

THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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Robin Marlar (1931 - 2022)

The Club was very sad to learn of the death of Sussex Martlets' most recently elected Vice-President, Robin Marlar, at the end of September 2022.

Robin played for the Martlets only once, in 1949, while still at Harrow, aged 18. He took two wickets and did not bat. However, he joined our club and has been a great supporter in recent years.

Brian O'Gorman knew Robin better than most Martlets and they shared many chats at the boundary's edge over the years, the last of which was at Arundel (only a month before Robin's death) whilst watching the match against the Junior Martlets on our Club Day.

"Robin Marlar was a good friend to me after we first met and he told me how much he had enjoyed my Dad, Joe O'Gorman, in the Birmingham Panto, which he saw as a child (c.1942/3)." Brian recalls, "I remember him telling me, 'Joe and Dave [his brother] taught me how to laugh!'"

Robin was always a joy to talk to about players of the past, about whom he had, of course, forthright views. He felt, for example, that Johnny Wardle was the very

best of the wrist spinners and should have been picked for England solely on that basis. England would have won many more Tests, he thought.

However, there was nothing controversial about Robin's views of Rev. David Sheppard (Sussex's captain in 1953).

Brian continues, "Robin's admiration for David Sheppard knew no bounds. He considered him superior to Peter May as a batsman and related how he adjusted his position at gully to finer and closer for Ian Thompson – so taking 40 catches and Sussex came second in the Championship that year."

Robin's obituaries in the national press were extensive, recording his achievements as an off-spinner (970 first-class wickets), cricket administrator (Chairman of Sussex and President of M.C.C.) and journalist ('Sunday Times'), so rather than try to add to this, we have asked previous M.C.C. Presidents and Sussex Captains, Mike Griffiths and Johnny Barclay, to give us their memories of both Robin and another Sussex legend who has left us earlier in the summer, Jim Parks.

Desmond Devitt

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2022



Although you will be reading this article in March, I'm typing this on 1st January 2023.

The dawn of a new year is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

2022 was a tumultuous year for all of us: the eventual easing of Covid restrictions, the invasion of Ukraine, political chaos at home, the death of the Queen and even a barristers' strike (fortunately timed to coincide with the hottest summer on record and some sumptuous international, county and most importantly of all, Martlet cricket).

Like all years gone by, we were all individually touched by happy and sad events. Yet somehow 2022 seemed, to me at least, more intense in the emotions it generated.

I was so glad to hear of Martlet members taking in Ukrainian refugees, helping in deprived communities with young people and generally making a positive impact at a time when many in our society are struggling.

The Committee has decided to support the work of the Sussex Cricket Foundation. The Foundation promote (amongst numerous worthy ventures) cricket coaching in children's hospitals, disability teams, girls' cricket and programmes to improve physical and mental health. It is a worthwhile cause that we are proud to support.

The Martlets have lost some special members this year, including Robin Marlar and our erstwhile Fixtures Secretary, Keith Manning, whose obituary is to be found on p.19.

Many of us suffered bereavements. Death is a part of life and it is death that makes life meaningful. In *Howard's End* E.M. Forster put it like this: "Death destroys man; the idea of death saves him".

If we were told we had 12 months to live, would we fill it with hedonism and abandon work? I for one would still go to court — I'm lucky that my work gives me satisfaction and is fulfilling. I may have to reduce the length of my speeches though!

We can't make every moment in life special. But reflecting on death is a spur to be more present for those things that are good and precious in life. I'd certainly include playing and watching Martlet cricket in that.

There was so much to celebrate in the scorching summer of 2022. I was only involved in one rain-affected match all summer! It truly was incredible.

Pre-season there had been a very special dinner to celebrate 125 years of cricket at Arundel Castle. The Duke himself provided the sumptuous location of his own dining room (or one of). Mandy Jupp and her team should be proud of their efforts in arranging that memorable evening and a summer of events.

We were delighted to hold the Martlets' annual dinner in the pavilion at Arundel. I hope all present enjoyed it as much as I did.

Our long-standing bond with Arundel is as strong as ever. The Martlets were able to make a substantial donation to the two hybrid pitches, which were installed for the 2022 season. This contribution was very warmly received and even Darryl was impressed with the results!

The cost of playing at this most magical of grounds remains a real issue. The generous sponsorship provided by a number of members in recent years has enabled us to keep match fees to a reasonable level, especially for our juniors, students and those who have only recently entered the world of work. I really hope that such generosity will continue — steel yourselves for a phone call! I'm very grateful to Hector Loughton for all his efforts in coordinating the sponsorship arrangements.

Mike Charman continues to be an astute and invaluable treasurer. He needs your help — if you have not yet signed up with the Martlets' Direct Debit please do so immediately — the club cannot function without your subs!

It was a real joy to play in and watch a number of Martlet matches in 2022 — from Worth at the end of April, until the Over 40s played the Hogs at Priory Park in mid-September. My favourite? There were many to choose from: Broadhalfpenny Down (with our rolling 12th and 13th men sneaking off for ice-creams and shade), Lancing (where the supporters had to take showers due to the heat) and memorable Over-40s matches at Cuckfield and Petworth...

I'm going to plump for Hurstpierpoint v O.Js, in early August. Glorious weather, a beautiful setting, a blissful atmosphere and, most important of all, so many wonderful people: Mark Semmence, enjoying a well-earned break from school, Chris Gray, looking forward to (yet another) birthday at the Club Day 3 weeks later at Arundel, John Bettridge, Chris Snell, Om and his lovely mum... I could go on and on.

It was a cracking match featuring well balanced sides – ours including some serious junior talent – and we won!

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to play with my son Harry and daughter Poppy on numerous occasions – with Harry in the odd Martlet match and with Poppy most Saturdays for the illustrious Chichester 5th team, (the famous Chives).

The Chives' skipper is the ex-Chairman of Chichester, Tim Gregory. He has encouraged the progress of many young males and females through the ranks at Chichester over a number of years. Tim's games are a joy to be involved in and he is largely responsible for sparking Poppy's love of cricket. This has had an incredibly positive effect on her well-being.

I was delighted when Tim accepted my invitation to join our Committee with the remit of developing a Sussex Martlets' women's team. The aim will be to have two or three games in the summer of 2023 and build from there. If you are aware of any keen female cricketers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The idea of increasing Martlet inclusivity has been a key aim of our President, Nigel Russell, our Committee and myself. I wrote about it in last year's magazine and our ideas are taking shape. We will be seeking to develop a women's team and aim through matches with the Crawley hub (for example) to attract many more ethnic minority players to join our club.

In October I was lucky enough to attend the Martlet Golf Day at the West Sussex Golf Club. Robert Forster is an inspirational leader of our golf section and it was a great pleasure to join the lunch, extremely well attended by very pleasant people. The success of that day and another really enjoyable series of fixtures, is largely down to Robert's energy and enthusiasm.

There are plans for a mixed cricket and golf tour to Holland in 2024, which is very exciting. Please register your interest with Robert or me.

Now for 2023. Simply recollecting some wonderful memories of 2022 has helped put the January blues to one side. Thoughts of the coming summer often help too.

The Aussies are coming – not only for the Ashes, but also to play the Martlets. We are lucky enough to have the following games scheduled:

- 4th July: Juniors v Marcellin and Scotch Colleges – at Middleton C.C.
- 11th July: Martlets v Victor Trumper XI (f.k.a. Bradman Foundation) – Eastbourne C.C.
- 12th July: Junior Martlets v St Peter's Adelaide and Melbourne G.S. – at Arundel.

- 3rd August: Over 40s v Canterbury C.C. – Middleton C.C.

Please come to as many games as possible in 2023, whether as a player, official or spectator. But try particularly to come and welcome our friends from Australia – and support the Martlets towards victory over them!

Thanks to Alan Newman for arranging those, and indeed all Martlet fixtures. Indeed, thanks are due from all of us to each member of our Committee for enabling this special club to flourish.

I end on a positive note. The bleak mornings of December were substantially brightened by the Pakistan Tests. The joy of the N.Z. series continued. On a number of (literally) freezing cold dog walks I took T.M.S. with me and was transported to Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi. The fact that (as in the West Indies) the Barmy Army were in the majority, made, for me anyway, those Tests less appealing. In Pakistan it was only the brave and the committed who travelled, but boy were they rewarded.

I was thrilled to receive an email from our very own Bryan Tomalin. He'd been! And sent some wonderful pictures. The people were wonderful, the sun shone, our team played thrilling cricket – and won! Best of all, friends were made.

Let's make all that happen again this summer in Sussex,

Paul Walker

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE



Now approaching the end of my first year as President, our hardworking and ever-demanding editor has asked me to put some thoughts on paper. My first thought was that he must be short of material. However, it will come as no surprise to record my undiluted pleasure in being involved once again at the heart of our very special Club.

