needed to win, Loughton bowled the No 11 batsman with the penultimate ball of the game.

The marquee fixture against M.C.C. at Arundel was mercifully closer than in recent seasons. This match also boiled down to the penultimate over, in which M.C.C., by this point nine wickets down, finally overhauled the Martlets total of 249-7 declared. That kind of target had looked an impossibility with the Martlets at 50-5, and owed mainly to Dan Smith's century – a rescue act to rival any in the Club's recent history.

The match against Ardingly College was another nail-biter. Chasing 251 to win, the College collapsed from 106-1 to 177-9 yet dragged themselves over the line, thanks almost exclusively to the excellence of Tom Clark, who finished on 183\* and won the game with a six.

Other close finishes came against Lancing College, where the hosts were bowled out just five runs short of the Martlet's total; at Three Bridges, where the Martlets, despite being rolled over for only 159, somehow managed to get the opposition's No 11 batsman to the crease; against the Yellowhammers, where the Martlets lost by two wickets with only a few balls remaining; and in the now traditional curtain call at Sheffield Park, where the Armadillos were beaten by just three runs.

Such a high number of close finishes is testament to the skill and experience of many of the Club's match managers. An honourable mention here also to the 70-over declaration game engineered by Stuart Ritchie at Christ's Hospital – a format that demonstrates, even amusingly, the Martlets' enduring devotion to declaration cricket.

### Best Martlet performances

It won't be long before Jens Richardson asks for naming rights of the Lancing College pavilion. For the third season running, the Martlets' opener made a century in the match against Lancing Rovers, this time finishing on 124 – sadly not enough to take his side to victory in a game lost by 15 runs, with the rest of the team unable to bat for long enough around him.

There was no such lack of support in the match at Eton College, where Henry Blackwell (137\*) and Darryl Rebbetts (117\*) shared a near-chanceless partnership. Their styles complemented each other beautifully: Blackwell glorious through the offside along the floor and Rebbetts aggressive through – and often over – the leg side.



*Henry Blackwell and Darryl Rebbetts*

The season's other gigantic partnership was between Peter Lamb (a typically stylish 107 from 98 balls) and Michael Murray (113\* from 117) against the Hampshire Hogs. For Murray, the century was, remarkably, his first for the Martlets, despite being a constant presence in the leading run-scorer stats for more than two decades.

The other huge surprise was that the 185-run partnership was not enough to win the game, with the Martlets beaten by five wickets in a game yielding more than 600 runs.



*Back row l-r: Jano Moller, Olly Bradley, Jack Cooper, Simon Hasted, Peter Lamb, Ben Pullan  
Front row l-r: Abishek Raut, Alan Newman, Hector Loughton, Matthew Bennison, George Read*

Jano Moller, the Martlets' de facto overseas player two years previously, marked his one-off appearance, against the Butterflies, with a murderous 114 from only 60 balls as the Martlets chased down 232 to win in just 33.2 overs. There was also brutality from Abi Raut, who struck the season's highest score of 146 against West Chiltington and Thakeham; and from Toby Pullan, who made 136 from 98 balls against Horsham.

Dan Smith scored a classy century in the thriller against M.C.C. at Arundel. Hector Loughton made a slightly scrappier hundred against Band of Brothers in deepest, darkest Kent.

The season's best bowling figures – indeed the only five-wicket haul for the main Martlets side – also came from Loughton, a player not previously renowned for his ability with the ball. Seemingly inspired by his responsibility as match manager, Loughton brought himself on to bowl when his team were being flayed to all parts at West Chiltington. Details of that amazing match are above.

There were also four-wicket hauls for Michael Murray, Abi Raut, Ben Jackson, Graeme Bennison, Jamie Francis and your correspondent. Perhaps the most impressive bowling, however, was by leg-spinner Nick Peters, who delivered a spell of such freakish control and torque against Band of Brothers (his first six overs, against top-order batsmen, were all maidens) that he had to be taken out of the attack for fear of spoiling the game.

### **Other notable performances**

Tom Haynes, a destructive batsman who has sometimes played for the Martlets, made 176 as Brighton Brunswick smashed their way to 325-9 in 48 overs at Arundel, setting up a 91-run victory.

For Horsham, Australian overseas player Jordan Willoughby scored a 17-ball fifty which became a 42-ball century. Martlets match manager Ben Pullan described trying to stop Willoughby's onslaught as one of the worst experiences of his captaincy career. Thanks to Toby Pullan's 136 from 98 balls, however, the game ended in a draw.

Another Martlet who suffered one of the darkest moments of his cricketing career was the effervescent Paul Walker. Brought back into the attack for the final over of the game against Brighton College, with the schoolboys needing a preposterous 24 to win, Walker's first delivery was dispatched for six over square leg – a waist-high no-ball and a free hit compounding the problem. The next three balls cost another 18 runs, with two more sixes, a four and another no-ball called on height. In the blink of an eye the hosts had snatched victory from the very belly of defeat.

Lesser men would have been broken by the experience, but Walker, in fine style, bounced back only a few days later against Seaford College when he dismissed the school's most dangerous batsman, bowled around his legs.

**Josh Burrows**

## LEADING BATTING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 5 innings)

	Innings	N.O	H.S	Runs	Average
M. Murray	6	4	113*	321	160.50
D. Rebbetts	7	3	117*	311	77.75
T. Pullan	6	0	136	262	43.67

**Centurions:** Abi Raut (146), Henry Blackwell (137\*), Toby Pullan (136), Dan Smith (126), Jens Richardson (124), Darryl Rebbetts (117), Jano Möller (114), Michael Murray (113), Peter Lamb (107), Toby Shepperson (101), Hector Loughton (100). There were a further 27 scores of 50+.

## LEADING BOWLING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 10 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
M. Murray	41.3	3	183	11	16.64
B. Davies	69.3	14	250	12	20.83
M. Trubshaw	99	7	489	23	21.26

**5 wkts in an innings:** Hector Loughton (5-90)

## MARTLETS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The annual Club awards were announced at the Annual Dinner held in the Long Room of the Sussex County Cricket Ground at Hove.

### Best Batsman – Michael Murray



There were many centurions this year, but really only three batsmen were in contention: Toby Pullan with 262 runs at 43.67, Darryl Rebbetts with 311 runs at 77.75, and Michael Murray with 321 runs at 160.5 including his maiden century for the Club after 25 years playing. By any analysis, the Best Batsman Award went to Michael Murray.

### Best Bowler – Mark Trubshaw



There were three bowlers who stood out this season: Michael Murray (again) with 11 wickets at 16.64, Ben Davies with 12 wickets at 20.83 and Mark Trubshaw with 23 wickets at 21.26. This year, wickets trumped averages, and the winner of the Best Bowler Award was

Mark Trubshaw.

### Best Junior – Toby Shepperson



John Bettridge reported: "The Junior section of the Club is most fortunate to have a large number of players who from their first game have remained very loyal and contributed hugely to our successes and helped to conjure up a

positive and inclusive atmosphere within the teams that have taken the field. Toby Shepperson is a fine example of such a player. He has made valuable contributions both as a batsman and leg-spin bowler since he began playing for us 4 years ago. This year he was instrumental in the two major successes that the Juniors had. To score a century in a T20 game is a real feat. Three days later his 93 against the Martlets at Arundel proved a vital element of the Juniors' historic win. In the last two years he has also made a number of appearances for the senior side and a century against the Old Hurst Johnians this summer emphasises his cricketing prowess."

### Best Over-40s Player – Dave Christmas



The Martlets Over-40s goes from strength to strength. Leading batsmen this year were Mark Trubshaw, Phil Savage and Neil Bushell. Leading bowlers were Dave Christmas, Paul Walker and Paul Lack. With 10 wickets at 16.1, the award went to Dave

Christmas.

### Martlet of the Year – John Goodacre



This year the Club wished to recognise a gentleman who has taken a concept and developed it. Some ten or so years ago, there was a tentative start made with a seniors' team, then led by Adrian Ford. In succeeding Fordy, he rebranded the side as the "Over-40s," successfully expanding the playing numbers, giving some of our members the chance to continue playing cricket at a competitive level, whilst also bringing back into the fold some who thought their cricketing days were over. There is a much expanded fixture list too. With our grateful thanks, the award went to John Goodacre.

*Stuart Ritchie*

## NEW MEMBERS 2019/20

The Club welcomes into membership:

**Dave Christmas** (Streat & Westmeston)

The following Junior Martlets are now full members:

**Harry Moorat** (Brighton College)

**Mason Robinson** (Sussex U.19, Middleton CC, Hurstpierpoint College)

**James Scott** (Linfield CC, Ardingly College)

If you know of an individual who wishes to play cricket for the Sussex Martlets this summer, do please get in touch with me and remember the application form is available from the website of the Club.

*Stuart Ritchie*

## JUNIOR MARTLETS 2019

Played 5, Won 5, Abandoned 1.

(T20 Competition: 1st place (played 2, won 2).



The record gives a clear indication that this was not a bad year for the Juniors! The story behind the figures shows that there is considerable enthusiasm to play for the Martlets, but some disappointment too that the weather and other factors restricted the chances to participate to a degree.

Sadly, the Hampshire Hoggetts game was abandoned, but the following week was kinder and a heat wave saw us at Stonewall Park to take on the Junior Band of Brothers. To a degree the toss decided the fate of game. The home side won it and decided to bat, but then had little answer to the Junior Martlet attack. Dominic Morgan and Josh Gander opened both had pace and accuracy. Both took an early wicket apiece and along with a run out, the result of utter mid-wicket confusion, and a first-ball wicket from the captain, Nathan Cooper, reduced them to 12-4 at the start of the sixth over. Bertie Foreman bemused the heart of the middle order with his off-breaks, before Josh Gander returned for the mopping-up operation. Seven of the wickets that fell were bowled and the wicket-keeping of Joe Willis was impressive.

In reply, it did not take long for the Junior Martlets to reach the target, 8.1 overs to be precise. James Scott played some excellent shots and was backed up by his opening partner Sam Clark. His innings included an effortless six over the pavilion. Oscar Jago-Lewis scored 3 fours towards the end to help wrap up affairs.

**Junior Band of Brothers 62 all out (Josh Gander 4-12, Bertie Foreman 3-18). Junior Martlets 65-1 (James Scott 28\*, Oscar Jago-Lewis 16\*). Won by 9 wickets.**

There followed a week later the Chris Snell Salver T20 Tournament. This is something that the Junior Band of Brothers have rather made their own since its inception. Weather threatened again, but shower after shower seemed to skirt the Hurst ground, with teams only having to leave the pitch twice during the day. In short it was amazing that we managed to complete the competition.

The first game was between the hosts, the Junior Martlets, and the Band of Brothers. Nathan Cooper won the toss and elected to bat. Toby Shepperson and Ben Caiden made a forceful start before Caiden was caught with the score on 33 in the third over. Alex Bushell and Sam Clark rapidly followed before Bertie Foreman joined Shepperson to stabilise the situation. Joe Willis' free-flowing style suited the situation as he and Shepperson played many fine shots to take the Martlets

to 229 off their 20 overs. To score a hundred in a T20 is no mean feat and Toby Shepperson's 116 was an outstanding piece of batsmanship.

The Band of Brothers started well and had moved their score to 90 in the tenth over before the second wicket fell. But at this stage the Martlet bowling took a strangle-hold and they were 6 down two overs later and bowled out for 126 before the 20 were completed.