I have big boots to fill of course, and I'm sure all members would wish me to thank Brian O'Gorman publicly for his inspiring term as President. Brian is a walking Wisden of all things cricket and specifically of the Martlets' past. A wily off-spinner, shrewd tactician and great team man, in his playing days he graced many a Martlet side with distinction, skills he so ably displayed as President; he was extremely loyal to the Committee and very supportive of his chairmen, particularly when it mattered; I know how appreciative they were of his steadfast, reassuring presence. He has

served the Club with great honour and we can be grateful that a Martlet of such stature remains such a true friend and advocate.

As I was being asked to take on the role, unsurprisingly the question of what that position means was the first to be raised. To look for inspiration from the pantheon of past presidents was a good place to start, but of course the role has changed since we introduced a chairman overseeing the work of a more linear structure. In Eddie Harrison's day, he ran the Club from his presidential throne and it was only with Chris Saunders' coronation that the modern-day role emerged. He developed the concept of representing the public face of the Club, more outward-looking, whilst providing an internal sounding board when needed. His successors – Geoff Wills, Chris Snell and latterly Brian – have all adopted this approach with great success and it seems an ideal solution. All presidents have brought their individual personality to the role and herein lies its strength, ensuring the rich traditions of the Martlets are maintained, whilst cementing relations with our closest partners to help us on the road to sustainability.

And what of first impressions? Two things in particular have stood out. First is the quality of cricket being played within our special ethos, from watching Toby Pullan reverse sweep and ramp M.C.C. bowlers at Arundel, to the sheer joy of the Over 40s playing on their Oxford tour and the boundless enthusiasm of our Juniors. The quality of batting and depth of talent displayed at grounds like glorious Buxted Park was marvellous to behold. It's been a pleasure to watch and as members we should be proud that our standards are as high as they have ever been.

The second perception is that we, as a club, are in very competent hands with our Committee. Mike Charman as Treasurer and Alan Newman as Secretary are as solid an opening partnership as we could wish for, and the icing on the cake is that the Committee, lead so ably by Paul Walker, has vision and purpose to ensure that we remain relevant in a rapidly evolving cricket environment.

The product of that more strategic thinking will see the introduction of a women's section next year and some will say this is not before time. There are over 70 women's sections around the County already and, with Tim Gregory's appointment to oversee this development, I have every confidence that we will compete at the highest level. This is a move that has the full backing and support of the County.

Another significant development is our engagement with the Crawley hub in an effort to unlock the vast talent pool there and to make the game more accessible across the County for the South Asian community.

There are exciting times ahead for the Martlets and I end where I began, by saying what a pleasure it is to be part of this innovation. We can be proud and enthused by the Club's direction of travel – it's going to be a great ride!

Nigel Russell

TREASURER'S REPORT — Summing up!



The 2022 season was thankfully played under normal conditions and a full programme of both cricket and golf was possible, although a number of cricket matches were cancelled due to lack of players – mainly by our opposition, but sometimes through our own failings.

At the time of writing (on New Year's Eve) the draft 2022 accounts, which will vary little from the final accounts, show that we will return a decent surplus for the year – the cancellation of some of the cricket matches and the resultant lower figure of match expenses being partially responsible. Another major factor is that sponsorship for all of our Arundel matches was achieved, thanks to the generosity of a number of V-Ps and Committee members. A donation of £1500 was made to Arundel Castle Cricket towards the cost of the installation of two hybrid pitches, which allow more matches to be played on a relatively small square. As this improvement of facilities will benefit our junior members as well, the managers of the V-P/Harrison Fund agreed that this amount could be transferred from this fund. We were also helped by the generosity of the late Robin Marlar, who once again paid the £1000 subscription to maintain the Sussex Martlets as a Vice-President of the Sussex Cricket Foundation – this amount was paid direct to S.C.F. and therefore will not appear in the final accounts, but the Committee has already agreed that this valued subscription will be paid from Club finances in 2023.

The membership review mentioned last year took place and has resulted in a welcome number of new members, whose details appear on p.20 in this newsletter. More members have opted to take advantage of the discounted subscriptions if payment is made by Direct Debit – a system which is much more easily managed by both the individual member and those tasked with the Club's administration. However, many of those who have stayed with payment by Standing Order have again failed to amend the amount payable – please check before April 1st 2023 that your STO is for £70 for playing membership or £35 for non-playing membership, which includes those who play golf. I would also ask all members to notify me via treasurer@sussexmartlets.co.uk of any changes to your contact details, including both email and postal addresses.

With an Ashes series in England this summer, a number of Aussie club sides will be visiting our shores and the Martlets will feature in some of these fixtures, including a 3-way T20 day with our Juniors. Another Over-40s tour is planned, following the success of last year's visit to Oxford, whilst a trip to the Netherlands for both cricket and golf is being investigated for 2024. This will require financial commitment from tourists in advance to ensure no repeat of the loss made by the previous Dublin trip.

In conclusion, I believe it is right to say that the Martlets' finances are in good order at present, but everyone's continued support is necessary to ensure this situation is maintained – with your help and cooperation, this will be achieved. I will end by stating that I am one year into what I plan to be my final three-year term as your Treasurer and will now be starting the search for my successor – any volunteer to take on the mantle will be most welcome.

Mike Charman

REVIEW OF THE SEASON



Is an unintended consequence of climate change going to be rock-hard club wickets from early June, a feast of cuts and hooks, and dustbowls for the spinners ...? The heatwaves of 2022 may have given us a foretaste of times to come, but apocalyptic thinking aside, it was a splendid summer of Martlets cricket.

Back in moist April, the season opened at Worth Abbey, and the newly minted match manager T. Pullan decided to select a side without one of this fixture's regular opening batsmen (don't worry Toby, no grudges, and I'm sure it was very tricky to have compared notes with your preceding MM (one B. Pullan) to inform you who always get runs there...). Correlation does not equal causation, but let's note that the school pulled off their first ever victory in the fixture. But a theme was set for the season as a whole, with youth and age combining well for the Martlets. Felix Horsham-Holt showed an exciting, boundless talent, while Nick Beechey held up an end for the veterans (for years Beechey was the Scarlet Pimpernel of the Martlets, but happily now back in the lists as a regular).

We then turned up at Eastbourne to enjoy a cup of coffee on the pavilion balcony under skipper Trubby's avuncular eye while watching the schoolboys below put through their paces by a hundred-strong coaching staff of recent ex-England pros equipped with AI, drones and Hawkeye. I'm exaggerating, but the point stands. (Favourite overheard 'pro' coaching nugget: 'I'm not seeing any animals out there in the field. I want ANIMALS!') Arran Aris set his Martlets season off to a

good start, but the well drilled apex predators of the school XI prevailed.

We hosted Hurstpierpoint College at the Castle this year, who promptly repaid the hospitality by winning the toss and inflicting a hefty score. Notable efforts in the field came from the young Heater brothers, the elder Dom being a welcome new addition to Martlets leg-spin ranks – along with Ryan Trotter, Nick Peters and the evergreen Robin Freen. I can't recall a season in which so many overs of leg-spin have been delivered, happily. And many of them were good. We registered our first win of the year, with Chichester's overseas pro hitting a hundred (skipper George Read: 'some would argue he is a like-for-like replacement for John Ashworth').

Another good win in the John Barclay match, this year at Eton. Some whole-hearted fast bowling to open from Walker Jnr, only to be comprehensively upstaged by his old man Paul, who spun his way to his maiden five-for. Bravo! Few happier experiences than sharing the field with an ecstatic Paul Walker, and who knows how the stenographer in court recorded the moment when Paul proudly showed the match ball to jury and judge the following day. Aris continued his fine form and Rebbetts saw us home in effortless style.

On to another marquee fixture at the Getty ground. Haven't we all wondered what we would do were we heir to one of the largest fortunes in the world; creating a ground like Wormsley is as good an answer as any. Elon Musk take note. With every blade of grass manicured to perfection, playing there is akin to moving around in a computer simulation. Nothing simulated, however, about the speed and hostility of the Getty opening bowlers, who had the sign over the Martlets batting, with only Jordy and Omkar registering significant scores. A battling loss, as we took Getty to the wire in trying to defend 166. A fine for Joe O'Gorman for his turncoat captaincy of the home side.



Peter Lamb and Sam Carter prepare for battle

Skipper Josh Burrows applied some Bazball ‘we don’t do draws’ mentality at Brighton College, brilliantly engineering a heroic loss by getting himself stumped from no. 11 with three balls remaining and boundaries needed for the win. The late Robin Marlar, once famously stumped second ball for 6 after being sent in as nightwatchman (n.b. no nighthawks in those days), would have approved.