**Junior Martlets 229-7 (Toby Shepperson 116, Joe Willis 54). Junior BBs 126 all out. (Josh Gander 3-20). Won by 103 runs.**

After lunch, the second game between the Hoggetts and the Band of Brothers was won by the Junior Band of Brothers.

The final game, to round off the competition, was between the Martlets and the Hoggetts.

The Hoggetts won the toss and decided to bat, but found the ball difficult to get away throughout their innings, with all 7 bowlers used by the Martlets keeping it tight throughout. They ended with a score of 126-6.

Although Hasim Riaz and Ben Caiden fell cheaply, Joe Willis and Sam Clark attacked the bowling and scored quickly, so the score was overtaken after 12.1 overs. In an excellent innings, Joe Willis hit 5 sixes and 7 fours.

This is the fourth year of the tournament and it is the first time that the Junior Martlets have won the salver and they did so in fine style.

**Hampshire Hoggetts 126-6 (Bertie Foreman 2-11) in 20 overs. Junior Martlets 128-2 (Joe Willis 70\* Sam Clark 36\*) in 12.1 overs. Won by 8 wkts.**

A change in fixture timing meant that the Arundel game against the senior side fell in early August, rather than later in the month.

There have been some exciting finishes to this game over the years, but despite a tie and a draw with scores equal, the Juniors have never actually won.

Toby Shepperson should take most of the credit for this superb win – his innings of 93 anchoring his team's successful chase, but this was a match in which almost every Junior contributed to the victory.

For the Seniors, the only significant partnership in the innings was between Morné Louw (37) and Tom Haynes for the first wicket. Thereafter, the Juniors struck regularly, with only George Read making a satisfactory contribution.

Junior captain Nathan Cooper took 3-46, and there were two wickets apiece for Alex Bushell, who

dismissed both openers, and Bertie Foreman, who took the prized scalps of captain Darryl Rebbetts and Olly Bradley.

Although all Junior bowlers bowled well, the senior side's disappointing total of 219-6, before a declaration after 50 overs, probably owed more to poor batting.

Nevertheless, chasing 220 to win was to be no easy task against an experienced bowling attack. Nobody seemed to have explained that to Shepperson though. Opening the batting with Anish Padalkar (41), the pair not only saw off the new ball attack of Josh Burrows and Ben Davies, but scored enough runs while doing so that the required rate never got out of hand.

Padalkar was bowled by Rebbetts and No 3 Harry Moorat caught off the bowling of Read, but Shepperson and No 4 Joe Willis (49) made sure they took advantage of the batting conditions that the opposition had spurned. There was little swing, no seam movement and even when Shepperson was run out, he was very generously called back to the crease by the fielder, Jonathan Wills, who believed that he had unfairly obstructed the batsmen from running between the wickets. While priding themselves on playing the right way, the Seniors would come to regret this act of charity.

Really, the Junior victory should never have been in doubt, but a lack of experience almost cost the younger side, and set up a grandstand finish.

Off-spinner Mark Trubshaw was brought into the attack and the field brought up into the ring for what should have been the game's death throes. Shepperson continued to hunt boundaries, however, and paid the price when he was caught by Read, falling seven short of his century. At this point, the Juniors required another 45 to win from the remaining nine overs; an equation that meant the Senior side weren't dead and buried just yet.

Somehow – and Junior captain Cooper must still wonder how – with two overs remaining and the scores level, the Juniors not only batted out a maiden but lost a wicket, when Willis tried to score the winning runs (and reach his own half century) by heaving Trubshaw into the leg side only to be caught at midwicket by a tumbling Burrows. One run still required, with one over remaining. Easy enough in theory, but try telling that to the batsman, Alex Bushell, who was faced with a claustrophobic field and the accurate off-spin of Haynes. After three dot balls, Bushell panicked and attempted a single that existed only in his imagination, running out his partner Charlie Tear and getting himself off strike in the process. Two balls remaining and a new batsman, Foreman, at the crease, Haynes fired the ball into leg stump and may well have elicited another dot



*Back row: Josh Gander, Felix Talbot, Toby Shepperson, Sam Clark, Anish Padalkar, Joe Willis, Charlie Tear.  
Front row: Alex Bushell, Bertie Foreman, Nathan Cooper (capt.), Harry Moorat.*



ball had Foreman's shot found the middle of the bat. Instead the ball took a thick inside edge and allowed the Juniors to scramble the one run they needed to secure a five-wicket victory, with just two balls to spare.

In his speech to the players and vice presidents at lunch, club president Brian O'Gorman had spoken briefly about the long and happy history of the Junior Martlets, recalling his own playing days. Rarely in that long history will a game have finished as entertainingly as this one did.



*Presidents Past & Present — Geoff Wills and Brian O'Gorman prepare to award the Juniors the President's Trophy*

**Sussex Martlets 219-6 (50 overs): (T Haynes 46, G Read 45\*; N Cooper 3-46, A Bushell 2-32).**

**Junior Martlets 220-5 (47.4 overs): (T Shepperson 93, J Willis 49; M Trubshaw 2-16). Won by 5 wkts.**

The season's finale came with the game against the Brighton & Hove City Clubs Select XI. Batting first, Oscar Jago-Lewis and Hashim Riaz put on 86 for the first wicket. Jago-Lewis rode his luck a little early on, whilst Riaz played some fine shots, before being caught. Ryan Trotter joined Jago-Lewis and between them they accelerated the pace, scoring 32 off the next 4 overs, before the latter was also caught! After this the partnerships were short, but the platform was sufficient for the Martlets to have built a defendable total by the time the final wicket fell in the 39th over.