The dog days of July and August rolled in. As ever the Lancing Rovers were exemplary hosts at that wonderful ground cut into the Downs under the chapel. Now, some would say that death and taxes are the lone certitudes in this life. Not so. Jens Richardson opening the batting for the Sussex Martlets and scoring a hundred against the Lancing Rovers now joins those two. Like Old Man River, he keeps on piling up the tons there. Daniel James (for me, lovely to be on the same side as him after years of him breaking my fingers in Heathfield Park v. Newick fixtures) and Daniel Baptiste (our guest player via St Lucia and, er, Pevensey) ran in manfully, but alas we couldn’t wrinkle out the Rovers. Honours even.

A great game at Hurst College (100th iteration of that fixture to come in 2023) saw the spin of Walker, Whelpton and Trotter bowl out the old boys, and thanks to swash and buckle from T. Pullan, Loughton, Forster and Rebbetts, the Martlets chased down 239 in 36.4 overs.

To the cradle of cricket, Broadhalfpenny Down, the ground is of course steeped in history. Richard Nyren was the famous landlord of ‘The Bat and Ball’ in the formative years of big cricket, and his son John Nyren wrote the classic *Cricketers of My Time*. In the present day, miserly Will Wingfield-Digby and Fergus O’Meara displayed great craft opening the bowling, keeping the Brigands in check. Arran Aris showed his second string with a good spell, rewarded for having a catch dropped by skipper P. Walker by being rotated off the field. There’s a nugget in Nyren’s book about teammate ‘Long Robin’, who used to head off to the fair and eat black puddings ‘for the humour of the thing’. Arran preferred the ice cream on offer. Ed McCarthy and Mudders saw us home.

A celebration at the Castle for the Club Day against the Juniors. Jules Hunt scored a brilliant 120, Darryl made a generous declaration, and there was joy unconfined when Derek Horsham rolled back the years to dismiss son Felix. An excellent game, enjoyed by a well-refreshed sprinkling of spectators on the banks, ended with the Juniors 14 short and 8 wickets down.

After a chastening loss to a strong Band of Brothers team at the Castle, the season concluded at Sheffield Park, where the day recapitulated our themes of age and youth. Jules Hunt shored up the Martlets innings, before the increasingly accomplished Ben Whelpton

bagged an excellent five-for with his offies for a comprehensive victory.

Whelpton, Horsham-Holt, Heater... the future looks bright, these youngsters playing alongside and learning from some of the jewels in the crown of our playing membership: Shaw, Rebbetts, Davies, Pullan... Also, splendid delegation on display from unselfish skippers like Ashers and Stuart Ritchie, who now operate their games under a self-denying ordinance where the captaincy is bequeathed to another as soon as stepping onto the field. But as things change, they also remain the same. Nick Beechey’s cover drive remains a thing of beauty. Tim O’Gorman thrilled to take a sharp slip chance at St George’s. Mudders still never bowls a bad ball, and responds to an unjustly denied appeal with, at most, a twitch of the left eyebrow. Joe Akers-Douglas’s wicketkeeping pads are still strangers to blanco. Trubby will reliably bully schoolboy off-spinners onto nearby railway tracks. Derek Horsham has yet to move onto the Gregorian calendar. Roll on 2023.

Sam Carter

LEADING BATTING AVERAGES

Batting (Qualification: 5 innings)

	Innings.	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
D. Rebbetts	6	4	58*	226	113
T. Drake-Brockman	5	0	114	302	60.4
J. Hunt	5	0	120	260	52
A. Aris	7	1	67	268	44.66
L. Forster	12	0	71	240	20

Centurions: Max Wheatley (130*), Julian Hunt (120), Will Adkin (119), Tom Drake-Brockman (114), Matt Tucker (103).

LEADING BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowling (Qualification: 25 overs / 7 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
M. Murray	81	19	246	12	20.5
P. Walker	72.1	5	457	19	24.05
D. Heater	58	4	264	9	29.33
B. Whelpton	104.4	8	460	15	30.66
M. Trubshaw	55	2	314	10	31.4

5 wkts in an innings: Nik Trotter (7-17), Paul Walker (6-64), Ben Whelpton (5-12), Paul Walker (5-47).

OVER-40s CRICKET

Played 10, Won 4, Lost 3, Drawn 3.



The season started early with the Mayday tour and since that is detailed in another piece, I will skip that, save to say it was a great few days and accounted for a win and two draws.

On returning to Sussex, we had a rather disappointing start to the main season with 4 cancellations in a row, but that's cricket I guess, and it was the 20th July when we next took the field at Cuckfield.

I'm pretty sure that if you go back and read every match report I've done of this fixture, it starts with 'It's always hot in Cuckfield'. No change. Lovely day, lovely place.

Jeremy Crampton, the Cuckfield skipper, let me do whatever I wanted, which I thought was big of him, so we batted. Over-40s 'Player of the Year' Loveday was on fire and made it comfortably to his retirement at 40. The other notable performance with the bat was Tom Whyte, on debut, who also reached his 40. We reached what we thought would be a comfortable total of 221. Even more so when we had them 5 down for 19. All over surely! No, 'Mother Cricket', having noted Crampton's toss-less generosity, then allowed him to smash us all over the park for 10 overs or so to the point where Cuckfield were probably favourites. In the end though, one massive, shoulder-dislocating swing too many and Paul Walker removed his middle stump for 83 and then it was over. Great opposition, great ground, great day out.

Next up were the Band of Brothers Over 40s. I think I am right in saying that this was their first ever Over 40s fixture.

Into August and on to another annual over-40s classic fixture at Streat and Westmeston. Streat won the toss and batted, getting off to a great start with their openers making 51 and 30, but after that (in the 40-over format) they stagnated a little, finishing on 184-6 without really having the bash we expected. Loveday and Boulter got off to the right start with 40 and 25, but in the end Jules Hunt's 53 at a strike rate of 139 in the middle order set up a win in under 35 overs.

Having been comprehensively defeated by the Sydney Classics, we were back to Horsham at the end of August for the annual Forty Club fixture.

This was a great game, with some great new quality players helping to get us over the line. Jonathan Hughes, with his 73 runs and two stumpings, was a fantastic addition to the side – especially against the strong opposition that the Forty Club always offer. In the

end it was probably his contribution that won the game, but great contributions also came from Clark with 39 and Holden with 4-31.

A few days later and our annual trip to Petworth. Such a wonderful ground and a wonderful club. After Paul Walker uncharacteristically won the toss, the Martlets went into bat. Dan Jackson and Willy Boulter's opening stand of 74 was just what was needed. Dan's slog sweep for six over backward square leg worked twice, but the third attempt was his downfall.

After Nick Beechey's customary cameo, it was left to Julian Hunt and Mike Murray to add a crucial 50. We declared on 193-8.



Over 40s v Petworth. Front row: Paul Walker, John Goodacre, Jules Hunt, Alan Newman, Willy Boulter. Back row: Dan Jackson, Phil Savage, Michael Murray, Stuart Ritchie, Nick Beechey, Dean Holden.

Hunt and Beechey also bowled very nicely and we held our catches, but in the end we just couldn't take that final wicket and the game ended in a draw with Petworth 142-9.

We tied up the season against Hampshire Hogs in Chichester with a slightly disappointing draw.

Another good season and the fixtures are lining up nicely for 2023. My biggest hope is that we start to do what is needed to attract more players in the 40-50 bracket. The core of the side is not getting any younger and we are now playing sides that require us to get out a higher standard of side.

Where we have managed to do that (see Forty Club above) we have had great hard-fought quality over-40s cricket, so my hope is that we will be successful in reaching out to some of you who may consider playing at least the odd game for us this year.

Phil Savage

OVER-40S TOUR TO OXFORD

As a Club and as a Committee, there had been a lot of talk over the last couple of years about the desire to go on tour, with many grand plans being discussed. The Over 40s decided to take the lead with a May bank holiday expedition – but to where?

There was no shortage of venue suggestions, especially given Paul Lack's history of extreme international touring, but in the end we opted for a more realistic and domestic start to what we hope will become an annual event.

We decided on Oxford, which was a great destination, as we were able to bolster the squad with a few players who made it up just for the day. Alan Newman, as ever, did a fantastic job with the fixtures and we played one game in the city and two in rural Oxfordshire.

We had two O.U. alumni on the trip, Willy Boulter (ex New College) and Jeremy McGahan, who helped with the first fixture against the Demijohns, a side centred around St. John's College students and old boys.

The St John's ground is surrounded by suburban Oxford, but none the worse for it. After the usual tour stresses (who will actually turn up and when...), in the end all was well and Martlets took the field with nearly a full complement. Demijohns were slightly hampered by the fact that their captain was also playing in the final of the University Rugby tournament (Cuppers) and 'hoped to be back to bat later'.