Alex Bushell, the Clubs' captain, opened and was in run-scoring mood, but his partner fell in the 5th over and the pace became more cautious. The left-arm seam of Hugo March produced the first wicket. Nathan Cooper, the captain, proved hard to get away, but it was the spinners who put a strangle-hold on the Clubs' batting. Jack Trubshaw turned his left-armers and Bertie Foreman's variation with his off-spin had the batsmen guessing. Ryan Trotter backed up the bowlers' efforts by taking three outstanding catches, while we saw some fine keeping from Oscar Jago-Lewis that also included three catches. Ryan Trotter also took two wickets to add to his performance in the field. Charlie Tear also

chipped in at the end to complete the bowling successes.

**Junior Martlets 212 all out (40 overs) (Oscar Jago-Lewis 58, Hashim Riaz 39, Ryan Trotter 25). B & H City Clubs 132-8 innings closed (Alex Bushell 46, Jack Trubshaw 2-15, Ryan Trotter 2-13). Won by 80 runs.**

This victory marked the end of the Junior Martlets' short summer holiday season. I would like to thank all who played for their enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment of Martlets cricket. Nathan Cooper has been a fine captain, often selfless in his approach in order to make sure others have an opportunity before himself. Nothing would happen without the help from the parents, who drive and support. Finally, I have a special word of thanks to Michael Foreman, who is a genius at finding me new players for the Club.

*John Bettridge*

## MARTLETS' OVER-40s CRICKET

Played 6, Won 1, Tied 1, Drawn 2, Lost 2, Cancelled 4

In what will be my only season as the Over-40s' Interim Manager, I can report that it was a season of "what might have been."

Having inherited a finely tuned and able squad from the guiding force of John Goodacre, the selected eleven navigated their way to Heathfield Park in May only to be thwarted by an ever-increasing drizzle, although we did get changed into whites as the precipitation eased briefly. Always better to ease gently into the season! We did of course eat tea and go to the pub.

Next were the Dutch Flamingoes/Red & White, led by the perennially enthusiastic Jaap Vogelaar. They provided us with the only victory of the season, despite us being a man down due to last-minute work pressures experienced by the match manager. It was a comfortable victory by 7 wickets on the John Dew Ground at Horsham.

Limited availability for the Forty Club produced the first of two such casualties, Cuckfield being the other; in both cases, neither club had a full side confirmed. Both fixtures will be repeated in 2020, maybe on different dates.

Rottingdean claimed a rare victory over us after our run chase lost its way, finishing 41 short, but the fish and chips on the seafront provided some compensation.

Next came the Bradman Foundation on the main ground at Horsham. A key factor was the recruitment by the BF XI, the previous evening, of that well-known "overseas" player, Toby Pullan. Displaying his uncanny

knack of finding easy runs, he displayed his true Martlet colours by taking a century, a couple of wickets and catches off us. Needless to say his Martlet membership is now under review, after we came a distant second in a high-scoring rain-interrupted 35 over game.

We had the better of a draw at Wadhurst, whilst Streat fell victim to the weather, leaving us another year to contemplate the temptation of Stan Spiegel's bowling.

So to St James, with Neil Bushell engaged on a walk between pubs on the South Downs, thus taking an extremely neutral position by not even being present. We fielded and bowled well, restricting SJM to 172 all out. Our reply ebbed and flowed and looked to be heading for defeat, but Mark Trubshaw batted us back into it, so that we needed 3 off the last ball and managed 2, finishing 9 down, possibly the first tie in Martlets Over 40s matches, and certainly a fine game!

The season concluded similarly in a timed game in the picturesque surroundings of Petworth, and again we looked to be heading for a draw. This time it was Mark Chapple who put us back on track. We ended up needing 4 off the last ball, again managing 2, and so drawing with 2 wickets in hand.

In summary, you could say we were 3 runs from a 3 win season. That, however, is less important than the cricket played, the new (old) recruits to the Martlet cause and the team spirit, good humour and camaraderie of this developing Martlet squad.

Next year we will again be a year older and still no wiser, hoping for good weather and victory over new Australian tourists.

*Alan Newman*

## OVER-40s AVERAGES

Batting	Innings	N.Os	H.S	Runs	Average
M. Trubshaw	3	1	62	172	86.00
P. Savage.	5	3	59*	146	73.00
N. Bushell	4	1	53*	86	28.67

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
P. Walker	7	0	26	4	6.50
P. Lack	15	4	61	4	15.25
D. Christmas	27.4	3	161	10	16.10

## THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2019



Many 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 4, drew 1, and 1 was rained off.

### West Sussex GC (7th April).

The spring weather was in the air, and the usual mix of WSGC and Martlet members played a two round foursomes match.

The lead Martlet pairing of Pook and Bowden stole a victory on the 17th hole. The next 2 games of White and Stewart v Forster and Baillie Hamilton were only able to manage a second place. So 2-1 down at this point.

Next out were Spink and Phillipps who came into the Clubhouse all square.

The penultimate morning foursome saw Hunt and Hartridge winning their match.

The last match of the morning was Foster and P Hole who lost narrowly, so overall we were down 3½-2½ at lunch.

First out in the afternoon were Ritchie and White. 5 down with 6 to play, they managed a heroic fightback, taking 6 straight holes to win their match.

Pook and Hunt then won their match and Forster and Hole managed a half.

Foster and Stewart lost their match leaving the score all square.

Hartridge and Stevenson won on the 18th and with the light failing, a long missed (tactful?) putt by our match manager, Mark Bowden, playing with Baillie Hamilton, ensured another half.

Great fun, but as last year, another match drawn at 6-6.

### Sussex Martlets CC (24th April)

On a bright Spring day the Golfing Society took on the SM Cricketers at the SMGS's home club, West Sussex.