In the event, we bowled first and kicked off with Christmas and Lack, who bowled nicely for their 7 overs and one wicket each, but it was Peter Fielding and Damien Cashinella who did the damage with 3-4 and 3-7 respectively. Demijohns were bowled out for 56.

We managed to lose 4 wickets in the chase, but in the end it was a one-sided affair. Paul Lack (touring vet extraordinaire) told us it was a bad idea to play the 10-over beer game afterwards, but we didn't listen. Come day 3 some of us wished we had. A fantastic dinner at 'The Trout' capped off day one.

Day 2. Hung over, but Jeremy was kind enough to take some of us on a tour of his college, St Peter's and recounted the story of an initiation ceremony he took part in so unpleasant that it cannot be spoken of here. After that a hearty breakfast, before engaging every phone-based map we had and heading off to the wonderful Oxford Downs ground somewhere near Witney.

The cracks were already starting to show in our relatively thin squad and having turned up to watch I ended up scrambling onto the pitch, as we bowled first. Willy Boulter already had the gloves and was most impressive with a great stumping.

Downs were a (somewhat youthful) class act though and their declaration on 227-5 suggested from the outset that a win might be a stretch. It was a very



Victors over the Demijohns at St. John's College, Oxford

different story from the previous day. Paul Walker bowled nicely for his two wickets and Billing, Lack and McGahan chipped in with one each, but Downs were never in any trouble. Anchored by Paul Walker's 47, we manfully held on for the draw with 8 wickets down, but in truth we were outclassed. However, great captaincy from Bush and a great performance from the Chairman should be credited.

Our second evening's entertainment started in the fabulously named 'Jude the Obscure' pub in Jericho and ended with a curry. Perfect.

Day 3. I don't know about everyone else, but I was struggling. Knees hurt, ankles hurt, dehydrated, slightly wobbly at breakfast. We had a last-minute change of venue for this one, but St Hugh's School was a really lovely place to play the South Oxford Amateurs. The somewhat ageing and ailing nature of our squad, however, meant that we had only had 9, but S.O.A. skipper Wildman happily lent us a couple of fielders and off we went. Wildman had been in the Oxford Downs side the previous day, but we had managed to extract him for 19. This time, however, was very different. He was objectively the best player on the pitch and cruised to a retirement on 101. Next highest scoring batsman for S.O.A. made 18. They declared after 40 overs on 170-6.

A novel combination of Bushell and Savage opened the batting and it was not long before it became clear that we were in this for the draw as well. With a top score of 14 between us, plaudits should go to those who ate up the most balls and that would be Damien Cashinella and Neil Billing. That we managed to hold on with our 8th and last-wicket stand through the 20 overs from 6 p.m. was a great achievement and a nice way to finish off the tour.

The tour wasn't entirely without its challenges. We would have benefitted from a few more players and especially a couple in the 40-50 bracket and also the City of Oxford can be a challenge transportation wise. Having said that, it was a fantastic start to what, as I say, we hope will be an annual event. It will be the Cotswolds in 2023 and details are to follow.

Phil Savage

Tour Party: John Ashworth, Neil Billing, Willy Boulter, Neil Bushell, Damien Cashinella, Dave Christmas, Peter Fielding, John Goodacre, Paul Lack, Michael Loveday, Jeremy McGahan, Alan Newman, Phil Savage, Paul Walker, Greg West + Mike Charman (umpire) and Tony Gibbs (scorer).

OVER-40s AVERAGES

Batting	Innings.	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
J. Goodacre	3	2	33*	83	83.00
M. Loveday	5	1	60*	123	30.75
P. Lack	3	2	19*	28	28.00
D. Christmas	5	2	33	74	24.67
P. Walker	3	0	47	66	22.00
W. Boulter	5	0	25	82	16.40

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
D. Cashinella	21	5	37	4	9.25
P. Walker	25.3	2	139	7	19.86
P. Lack	28	1	100	5	20.00
J. McGahan	45.2	1	257	9	28.56

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2022



It was a disappointing season in terms of fixtures, only two games went ahead as all teams struggled to get players in different fixtures. Many families were away on holidays for the first time in a couple of years due to the lockdowns, but hopefully this year everything will return to a more normal summer and a fuller fixture card.

In the two games that did go ahead however, we saw some good cricket and some new faces.

The game with Brighton & Hove City Clubs saw a much-improved performance from the previous game between the two sides, despite the Martlets losing by 6 wickets. A fine 81 from Ben Willsdon was the highlight of the first innings, but unfortunately wickets fell at regular intervals and a sizeable partnership could not be built. King and Bastine both added 15 as the Juniors posted 146 before being bowled out in the penultimate over of the innings.

The young side started the second innings in promising style; early wickets from Lloyd and Bastine reduced the opposition to 32-3. When young leg-spin bowler Alex Kusel struck to reduce the opposition to 75-4 you felt another quick wicket or two would swing the game in our favour. It was not to be, as the 5th wicket partnership added an unbeaten 72 and saw Brighton and Hove City home. What was promising, however, was the number of new faces amongst the Martlets and

also the performance of a young side. Hopefully it is a building block for next summer.

The second game was the annual encounter with the Seniors at Arundel Castle. After winning the fixture in 2021, the boys were determined to keep the honours for a second year in a row. It turned out to be a great game of cricket with all three results possible going into the last hour. Bowling first, the Juniors kept the run rate under control and didn't let the Seniors out of sight. The declaration came at 243-6 after 50 overs. Two wickets for Horsham-Holt and one each for Whelpton and Ritchie were followed by two run outs for the fielding side. The 14 overs bowled by Kenyon, Walker and Rutherford deserve a mention, as they only conceded 27 runs, setting the tone in the first hour.



The Juniors head for the pavilion after the declaration

After the declaration, the boys felt they could chase down the total set; in the 42 overs we received, we ended up just 14 short, 8 wickets down. Jago-Lewis was the top scorer with 57, Green and Walker adding 37 in support. Whelpton came in down the order and ended up with 23* in attempt to see the boys home. Horsham-Holt scored 22 to add to his 2 wickets and Willsdon made 18 opening the innings. As in the previous game, it was inexperience that once again denied the side a victory, with five batters getting good starts but not being able to follow it through into a match-winning score.

2023 promises to be a good year. We have the prospect of playing some touring sides and hopefully the resumption of the T20 day with the Band of Brothers and the Hampshire Hogs. After a close game with the Seniors and the opportunity to play at Arundel Castle once more, the Juniors can hopefully cap a fine season by keeping the trophy for the third year in a row!

Jimmy Anyon

MARTLETS OF THE YEAR

These annual awards were made at this year's dinner, held in the pavilion at Arundel Castle on March 3rd 2023. Usually, these citations are the work of the Chairman, Paul Walker, but due to reasons that will become clear, he has been relieved of that job!

Best Batter – Tom Drake-Brockman



Tom, who was over from Australia as Chichester's overseas player, played five matches for the Martlets, scoring 302 runs, including 2 centuries. Not only is he extremely talented, but, as importantly, a most friendly young man, who impressed all his Martlet team mates.

Best Bowler – Paul Walker



Being Chairman has clearly gone to Paul's head. He has now supplanted Mr Consistency (Michael Murray) as the Club's leading (strike — surely not!) bowler. His 19 wickets included his first-ever 'Michelle Pfeiffer' — at Eton, of all places, where he took 6 Old Etonian wickets for 64. To achieve this great feat, he employed his own 15-year-old son to take 3 of the 6 catches! As if that wasn't enough, Hambledon also succumbed to his guile, where another 5 surrendered to him in the heat of the day (or was it under the cover of darkness?).

Best Over-40s Player – Jeremy McGahan



Jeremy travels from London to play Martlet cricket and has now achieved the status of both 'stalwart' and 'veteran'. The Chairman describes him as having "a lovely calm and serene manner — quite a contrast with some of his team mates!" This year he bowled more overs for the team than anyone else and was our top wicket-taker with 9 wickets.

Martlet of the Year – Darryl Rebbetts



Darryl joined the Committee in 2018, becoming Joint-Chairman of the cricket sub-committee at the 2019 A.G.M. Since then, few have worked as hard as Darryl to ensure our matches are well-managed and our teams competitive. This year he headed the Martlets' batting averages, whilst also playing M.C.C. qualifiers and for his local club, Worthing C.C. — and still found time to organise his wedding!

Desmond Devitt

THE GOLF SOCIETY 2022

The Society went into 2022 with 11 matches arranged, two of which were new fixtures played against the Band of Brothers of Kent at West Sussex G.C. and East Brighton Golf Club up on the South Downs, adjacent to Kemp Town racecourse. Unfortunately, we were not able to repeat the impressive run of wins in 2021. The tally for the season was Won 3, Lost 5, Halved 2 and one Cancelled. Throughout 2022 we continued to attract new members with seven new Martlets joining the Society.