After an excellent lunch, the two teams of 8 played singles matches in a competitive but friendly fixture. Perhaps the SMGS hosts were a little too generous, going down 5-3 overall.

The cricket team contained a blend of youth and experience, with two West Sussex members adding

course knowledge. After 4 matches had reported in, only Adrian White had scored for the SMGS, but Robert Forster and Nigel Cook restored some pride late on.

Overall, the day was enjoyed by all, with four of the cricketers expressing an interest in joining the Golfing Society, into which they were welcomed and enrolled quickly to play in some of the remaining matches.

The teams comprised, for the SMGS: Mark Bowden, John Stapleton, Michael Phillipps, Robert Forster, Robert Reed, Nigel Cook, Nick Hamilton and Adrian White.

For the SMCC: Guy Keeling, James Stedman, Will Rydon, Jon Heaven, Mike Binns, John Ashworth, Peter Jones and Stuart Ritchie.

### Royal Ashdown GC (28th April)



*The 11th hole. A tricky par 3*

It was a bright and breezy day on Ashdown Forest when the Martlets started their match against an experienced Royal Ashdown team. The Old Course was in excellent condition with the ball running nicely along the fairways after the recent dry weather.

The Martlets team got off to a strong start and at lunch found themselves in the unfamiliar position of leading by 5 matches to 1. A very convivial lunch was had, although there was a slight concern among the Martlet ranks that two of their star players – Chris Spink and Simon Baillie-Hamilton – were unavailable for the afternoon.

However, inspired by the presence at lunch of legendary Martlet David Scrivens, the team agreed to go out and play their natural attacking game, rather than try and protect their lead.

After the afternoon games on the shorter but tricky West Course, the final score was declared as Royal Ashdown 3½ and the Martlets 7½. Honourable mentions to Martlet Chairman Stuart Ritchie and Steve Pook, who both scored 1½ points for the Martlets, and the highest accolades to Nigel Cook, Patrick Hole, Andy Rogers

and Mark Stevenson who all scored a maximum of 2 points.

Thanks to all Martlets who played, but do expect a Royal Ashdown backlash next year!

### Crowborough Beacon GC (9th 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. Not for the first time, the Martlets were outplayed by a strong Crowborough side, going down 4½ to 1½. A very enjoyable match and lunch nonetheless. Time for the Martlets to win next year!

### Sussex Martlets Golf Day (14th June)

Robert Reed was once again kind enough to arrange the annual Sussex Martlets Golf meeting at Mannings Heath GC. 12 Martlet members, cricketers and golfers, played for the trophy, which was won (retained) by Steve Pook after a fine round. We enjoyed an excellent lunch, including some of the Mannings Estate wines.

### The Purchasers GC (28th June)

The annual match against The Purchasers took place at Piltdown GC. More a friendly event than a competitive one, all the Martlets managed to score a victory, so a rare win 5-0. Nevertheless all enjoyed the day and a date has already been arranged for a repeat next year.

### Piltdown GC (22nd September)

Once again we visited Piltdown GC, this time for a match against the club, but with very different results. In a foursomes match we fielded 10 players, but only Ham Whitty and Patrick Treasure came in with a win, as we lost 4-1.

### Cooden Beach GC (29th September)

Sadly, the match was rained off for the second time in three years.

### Reciprocals Day (2nd October)

Once again we held an Invitation event at West Sussex Golf Club, where we were pleased to see two players from each of Rye, West Sussex, Royal Ashdown, Cooden Beach, Piltdown and Crowborough Beacon Golf Clubs join us for lunch and a foursomes stableford competition. Trevor Rudd and Andrew Murdoch from Royal Ashdown won the first prize with a creditable 35 points.

### Rye GC (13th October)

Contrary to dire weather predictions, the rain stayed away all day (though we watched a deluge over lunch), and we had an excellent day's golf with two rounds of foursomes either side of a first-class lunch.

Our morning round could hardly have gone worse, with only John Ashworth and Mike Stewart preventing a whitewash, as we went into lunch 8-1 down.

Much refreshed, we managed to win the afternoon matches 5½-3½ (John Ashworth winning again),

restoring a semblance of Martlets' pride, losing overall 11½-6½.

During the year we were delighted to welcome new members to our Golfing Society: Martin Phillimore, James Stedman, David Moffatt, Will Rydon and Jonny Heaven.

**Adrian White**

## PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES



In 1951, the Martlets came under new management, a revitalised approach being needed. Eddie Harrison, with both playing credentials and organising capacity, was named as Hon. Secretary and M.D. Neligan became manager of the Junior Martlets. This had immediate effect: new members, more fixtures and a drive for success. The 1952 edition of *The Cricketer* mentions Eddie Harrison and Bob Stainton as centurions, as well as leading batsmen Keith Jenkin, Peter Collymore and Derek Corbett. The successful bowlers were David Dickinson, Sandy Farrar, Bill Kenning, C.R. Gerrard, Eddie Harrison and John Farrar.

1952 saw a first flowering of the new Junior Martlets under M.D. Neligan, who was, as *The Cricketer* declared, "a splendid bowler" of medium pace for Horsham, Worthing and Middleton. As a headmaster, he knew the likely players – many from his own school, Broadwater Manor House – and surveyed young talent at Middleton.

A strong and appropriate fixture list was established and extended: The Babes (now Junior Band of Brothers), Junior Blue Mantles, Hampshire Hoggetts, Colts of Horsham and Worthing and matches against clubs. This was a crucial programme of development for young cricketers. This Martlet nursery produced results. The team was a very strong one, coming from schools with high playing standards such as Tonbridge, Sherborne, Winchester, Repton, Uppingham and Harrow, who provided the captain that year in Chris Hawke, a fine batsman and keeper, who averaged 51. He played for Oxford and was unlucky not to progress to a Blue. (His name, recorded in *Wisden*, is often quoted as evidence that Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia, did so.) Peter Fuente, John Kitching, Andrew Brown and Simon Starkey scored well. Brian O'Gorman was, *The Cricketer* informs us, "easily the leading bowler with 26 wickets at 9.4 runs each."

This led on to a memorable occasion in 1953, when the Juniors played against a Martlet side that included David Sheppard, who had just led Sussex to second place in the championship and was then playing

for England. It was a truly memorable and significant day's play – justly celebrated in the *Sussex Daily News*:

### **Sussex Martlets v Junior Martlets, Hove, Young Martlets took all the Glory.**

*Sussex Martlets beat the Junior Martlets by three wickets at the County Ground yesterday, the winning hit being made in the last over of the day. But the glory belonged to the youngsters, all of them in their teens.*

*For this Sussex Martlets team included Sussex skipper, David Sheppard (writes John Samuel). The Juniors ran up the highest total – 269-4 declared – made against the Martlets this season. Opening the innings, 15-year-old Tony Lush batted 3½ hours for an undefeated 104. His defence was flawless and undoubtedly the runs would have arrived in much quicker time had he possessed greater power. In this respect he will develop with the years.*

*There were stands of more than 50 for each of the wickets that fell. Sheppard had one turn with the ball and his analysis was a rather extraordinary one: 5-2-27-1. His three non-maidens were rather expensive. The Martlets were left 2 hours and 25 minutes to get the runs and Sheppard laid a solid foundation with 90 in 85 minutes. It was by no means a murderous onslaught, the young bowlers, especially the spinners, remembered their coaches' advice and bravely kept the ball well up to the bat, but let us say that Sheppard was generally in command, and leave it at that. He was caught at cover being too early with an attempted square cut.*

*Lock and Fuente scored at a rate of two a minute in stand of 43 and the latter stayed to make the winning hit in what would have been the last over.*

#### JUNIOR MARTLETS

*SM Starkey run out 56; JA Lush 104\*; J O'Byrne c Sheppard b Craft 35; A Brown c & b Sheppard 21; P Fuente c Lock b Bolton 21; C Calver not out 5. Extras 19. Total 269-4 dec.*

*(D Cook, B O'Gorman, J Kitching, D Mordaunt, R Macnutt did not bat).*

#### SUSSEX MARTLETS

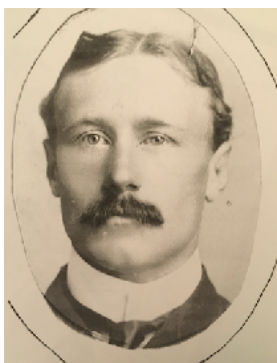
*D Sheppard c Brown b MacNutt 90; JK Matthews lbw b Kitching 6; C Sharman c Fuente b O'Gorman 41; MIA Hunter c MacNutt b Mordaunt 0; JN Lock lbw Macnutt 51; NC Fuente 37\*; EE Harrison b MacNutt 4; GW Lees c Mordaunt b O'Gorman 17; P Marson 14\*. Extras 10. Total 270-7 (Macnutt 3-55. MA Craft, G Bolton and WL Kenning did not bat).*

(Of this team, in addition to Sheppard, JK Matthews, EE Harrison and G Lees played for Sussex and from the JM team, Mordaunt and Lush played for Sussex also. Andrew Brown played for Royal Navy and Combined Services, and many from both teams for County 2nd XI's).

**Brian O'Gorman**

## PAST PRESIDENTS

### ARTHUR WILLIAM FITZROY SOMERSET



It seemed a good idea to try and discover more about the Club's past Presidents. I thought I would start with our first President, my great uncle, the Reverend W. A. Carr (1907-14) but the Club's Archivist Peter Hartland could only find that he batted once for The Martlets and made nought, so I hastily moved on to our next

President! He was Arthur William Fitzroy Somerset (1919-1927) a cricketer of some fame in his time.

Arthur was born in 1855 and educated at Wellington College. He captained the Eleven in 1871 and then spent 8 years in Australia.

He played a lot of cricket in Sussex, particularly for the Sussex Martlets, but also for Worthing (who at the time played at Broadwater Green) and a number of other Sussex clubs. He captained The Gentlemen of Sussex, Sussex 2nd XI and Worthing over many years.

He was an original member of The Sussex Martlets (founded in 1905 and first called The Hove Long Vacation Club). In 1919 he was elected President and

held the position (which included the chairmanship of the Club) until 1927.

We as a Club owe a massive debt of gratitude to Arthur Somerset, who was instrumental in restoring the Club to its former glory. Early on, his Committee included former Sussex cricketers John Flowers, Stanley Harris, J. K. Mathews, William Knowles and also H. L. Wilson (captain of Sussex 1919-21). After the horrific devastation of W.W.1 (1914-18), during which time no Martlet cricket had been played, the very existence of the Club was threatened, but Arthur Somerset and his Committee embarked on a post-war revival and the Club was rebuilt and it soon began to have an impact on the Sussex cricketing scene.

Arthur was a well-to-do aristocratic sporting all-rounder, who dedicated his life to cricket, and when younger to rugby, soccer and boxing. He was in the C. B. Fry mould in cricket's golden age, although less successful. He won the Amateur Boxing Championship in 1882, played soccer for Surrey and rugby for Richmond.