My thanks to all the match managers for their efforts in raising sides and running matches, allowing our Society members to enjoy some wonderful golf. Your hard work is very much appreciated by every one of us.

West Sussex G.C. (April 3rd) — Lost 5½-7½

On a beautiful spring day, that was surrounded by a week of hail and snow, we were treated to some excellent golf on a course in wonderful condition. The first match since the winter Covid restrictions were lifted, this was a day when both teams were revved up to make the most of a newly opening country.

The morning matches saw both sides go into lunch all square, which was possible thanks to notable wins by White & R. Forster, Todd & W. Forster and Jackson & Burrows. Lunch came and went, but Kummels, claret and speeches are not a great mix for a side looking to retain silverware from the previous year. The carefully crafted pairings for the afternoon rounds saw 4 halved games, which underscores the thin margins in these hard-fought matches. The final nail in the coffin came from West Sussex royalty, Pett & Thomas, against our big guns of Julian Hunt & Will Forster (single figure handicaps combined). In a great match we lost on the 18th to give the honours on the day to West Sussex, 7½ v 5½.

Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club Foundation at Swinley Forest G.C. (May 3rd)

Rallying to a request from the organisers of the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, the Martlets Golfing Society entered a team to play in a charity day at Swinley Forest G.C. The Martlets team of James Goddard, Jonny



The 10th Hole at Swinley Forest G.C. with heather in bloom

Heaven, James Steadman and James Gordon fared well, coming 3rd with a team score of 92 Stableford points.

The day was deemed a success by the organisers, who were delighted to announce that the day had raised just shy of £15,000 – a wonderful amount of money towards the Foundation's work in supporting young people who are facing disadvantage.

Royal Ashdown Forest G.C. (April 24th) — Halved 3-3

The Sussex Martlets emerged into the spring sunshine to do battle with the members of Royal Ashdown Forest on Sunday 24 April. The course was looking glorious with the greens running fast and true. The six games played saw two go to each side with two games delivering halves, which meant the match was halved and everyone was happy! A very good lunch was had, enhanced by the appearance of David Scrivens, and more golf was played by some in the afternoon.

Crowborough Beacon G.C. (May 29th) — Lost 1-5

The Grant Skinner Memorial Shield was played for on a fine, sunny day at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club. Match manager James Goddard had high hopes, with three new additions to this fixture and putting the strong pairing of Kevin Bartlett & Simon Baillie-Hamilton out in the anchor leg. Sadly, the strength of the C.B.G.C. members, on a fast-running course, proved too strong for the S.Ms, as we lost the first five matches. However, kudos must go to the anchor leg, who overturned the C.B.G.C. match manager in the final match. Our long awaited first win to get hold of the Grant Skinner Memorial Shield will have to wait for another 12 months.

Cooden Beach G.C. (June 5th) — Halved 3-3

The match v Cooden Beach is a popular annual fixture for the warm hospitality we receive every year. Without exception, everyone enjoyed themselves and some messages of appreciation have been received. Most who played wish to be included in next year's fixture. The morning saw a win for Cooden, a win for the Martlets and two halves, which meant the match was drawn three apiece.

Band of Brothers (June 8th) — Won 3-1

A team of eight Martlets assembled at West Sussex G.C. to welcome the Band of Brothers of Kent for this inaugural fixture. A very convivial lunch was had by both teams before we headed out to play 18 holes of Foursomes, which resulted in the Martlets winning comfortably. The result of the day went to J. Goddard & R. Forster winning their match 9 & 8 against the father and son pairing of George Kennedy Snr & Jnr from Royal St George's and Chart Hills in Kent.

Martlets' Golf Day at Mannings Heath G.C. (June 17th)

The Martlets' golf day was blessed with good weather and an attendance to match. The annual challenge of playing a round of golf after a splendid lunch was no problem for Richard Foster who won the day with 36 points. Simon Baillie-Hamilton and John Guess were both close behind with 35 points. The Mannings Heath Waterfall course was in great condition and the greens in particularly good shape. We return in 2023 on the 16th June to this challenging and enjoyable venue.

The Purchasers G.S. (June 27th) — Won 3½-2½

The usual very friendly match on a fine day at Piltdown G.C., it is a popular fixture with the manager having the luxury of 2 reserves in for our team of 12. All agreed the course was in excellent shape, although the heather provided a tough challenge if a wayward shot found it. The Martlets took an early lead, but the match was then in the balance until Chris Gray & Michael Phillips came in with a win and then Nick Hamilton & Mike Stewart fought for a half for a Martlets win by 3½ to 2½

East Brighton G.C. (August 21st) — Lost 2-3

For the second of our new fixtures of 2022, our match manager Steve Hartridge (no relation to Charlie) assembled a strong Martlets team to take on East Brighton. Following a quite superb buffet lunch we headed out on to the wonderful James Braid Course on the Downs above Brighton. East Brighton's captain, Neil Lancaster, led their charge holing a 180-yard fairway wood for an Eagle 2 at the ninth hole. Despite R. Forster's round of mostly par golf, this was simply not good enough, and this match was lost 5&4. The overall match result was East Brighton 3 Sussex Martlets 2. Over drinks in the club's bar, nearest the pin prizes were handed out before the day concluded with heartfelt thank yous and a promise to return next year and establish the East Brighton date as a regular fixture on the Martlets' calendar.

The Hampshire Hogs' G.S. (September 7th) — Cancelled

Unfortunately, neither the Hampshire Hogs nor the Martlets were able to raise a team for this midweek fixture at Boundary Lakes (the Ageas Bowl's golf course in Southampton), which was disappointing. The 2023 fixture at West Sussex G.C. should not be so challenging to organise.

Piltdown G.C. (September 18th) — Lost 1-8

The day did not start well for the Piltdown captain, Simon Bulteel, who forgot his golf shoes and, being unable to find or buy replacement size 13s, had to play in very fetching deck shoes! Unfortunately for the Martlets it made no difference, with Piltdown coming out on top in every match in the morning and 3 out of the 4 played in the afternoon. Nevertheless, it was a fun day and a Martlets debut for Gary Barnett. It was lovely to have Martlet and Piltdown stalwart Ham Whitty join us for lunch, which was a little more sombre than normal with toasts to our late beloved Queen and new King.

Rye G.C. (October 9th) — Lost 6-8

On a bright October morning the Martlets arrived at Rye G.C. full of anticipation and hope for a win in the 2022 fixture. The morning result was promising, with the Martlets going into lunch leading four matches to three. This lead could have been a bigger one had several of the anticipated strong pairings performed to expectation. The afternoon pairings did not fare well, with just two points secured from the seven available. The Rye team clearly lunched more carefully than the Martlet team, resulting in Rye securing wins in five matches to run out winners 8 to 6. Looking back, it was a smart move by Rye's match manager to bring in two fresh players for the afternoon pairings to strengthen their team.



Rye's tricky par four 14th hole

Reciprocals Match at West Sussex G.C. (October 13th)

The Martlets were delighted to welcome the match managers and guests from our host clubs to a damp West Sussex G.C. After heavy overnight rain that had quickly drained away through the sandy lowland heath terrain of the Pulborough course, we were presented with playing surfaces in excellent condition for mid-October.

After a superb two-course lunch, with wine supplied by the Martlets, golf got underway at 2 p.m. After 18 holes of team foursomes Stableford, the pairing of Neil Lancaster & Mike Kennedy of East Brighton G.C. playing West Sussex for the first time, posted a very respectable score of 33 points to secure first place. Peter Scaramanga & Dan Jackson – Martlets from Royal Ashdown G.C. and Reigate Heath G. C – posted a score of 33 points; however, they fared less well on the back nine only scoring 13 points, which put them in second place. Third place went to the West Sussex pairing of Tony Bauckham & Bob Mitchell, who were unable to maximise home course advantage to score any better than 32 points.

Looking towards the 2023 Season

We go into 2023 with 11 matches and the Martlets Golf Day at Mannings Heath all confirmed. The match in September against the Band of Brothers at Royal St George's will be a much sought-after fixture. It is rumoured that match manager Stuart Ritchie will be making his selection based on the quality of claret fellow Martlets offer up ahead of selection.

History update of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society

At the suggestion of the editor, Peter Hartland and I are currently working on updating the history of the Sussex Martlets. Early research has revealed a number of matches played by the Sussex Martlets in the early 1900s, but not under the name Sussex Martlets Golfing Society. We have also discovered new information on members of the Sussex Martlets and the Golfing Society that hitherto has not been published. Cognisant that the history of the Society has been well chronicled by Dan Matthews in 1965 and then in Ham Whitty's piece in 2005 for the Martlets' Centenary, we have decided to focus our research on the 'Missing Years', looking for information not found by Dan and Ham. We will publish our findings in 2023 using 21st century publishing applications that were not previously available to Dan and Ham.