He lived in an age when, being available to play cricket throughout the summer, he could turn out for many clubs, not just ones in Sussex. He was variously described as a "larger than life character" and "the soul of hospitality." He travelled widely (3 cricket tours abroad), and from the time he married in 1887, he took up permanent residence in the "family seat," Castle Goring at Worthing. Built by Shelley's grandfather in the Gothic style, it was then finished in



Archie MacLaren (extreme left) of Lancashire & England (35 Test Matches, captain in 22 of them); held the record score in first class cricket in England: 424 for Lancs v. Somerset in 1895. A.W.F. Somerset (centre, with gun). K.S. Ranjitsinhji (to his left with cigarette) of Sussex & England (15 Tests).

the Classical style. It had 30 rooms (plus staff quarters) and at the time the estate included 2000 acres. One of his forbears was on the aide-de-camp staff to the Duke of Wellington at the time of the Battle of Waterloo.

Arthur was a middle order right-hand batsman "with a strong defence and great hitting powers," and a right-arm fast bowler with a slinging action, who later took up wicketkeeping. Having married, he commented that it "stopped my cricket a good deal" (many a cricketer's lament!) but the evidence is that this does not seem to have restricted his cricket much, and in the following years he had many successful days:

1889 : all 10 wickets for Goring v. Worthing  
 1890 : a hat-trick for Broadwater v. Littlehampton  
 (he had 51 innings that season)  
 1893 : 194 for Sheffield Park v. Balcombe  
 1896 : a hat-trick for Littlehampton v. Selsey  
 1897 : 108\* for Sussex Club & Ground v. M.C.C.  
 1900 : 118 for M.C.C. v. West Indies

His First-Class debut came in 1891 for Lord Sheffield's XI v. M.C.C. and he played a number of games for Sussex between 1892-1905, sadly with little success. He played with and against "W.G" and in 1905 toured the West Indies with Lord Brackley's team, which included two professionals. Arthur (then aged 50) did well, coming second in the first-class batting averages.

He was a well-respected and influential member of M.C.C. and captained the first two M.C.C. tours to the West Indies in 1910/11 and 1912/13. He commented that the choice of players boiled down to "really anyone I wanted to take." He included his son A. P. F. Somerset (another Sussex Martlet) on both tours and each tour included three professionals. On the second tour Arthur, in scoring 55\*, helped W. C. Smith (the Surrey professional) put on 167 for the last wicket against Barbados at Bridgetown.

Back home, there seems to have been some rivalry between the Norfolk Estate and the Castle Goring Estate, and in a match played at Arundel Castle on 29th July 1922 the Norfolk team comfortably beat the Castle Goring side, which included Arthur Somerset, then in his 68th year.

Arthur held regular shooting parties at Castle Goring and included is a photograph from 1907 showing Ranjitsinhji (another Martlet member) and Archie MacLaren of Lancashire and England fame.

Arthur Somerset was an enthusiastic supporter of Sussex C.C.C. and it gave him great pleasure when his lifelong services to the game were recognised, and he was elected President of the County Club in 1936. Sadly he died the following year.

**Robin Carr**

## SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The main social events in 2019 included the FACCC Spring Lunch, Sussex v Australia A at Arundel, FACCC Christmas lunch and the club dinner.

The Aussie lunch was fun, albeit the day was a little soggy.

A 20/20 night at Hove had been mooted but sadly did not happen due to a rather disappointing response from members.

The club dinner survived a speech by yours truly, perhaps because of the lovely folk who attended and some very delicious food.

Book early for this autumn and I promise you won't hear my dulcet tones again!

Events under consideration for this summer include Arundel matches and a 20/20 night at Hove. It would be great to see as many members and their friends and family at these events as possible.

Please feel free to contact me by email or mobile with any ideas for social events.

**Paul Walker**



*Paul Walker enjoying the annual dinner with Will Rydon and Derek Horsham.*

## SUSSEX MARTLETS CLUB DAY

**Friday 14th August 2020**

This year the match against the Junior Martlets at Arundel is being re-branded as a Club Day. Whilst we still hope to welcome as many of the Vice-Presidents as possible, we would like to open this up to the whole membership (and in particular those now on the non-playing list, who would like to roll back the years to the days when they were in their cricketing prime!)

Lunch and tea will be available in the pavilion (c. £35). As space is limited, it is important to contact Stuart Ritchie well in advance.

Otherwise do bring picnics, family etc and enjoy the Arundel vista at your leisure.

Further information will be available nearer the time via the website and Facebook.

## OBITUARIES

**PETER COLLYMORE** (1929 - 2019)

Peter Collymore was a prominent stalwart and most enthusiastic member and player for the Martlets over a long period, after his time at Clare College, Cambridge. He came to notice with a half-century that year and continued in that mould, scoring steadily for many years. He was an early recruit for my teams at Bank of England and Wimbledon and always turning out for his great friend, Dr. Alistair Hunter, manager for years vs The Harrow Wanderers, Sussex Young Amateurs, Haywards Heath and Incogniti. Scores of 93\* (his highest score for the Club) 78, 67\*, 84\* are recorded, and he always seemed to have something in hand for Clare College on the Martlet Tour, posting several half-centuries against them. (A photo of the Martlet team in Cambridge for 1962 appears in Summers by the Sea.) His best year, on figures, was 1969 with 367 runs, HS 78, average 40.7. He was a committee member and a Vice-President of the Club.

Peter delighted in the company of cricketers, particularly his Martlet friends and team mates, welcoming news of events and deeds done. He added so much to the enjoyment and success of a day's play at Arundel Castle and elsewhere.

He worked as an architect and was pleased to confirm, when visiting us, that the lower bricks in Stable Cottage, The Old Manor House, were as early as 16th Century.

Peter was a charming personality and will be much missed by all his friends and acquaintances.

**Brian O'Gorman**

*Peter made his debut for Sussex Martlets in 1950. It was during the early 1950s that he appeared most regularly for the Club. He was still playing in 1988.*

*He scored 81 against the Forty Club at East Preston in 1985. Opening with Adrian Ford, he was top-scorer out of a total of 231-4, hitting two sixes and eight fours. The match was drawn.*

*Peter is also one of 34 batsmen to have scored 2,000 runs for Sussex Martlets – **Peter Hartland***

**DEREK PICKERING** (1939-2018)

Honours came at an early age, when Derek played for Southern Schools and then England Schools at Lords. Derek was a self-effacing man, so prising out of him anything about himself or his achievements was very difficult. He'd reply with something very brief, and then



change the subject. However, I do know that he was a member of the Brighton College 1st XI for his five years there. Later, in 1969, he was a member of the Old Brightonian side that won the prestigious Cricketer Cup, in those days, strangely enough, sponsored by a French champagne company.

Derek was very much a student of the game, with a very large cricketing library. We both had some reservations about some of the ways in which the modern game is played, much to the amusement of some of our younger friends. He felt that the game should be played hard and fair, whilst retaining a sense of humour – an essential for this greatest of games.

Somebody said to me that Derek was a true gentleman. He was in every sense of the word, and there is no finer epitaph.

**Roger Green**

*Derek, a stalwart of St James, although not a Martlet regular, played a number of games for us over the years 1956-59. In 1964 he played alongside fellow Martlet Chris Bidwell for Sussex 2nd XI under George Cox against Middlesex 2nd XI at Ealing, top-scoring with 36 in the second innings of a drawn game. Derek also represented Sussex Over-50s, scoring 50 against Berkshire at Lewes in 1990, and a crucial 66\* in a one-wicket victory over Essex at Three Bridges in 1991 – **Peter Hartland***

**NICK RIMMER** (1937-2019)

Nick Rimmer was a keen rather than talented cricketer, but like everything he signed up to, he gave it complete commitment and unswerving loyalty.

Outside his family, Nick's passions were racing, cricket, bridge and football – probably in that order. He was at school at Lancing, but left before his seventeenth birthday, so played little senior cricket. He went on to play for Keymer and Hassocks, and occasionally the Martlets. He remained a life member of both these clubs, serving for many years as president of Hassocks.

Nick suffered a family tragedy in 2003 when his son, Andrew, who had gone to live in Australia, was killed in a freak accident. A gum tree fell on the car in which he was a passenger in a storm; the driver was unhurt.

In his last few years Nick suffered from depression, maybe exacerbated by this tragic event, but he was wonderfully supported by his wife, Hazel. To Hazel and their daughter Lynne, we offer our condolences.

**Dale Vargas**

## SUSSEX MARTLETS SURVEY – the results.



The survey sent out in November to all of our members resulted in 27% of you giving your valuable time to complete the task. The data tells us that a further 22% took the time to look at the survey, but didn't quite get around to completing it. May be next time!

The responses gave us a good insight into your thoughts, and gave plenty of views and suggestions. We have summarised the responses for you all to take a quick peek through at your leisure...

**Fixtures:** the general view is that we are playing a good standard of fixtures across our teams. This is great to hear. Among the ideas put forward were to encourage more members to play, to play more cricket matches in East Sussex, to consider having Over 40s' fixtures start at 2 p.m., and look to have a wider variety of golfing fixtures.

**Membership, Supporters and Volunteers:** a vast majority of members think the annual subscription represents good value for money. There are of course one or two detractors, so we'll work on trying to improve our offering and win them round!

With regards support for our fixtures, a third of the membership that completed the questionnaire stated that they attended fixtures to support our teams on an average of three times a season.

We had quite a positive response on the subject of volunteering. A number of members showed interest in becoming match managers, umpires or scorers so, if you were one of those members, can you please make yourself known? However, there was less of an appetite to volunteer for social events.

**Annual Dinner:** this split our membership – two thirds of the responses thought the annual dinner was an important part of the season, and a third thought otherwise. Various comments were made on how we could look to improve the event; for example having a change of location, moving it to a lunch, engaging a renowned speaker. We accept that we need to promote the dinner better throughout the season and we need to encourage some of younger members to pull a table together and celebrate the season. The committee will be reviewing the suggestions to see what is possible for the future.

**Communications:** the general view is that the levels of communication are sufficient with *The Martlet* newsletter and the website being the most acknowledged forms. The committee have been working hard on communications, and we want to raise this from "sufficient" to "excellent"! We are also working on a new website with a view to attracting sponsors to help elevate and promote our club to wider audiences.

**Financial:** on the financial side, we are looking how to increase our funds by such things as sponsorship, donations, and a raffle at the annual dinner. Additional suggestions received from you were to seek contributions from the schools and the M.C.C. for Arundel matches, or to play less at Arundel. The committee continue to work through options as to how we best tackle this. A suggestion of a "three man think tank" is a good idea!

**VP Day:** we all appreciate the importance of VP Day. It has been a day much enjoyed by many of you over the years in its current format, but wouldn't it be great to make it more of a day of it for all? We note that we need to promote this day more and more throughout the summer leading up to the event. The suggestion of a BBQ towards the end of the day was well supported, and judging from early engagement with Arundel this is not out of the question. If we can make this a day for families to come along to and enjoy some of the cricket on offer, and have a BBQ and a drink as play nears its conclusion, we have a chance to create a great atmosphere. The bar doesn't have to close at 7 p.m. sharp!

**General Comments:** the overall view is that the Club is generally being run quite well. Yes, there are areas for additional focus and the committee firmly believe that we have that in hand. The Club is considered to be more socially inclusive than it once was, and we need to keep building on that. We'll get some fresh eyes on this and chat to you all throughout the season to see out what floats your boats. We'd like to consider fully offerings that are suggested to us, rather than just have the committee coming up with all the ideas!

Thank again to those who completed the survey, and thanks to those of you who took the time to read the findings.

Onwards!

**Mark Jeffries**

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

**Please contact: Desmond Devitt ([dpdevitt@btinternet.com](mailto:dpdevitt@btinternet.com)),  
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