Robert Forster

REAL TENNIS

The renaissance of real tennis for the Sussex Martlets continues at Petworth House Tennis Court. In the year past, a number of Saturday morning sessions have been organised, either on an open or a more select basis, and each has been well supported.

Three successive courts are typically taken from 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning and conclude with a light lunch sourced from 'The Hungry Guest' bakery and deli and Charles Hennings, wine merchants. The arrangement works well and is very convivial. Several cricketers have emerged as promising real tennis players, seeking membership of Petworth House Tennis Court, as well as signing up with the club professional for lessons.

Leading lights include Jules Hunt, Michael Murray and Peter Baxter, with honourable mentions for existing real tennis players, Mark Stevenson and Patrick Hole.

Once our group of players has settled, we will look to arrange one or two matches against other clubs.

Stuart Ritchie



125th ANNIVERSARY DINNER



One of the highlights of the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club's celebrations for the 125th anniversary of cricket being played at the Arundel Castle ground, was the dinner held at Arundel Castle on 11th March 2022.

The Club was most grateful to the Duke of Norfolk for allowing us to use the Barons' Hall for the event. Having survived the recurring threat of Covid and lockdowns, 200 guests arrived at the Castle with the rain just about holding off long enough to enable most guests to arrive while still dry! On arrival, there was a drinks reception held in the magnificent Picture Gallery and the Library, both of which are steeped in history. This, however, was just the prelude to entering the



The Duke of Norfolk welcomes his guests to the Barons' Hall

Barons' Hall, which looked simply magnificent, a high vaulted ceiling with prominent fireplaces and tables superbly presented.

Mandy Jupp, the Club Chairman, welcomed everyone to the beginning of our year of celebration of cricket at Arundel, before a specially written grace by a long-standing club member, the Revd. Michael Weaver.

Stuarts, the caterers, produced an excellent dinner before a speech of welcome by the Club's President, the Duke of Norfolk, which addressed the history of his family, the castle itself and, of course, the Arundel Castle Cricket Club.

Mark Harrison (Hon. Treasurer F.A.C.C.C.)

This event was much enjoyed by a number of Sussex Martlets, including John Ashworth, David Bowden, Robin Carr, Mike Harrison, Stuart Ritchie, Nigel Russell, Will Rydon, Chris Snell and Paul Walker.



Robin Carr, Brian O'Gorman, Mike Harrison

SUSSEX LEGENDS and the joy of Sussex cricket



Ex Sussex captains Mike Griffiths and John Barclay reflect on the loss this past year of two Sussex greats, Robin Marlar and Jim Parks. Both were a ripe old age and both contributed massively to Sussex cricket, not only as players and captains, but also in many other ways.



Robin & Jim either side of Don Smith (S.C.C.C. 1959)

ROBIN MARLAR

It was completely in keeping that Robin had a bright idea that Jim, an excellent cover fielder, should transfer to become the county wicketkeeper as the incumbent Rupert Webb neared the end of his career. He could not have predicted that Jim would go on to become the England wicketkeeper as selectors insisted on wicketkeeper-batsmen as the way forward. I recall visiting Hove at a very young age to see Robin bowling for hours in a middle practice with Jim standing up to the wicket in his new found role.

Robin was great company. He was often controversial and expressed his views noisily. He was not one for sitting on the fence and could upset people, but they took notice of what he had to say. 'People and principles' was his motto. He once approached me in his role as headhunter with a job proposition, only to retract a week later when a better candidate appeared! He was quite blunt, but correct. Christopher Martin-Jenkins, writing in the Sussex Cricket Journal, described Robin as the most intelligent and original Sussex cricketer he ever knew, and he knew a lot. Robin certainly promoted spin bowling, even at Hove where the wicket has rarely helped spinners. He was so happy when as Chairman he watched Mustaq playing such a prominent role in the Sussex title years.

I shall always remember driving Robin to Hove this summer, watching the current team amass a vast score, reminiscing along with the effervescent John Barclay and the new Chairman John Filby. What a day, and Robin insisted I see the new ground at Blackstone on the way back. If he deplored the current trend of constant chatter on the field, he was always looking forward at ways to improve Sussex cricket and bring on young players.

Mike Griffiths

In the last few years, I would sit from time to time on the tea terrace at Arundel and chat to Robin. I loved it. He was never ever dull and almost always combative! He kept me on my toes. So many stories and all sorts of memories.

He told me how once he and Crawford White of the 'Daily Express' thought they had unearthed Lord Lucan in Melbourne in 1974, only to find out later it was not Lucan at all but John Stonehouse from Harold Wilson's government, who had tried to fake his own death in order to benefit from an elaborate insurance scam. I may have got that a bit wrong, but what was fun was that Robin's life was full of stories like that and much more besides.

Robin was a clever man, right on the ball and didn't let you get away with anything. He would say exactly what he thought – tact not his most powerful attribute – and of course he would often say exactly what others were thinking but didn't have the courage to say.

Without doubt he was a very good off-spinner too and, I imagine, but for Laker and Lock, would have performed well for England. Not to be. I'm not sure about his captaincy; possibly a bit too unorthodox and unexpected for some. Who knows?

What I do know is that Robin could be quite fierce at times, a natural bruiser who loved nothing more than a bit of argy-bargy and confrontation. Sensing a bit of weakness he would go for the jugular. I saw this first hand when he led the revolt which overthrew the Sussex committee in 1997. His rhetoric was powerful. He could be quite frightening too and yet, beneath his cantankerous spirit, there lay a deep warmth and love for cricket. I think, as much as any other person I have known, he really got to grips with things and thrashed them about.

For instance, Robin was not one to stand idly by when Kerry Packer's World Series cricket storm broke in 1977 and was very much upsetting the apple cart. No, he waded out into the deep and got stuck in. The row, if I remember rightly, came to a head in a television studio with Packer and Marlar sparring with each other on either side of David Frost, who acted as referee. While Robin was largely outmanoeuvred by the slick and brutish Packer, he did put up a vigorous defence for the soul and history of the game; the warmth of his commitment to cricket shone through.

I could go on. But let me finish by saying that Robin's influence upon the game has been profound both within Sussex as well as nationally and internationally. His columns for 'The Sunday Times' broadened opinions and livened up Sunday mornings. He ruffled plenty of feathers along the way and might indeed have achieved more if he hadn't, but he was unfailingly honest in his views – and that cannot be said of many.

John Barclay

JIM PARKS



Jim Parks (S.C.C.C. President) in 2013

I was lucky enough to play many county matches with Jim Parks and learn from his often-innovative style of batting. He preferred a very open style and he experimented with John Newbery on the bat itself. He was one of, if not the finest player of spin bowling in the country at his peak and, if captaincy did not suit him, scoring runs at Hove certainly did. For me he encapsulated the joy of Sussex cricket at Hove, watching Jim batting with great style and often with Ken Suttle, who talked for both of them, as the sea fret lifted and they accumulated a large score. When in the field, the Parks/Suttle/Oakman triumvirate behind the wicket radiated enjoyment and good humour, even as far as the crowd in their deckchairs.

Sussex is lucky former players want to get involved in helping the county progress. Both Jim and Robin did this to good effect. It should be encouraged. I was lucky enough to be closely involved with both of them and learnt much along the way.

Mike Griffiths

In the 1960s Ted Dexter and Jim Parks were my greatest heroes but, of the two, I had much more access to Jim than Ted. Jim was simply more available on and off the field.

While Ted hit the ball with fearsome velocity and imperious style, Jim was more poetic and elegant in his approach. The writer and poet, Alan Ross, might have said Ted was a bit more Wagnerian to Jim's Mozartian melodies. Anyway, Jim would walk out to bat at number 4 as if treading on coals but confident nonetheless with his cut-down, shoulders-shaven 'Superlite' bat before taking up his open stance. Nimble was Jim, down the pitch to the spinners, over the top, inside out over extra and, against the quicks, he had a powerful cover drive. I loved watching him play, usually from the deck chairs at Hove after I had eluded the stewards. 106 not out against the South Africans in 1965 was memorable, sitting on the grass, a hot day. And who will ever forget (those that can remember) his partnership with Dexter at Hove, when Sussex trounced Surrey in the semi-final

of the Gillette Cup in 1964. They added 80 together combining style with aggression. I stood at what is now known as Cow Corner amidst a vast crowd of some 15000 and basked in the glory of my heroes.

But the first time I came across Jim was at Lords, the very first knock-out final against Worcestershire in 1963 when Jim scored 57 in a low-scoring match on a damp day. Only Tom Graveney offered much resistance. I sat on the wet grass at the Nursery end with my godfather and brother and witnessed a heavenly day for Sussex, followed by a very happy journey back on the bus to Victoria station.

Away from cricket Jim was just about as polite and courteous as could be imagined. A good listener too and equally humble about his talents and achievements. He knew everybody, at least everyone knew him, which was a great advantage when he later successfully took up a marketing position with Sussex. As President of the club twice and always a great ambassador, he gave unswerving support to everyone and, above all, to cricket as few others have ever done.

Thank you, Jim, for a great talent, a partnership with so many players and people and especially for a loving partnership with Jenny, whose support was so valuable to you.

John Barclay

FROM JUNIOR MARTLETS TO YOUNG LIONS



Bertie Foreman



Charlie Tear

As you are reading this, four lucky young Sussex cricketers are in Australia touring with England's U19 team, playing two Youth Tests, 3 ODIs and a T20, led by their head coach, the former Sussex and England player (and honorary Sussex Martlet), Mike Yardy.

Dan Ibrahim, together with Archie Lenham, whose grandfather Les Lenham is a Sussex Martlet (and who played for Sussex between 1956-70), are joined by two recent Junior Martlets, Bertie Foreman and Charlie Tear.

Bertie made numerous appearances for the Sussex 2nd in the course of the summer and in October was awarded a "rookie" contract for the season to come. He also played in an England Youth ODI and two Youth Tests against Sri Lanka, with an impressive 58* in the second of these.

Charlie started the year playing for the Scottish U19s and signed his first professional contract with Sussex in May. He played in the two final Championship games of the season for the Sussex first team – capping that with a 50 against Glamorgan.

Tracking these two down in what used to be termed 'out of season' proved more difficult than anticipated and was only achieved with some schoolmasterly pressure from John Bettridge!

Desmond Devitt

Ed: "Who were your cricketing heroes as you were growing up?"

Bertie: "My cricketing idols were Graeme Swann and Joe Root. I think for me, watching Graeme Swann and seeing the success he had really motivated me and inspired me as a young spin bowler. He was a real role model for me as at the time the leading spin bowlers were Ashton and Lyon and to be honest the last thing I wanted to do was support an Aussie! Joe Root was another role model for me. He has been extremely successful in all formats and I found it fascinating watching how he adapted his game to be successful in various conditions."

Charlie: "As a wicketkeeper-batsman, my top choices would be Matt Prior and A.B. de Villiers. I am also a great admirer of Joe Root."

Ed: Who have been the greatest influences (cricketing and generally) in your development?

Bertie: "The biggest influences on me so far have been my family as a whole. They are extremely supportive of me in everything I do, especially cricket. Also Mike Yardy, who was my Sussex academy coach and Mark Nash who was my bowling coach whilst at



Bertie on the way to 50 for England

Hurstpierpoint College. He really helped my game to develop into what it is now."

Charlie: "At Seaford I was lucky to have Chris Adams, and he along with Mike Yardy and Matt Machan have been the greatest influences on my batting, with Sarah Taylor for wicket-keeping."

Ed: *What happy (hopefully!) or amusing memories can you share of the times you played for the Junior Martlets?*

Bertie: "He will not be happy at me mentioning this, but it has to be bowling my older brother Joseph whilst playing for the Junior Martlets against the Senior Martlets at Arundel. I still haven't let him forget it!

Charlie: "One happy memory was playing at Arundel Castle vs the Senior Martlets."

Ed: *Two excellent answers, if I may say!*

Ed: *"Of other young cricketers you have come across, who do you feel most likely to make it to the top?"*

Bertie: "Charlie Tear is one of the best stroke makers I've seen at my age. He's really good to watch with a really elegant technique. Dan Ibrahim and Archie Lenham have been on the county circuit for a few years now and are both very talented players, who know their games very well and are very adaptable players. Jacob Bethell (Warks), who was picked up in the Hundred this year by Welsh Fire, is another seriously good player. He is very talented and one of those players who makes you think 'How has he done that ten?' when he bats. And there's James Rew (Somerset), who has already scored a first-class and List A hundred at the age of 18 – that kind of speaks for itself!"

Charlie: "I've not much to add to that – there are plenty of us at Sussex who could make it to the top."

Ed: *"Who, as a bowler or 'keeper, has been your greatest scalp to date?"*

Bertie: "I haven't actually got many big names unfortunately so far, but James Bracey just before he made his Test debut was a nice one to get. Ryan Patel from Surrey is also a hugely talented player who I can remember getting. And Stevie Eskinazi from Middlesex would be another..."

Charlie: "I stumped Toby Roland-Jones in a 2s game against Middlesex – in fact it was off Bertie!"



Charlie – in his second first-class game v Glamorgan

Ed: *"As a batsman, which bowler has impressed (or possibly frightened) you most?"*

Bertie: "I've only had the displeasure of facing him in the nets, but Ollie Robinson has to be one that impressed me the most; he has you on a string and, to be honest, sometimes I do feel very foolish facing him."

Charlie: "Matt Potts was very good – he got me out in my first game for Sussex, against Durham."

Ed: *"What do you see as the next steps/challenges in developing the various aspects of your game?"*

Bertie: "The challenges I face at the moment are trying to develop a ball that turns away from the right-handed batter and also I am working on batting long periods of time in red-ball cricket."

Charlie: "I would say the next steps for me are to put in consistent performances that help Sussex win."

Ed: *"What are your interests outside of cricket?"*

Bertie: "I really enjoy playing golf. I'm also a fan of the Philadelphia Eagles in the N.F.L. ..."

Charlie: "I enjoy playing other sports, particularly golf and tennis, alongside watching films and TV series."

Ed: *One final question for Bertie, whose grandfather many of our more senior members may remember watching play for Sussex – the multi-talented Denis Foreman. Denis was brought up in South Africa and first came over to play football for Brighton & Hove Albion, which he did in 212 matches between 1953-62, scoring 63 goals for them. He also played for Sussex C.C.C. in some 130 matches between 1952-67, scoring 3,277 runs with a highest score of 104 against Nottinghamshire in 1967.*

"What are your memories of your grandfather, Bertie?"

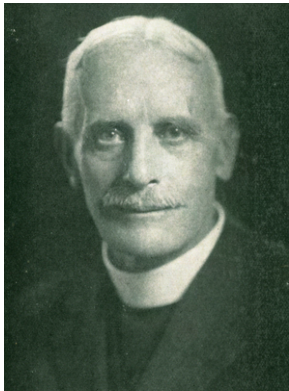
Bertie: "Unfortunately, I was fairly young when my grandfather Denis passed away [in 2016]. However, I will always remember his rather characteristic saying for when you aren't quite getting your head into the ball when batting. He would come up to you and tell you in his faded, but still noticeable South African accent to 'sniff the cricket ball.'"

LATE NEWS...

Just before "going to press" comes the news that both Charlie and Bertie were selected for the 1st Youth Test in Brisbane and — even better — that England have won by 24 runs. Charlie, playing as a batter, was (unluckily I'm sure!) run out for 0 in the first innings and got 17 second time round, whilst Bertie took 4-66 in Australia's first innings and made a crucial 58* (off 59 balls), coming in at no. 10, in England's 2nd innings — a match-winning performance.

ARTHUR HAYES BELCHER

Sussex Martlets' President (1928-1932)



Arthur Hayes Belcher

The research for this article was kindly done by James Harrison, the Brighton College Archivist and by Peter Hartland, the Martlets' Archivist and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

Arthur Belcher was a fine sportsman, captaining Brighton College at cricket, soccer and fives. He joined the College teaching staff in 1902 and became well known as a cricket coach. The players who learnt their cricket under his tutelage, assisted by Joe Vine (the old Sussex professional) and who became first-class cricketers included A.K. Wilson, whose last game for Sussex was in 1934 which, interestingly, was 9 years after his previous appearance.

Others were C.R. Maxwell, a wicketkeeper who played for Nottinghamshire, Middlesex and Worcestershire and W.H.V. Levett, another wicketkeeper who played 142 matches for Kent between 1930 and 1947. He was one of a line of Kent's accomplished wicketkeepers, which includes Leslie Ames, Godfrey Evans and Alan Knott.

Arthur was regarded as a great teacher. Appointed Headmaster of Brighton College in 1933, his retirement came in 1936 after 34 years of dedicated teaching service. One of the tributes to him read: "He built up a tradition of selfless loyalty and ungrudging service."

Particularly during the 1930s, cricket fortnights (rather than weeks) were prevalent, with matches being 2-day affairs with 2 innings each side. Arthur was always a true cricket enthusiast and he revived the Old Brightonians' cricket fortnight, which included a regular 2-day fixture against the Martlets (who had little success during this time but did win in 1931, thanks to a century from Edward Snell, who played for Sussex in the late 1920s and was the father of our Chris Snell).

The Martlets, true to their original name of the Hove Long Vacation Club, not only had a two-week tour of Devon in July (playing 2-day matches) but likewise had our own cricket fortnight from mid-August with all matches at the Hove County Ground. Over the years

opponents included well-known clubs such as Repton Pilgrims, the Cryptics and Hampshire Hogs, but all of this has of course changed dramatically since W.W.2, influenced by family, leagues and other pressures.

Arthur's own playing career for the Martlets was limited to the years before the outbreak of W.W.1. By the start of his presidency of the Club in 1928, the Club had recovered from the devastation of W.W.1, but we should be grateful that, with his great enthusiasm for the game, energy and connections, he saw to it that the Club's profile and reputation was raised further and, in particular, he oversaw the first regular Martlet cricket at Arundel.

Robin Carr

OBITUARIES

JULIAN DAWSON (1940-2022)



Julian was well known in Lewes as a fine and lively auctioneer of collectables, getting through as many as 1000 lots per day.

He was brought up in Chichester and lived next door to Nigel Smith, his greatest friend, a stalwart of Sussex Martlet cricket and golf, who sadly passed away in 2020. They would play endless games of cricket in the garden impersonating Test cricketers of the day.

His leisure activities revolved round sport: hockey, cricket and later golf. I first met him in 1960 when he was playing hockey for Lewes. He was a lively forward in those days and Lewes v. Keymer (my club) was something of a derby match. He was thrilled the year when Lewes won and he scored the only goal of the game.

In the early 1960s the Sussex Martlets played just one hockey match a year. It was against a Seaford College XI, which usually included the Headmaster, the Reverend Charles Johnson, an England hockey trialist. Julian and I played in the last such fixture, which was in 1963.

Most of his cricket was played for the village of Kingston (near Lewes). He turned out for the Martlets, usually opening the batting. He classified his bowling as an off-spin, but his team mates reckoned he bowled innocuous donkey drops and it was probably as well that no Martlet captain was brave enough to give him a bowl.

He played for and ran the Prattlers Cricket XI, which had about 6 matches a year mostly in West Sussex. It

had been started by Gordon Pratt, a cricket enthusiast and school teacher in West Sussex. As captain, Julian made sure these were enjoyable games not taken too seriously.

A keen golfer for many years with Lewes Golf Club, he was a very popular captain in 2004. He was also an avid supporter of Sussex C.C.C. and a season-ticket holder at Brighton and Hove Albion.

I knew him for some 60 years. You felt that any friend he made, he naturally treated as a friend for life. He was always good company, had a strong outgoing personality and was such a colourful character, who will be sadly missed.

Robin Carr

DAVID HOLE (1931-2022)



As much as a farmer, Dad saw himself as a cricketer. In his prime he was selected for the Sussex 2nd XI, and played most of his cricket, over 5 decades, for Eastbourne. He would add Barcombe, the M.C.C. and the Martlets with pride to his pedigree, and possessed the ability to remember games with great accuracy. A man of habits, he played in the choice games for the Martlets for many years, which he looked forward to and enjoyed much.

Opening bowlers from all over Sussex, especially those tasked with containing him at Arundel, faced a quandary. Where do you bowl to an opening batsman who is 6ft 9 inches tall? Such was his reach that he could drive short balls effectively. He deployed an immaculate forward defensive with an exaggerated high left elbow, never “giving away his wicket”. He took the business of scoring runs, which he always counted, seriously.

From cricket he took great pleasure making many friends, across a span of generations. Most importantly, he passed a love of the game to both his sons and his daughter. Most of his Martlet matches were followed by convivial gatherings in the pavilion, before feasting at a nearby watering-hole. At his funeral, attended by a good collection of cricketers, Ian White reminisced about batting with him. Ian, about 5ft 6 inches tall, posing the polar opposite of the thinking required by the bowlers running in to Dad, laughed at the image of the two of them taking a quick single. The loping giraffe with the scampering elf.

Dad would have remembered the place, the date and how many runs scored and his own tally, but the remembrance of the fun will live longer.

Martin Hole

KEITH MANNING (1943-2022)



I first met Keith in the early 1980s playing in a charity match together at Bucks Green, West Sussex. He was an I.T. Manager with Honeywell Bull at the time and was wanting to play serious cricket in Sussex, having recently come down to the county from Yorkshire, where he was born and played to a high standard. Having seen him bowl and bat that afternoon, I had no hesitation in persuading him to consider the Sussex Martlets. We completed an application form and I sent it directly to Eddie Harrison with the recommendation that he be ‘signed up’ straight away.

Keith was a typical gritty Yorkshire player and gave 100% in every game. His forte was as a spinner, at which he excelled. Miserly with great accuracy and plenty of guile, he amassed a considerable number of wickets for the Martlets over more than thirty years. It was difficult for batsmen to get on top of him. He was no mug with the bat either and many a time he held up his end to ensure victory for the Martlets.

Keith was a delightful man, quiet and thoughtful and an excellent team member. I was privileged to have him in the touring party to Australia that I managed in 2000 where he and his lovely wife, Valerie, enjoyed their time and were wonderful contributors to the tour.

Keith also was a steady golfer and played a fair bit for the Martlets, but more importantly, he was our hugely efficient Fixtures Secretary (1994-2009).

He will be sorely missed, as he was a true stalwart of the Club.

Adrian Ford

DAVID WRIGHT (1945-2022)



(Courtesy of Haileybury School)

David Wright was one of the most charismatic and polymathic members of the Haileybury teaching staff in the last fifty years... A man of profound religious conviction, combined with encyclopaedic knowledge of medieval history, in particular Church history, and the history of art, he was nonetheless able to engage with all kinds of people of different interests and disparate backgrounds and bring the best out of them whilst still finding time to pour Martinis so good that they could make trees move – as the housemaster of Allenby discovered to his cost one 4th July.

Roger Woodburn

Colin Oliver-Redgate writes: "Sad to bid a fond farewell to David Wright, opening batsman, and good team member of the Sussex Martlets, who became Housemaster of my old House, Kipling, at Haileybury."

MEET THE COMMITTEE

For some members, maybe the Committee is just a list of names on the fixtures card, so this is an attempt to bring them to life (so to speak). We start with last year's 'Martlet of the Year', our Secretary/Fixtures Secretary and a veritable stalwart of the Club:



NAME: Alan Newman.

STATUS: Married with 2 cats (one diabetic).

EDUCATION: Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree – University of Durham – Imperial College, London.

CAREER: 30 years in oil exploration as a Seismic Data Processor, 4 years in horticulture and now retired.

SUSSEX CONNECTIONS: Arrived in 2002 after 12 years in Woking.

CLUBS: M.C.C. (associate), West Chiltington & Thakeham, Cricket Society XI, Cross Arrows, Forty Club, Nomads, Old Haberdashers (past President 2012-2015).

FOOTBALL OR RUGBY? As a player, neither. Supporter of Barnet F.C. since 1971 and Saracens R.U.F.C. since a similar time. Winters were spent playing hockey for university/college sides, St. Albans and Woking until retiring around 2001.

OTHER SPORTS? Lapsed 9 handicap golfer, last a member at Littlehampton G.C., and have had a go at many other sports with little success. University Darts Team.

OTHER INTERESTS? Collecting Wisdens of my lifetime, crime fiction, family history, qualified cricket umpire.

BEER OR WINE? Whatever the situation demands!

FAVOURITE BANDS? Genesis, Dire Straits, Queen, Jethro Tull, Coldplay, Rainbow, David Bowie.

FAVOURITE FILMS/ACTORS? 'Mad Max', 'The Blues Brothers', James Bond, films + Morgan Freeman, Clint Eastwood [*and Derek Horsham, surely! Ed.*]

PET HATE? Hypocrisy.

NEW MEMBERS 2022/23

The Club welcomes into membership:

Cricket: Laurie Cadle (Barnes C.C.), Luke Forster (St. James Montifiore C.C.), Michael Green (Ansty C.C., Piltown G.C.), Dominic Heater (Buxted Park C.C.), Ed McCarthy (Chichester Priory C.C.), Luke Nelson (Willingdon C.C.), Jamie O'Meara (Ditchling C.C.), Martin Phillimore (Bexhill C.C., Cooden Beach G.C.), David Pugh (I Zingari C.C., Charterhouse G.C.), Tom Whyte (Band of Brothers C.C.), Phil Wise (Heathfield Park C.C.).

Golf: Gary Barnett (Mid Sussex G.C.), Simon Flind (Lewes G.C.), Richard Leman (Royal Ashdown G.C.), Graham McKenzie (Dyke G.C.), Robert Mitchell (West Sussex G.C.), Ivan Newell (Littlestone G.C.),

Non-Playing: David Josse.

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

Paul Walker

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Club Day at Arundel — surely more glorious than Goodwood...

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

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