



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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Martlets (in white) standing: Poppy Walker, Anna Scriven-Wood, Harriet Thornton, Maggie Martin, Emily Stewart, Ella Maier, Shobhavi Waduge; kneeling: Charley Hepburn, Izzy Deamer, Ella Bourne with Martlets' Chairman, Paul Walker.

SUSSEX MARTLETS WOMEN'S CRICKET

2023 saw the launch of the Sussex Martlets women's section. Playing four fixtures, the highlight of their season was the encounter with the Italian national side – quite a baptism of fire for the team (pictured above with their opponents). This important development is marked by the Chair of Sussex Cricket (and fellow Martlet) Jon Filby:

Women's cricket is the fastest growing sport in the country and 2023 saw the launch of the Sussex Women's Cricket League with six teams playing in the Premier Division, which was won by Horsham, and nine in the second division playing a shorter form of softball cricket. We are grateful that the League is sponsored by the Aldridge Foundation and confidently expect both divisions to grow in the coming years.

It is, therefore, wonderful that the Sussex Martlets, one of the most important and respected clubs in the county, with a great history of developing the game across Sussex, chose 2023 (under the outstanding leadership of Tim Gregory) to launch its women's team. And what a first season they had! There cannot be many clubs that in their first season played an international

match and I am extremely grateful to Tim and the Martlets' Committee for the hard work and inspiration that has gone into making this such a memorable first year for the Martlets Women's Team.

I very much hope and expect that the fixture list will continue to grow and that women and girls will benefit from the opportunities that have been provided to Martlet cricketers for so many years.

Congratulations to the Martlets' Committee on this important step forward and congratulations to all of the women who made their Martlets debut in 2023. I very much hope that you enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed the games that I have played for the Club.

Jon Filby

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE



This has been an historic year for the Martlets with the successful introduction of our women's section, as you will read elsewhere in detail.

Why is this initiative so important? Some may have heard of the much-publicised Report of the Independent

Commission for Equity in Cricket (I.C.E.C.), which aimed to hold a mirror up to the game in the U.K. Despite there being some criticism about the report, particularly from some of the more established press rooms, the vast majority of cricket lovers would recognise the generalities of the report's thrust as a reflection of society's direction of travel. If the sport is to survive within the community without being consigned to irrelevance by the modern generation as an anachronism and as being unrepresentative, it cannot distance itself from the need to encourage equity, diversity and inclusion. In practical terms it means supporting and developing the game for women and girls, it means opening up to state schools, it means creating cricketing opportunities for all in society regardless of race, religion, physical ability and sexual orientation.

The Martlets, as an exemplar of all that is good about this great game, need to be at the vanguard of this effort. In fact, I believe we have been on this path for many years before the report openly crystallised societal thinking, because it was the right thing to do. We talked about a women's section some 12 years ago, but sadly this came to nought simply because the county structure was not sufficient at that time to sustain the initiative. We have welcomed players from any background and we continue to do so. If this sounds complacent it is not intended as such, as there is still so much more to do, particularly to encourage state school cricketers and to reach out to cricketing enclaves throughout the county. I'm sure we are making solid strides to improve our profile in this respect and our increasingly diverse fixture list is a testament to that.

Regardless of how wide we open our doors, our ethos remains our rock – of course we play to win, but ultimately we play for the sheer enjoyment of the sport, we play in the right, respectful spirit and we play for camaraderie. I was fortunate enough to witness these qualities in bucketloads during the season, whilst visiting several matches around the county. It is heartening that match managers clearly understand the unique attraction of Martlets cricket to ensure everyone is in the game and, rather like the Stokes and McCullum mantra, demonstrate fun as a fundamental reason for turning out. You will read the cricket reports elsewhere but, amongst the usual mixed bag of results, the standard of play is as high as I can remember,

particularly embracing the new adventurous, attacking batting style with gusto. We used to call that "unorthodox" batting, but I'm really not sure now what orthodoxy is, as the old coaching manual has been ripped up. And isn't that exciting!

Those of us who hung up their boots some time ago still relish the friendship and camaraderie of old teammates and it is sad when, geographically, someone moves on. Adrian Ford is relocating to Tasmania and, although his farewell lunch is recorded in these columns, I would like to add that a truly great Martlet is leaving the room. Adrian has been hugely influential regarding the Club's sustainability, specifically in the doldrums of the 1980s, and we all owe him a huge debt of thanks. Bon voyage Fordy, we shall miss you, but we won't forget you!

Finally, on behalf of all members, may I thank Paul Walker and the Committee for their tireless work behind the scenes, not only in putting on such an attractive list of fixtures, across the board, but also in projecting our great Club as a symbol for all that is good in the world of recreational cricket. Alan Newman and Mike Charman continue to be the engine room of this successful effort and we have so much to thank them for.

As I write this over the festive period, my thoughts are with all Martlets, wherever they may rest their bats and boots, for a peaceful time and for a wonderful 2024 season full of good cheer.

Nigel Russell

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



After the Christmas and New Year festivities many of us reflect on the year gone by and sometimes even further back. And for lots of us it's the sporting memories that spring to mind first.

2023 was a busy and exciting summer for the Sussex Martlets. A lot of hard work went into planning a very special, action-packed fixture list. Alan Newman, fixtures secretary extraordinaire, take a bow.

Arundel again hosted an enjoyable Club dinner and awards night in March. The food was first-rate and the atmosphere as friendly and inclusive as any sporting dinner I've attended.

My personal highlights of the season include the Over-40s West Country tour, our Juniors compelling matches against touring Aussie schools and some very special matches for our newly formed female side.

The Over-40s advance party to Bristol spent a lovely afternoon at Nevil Road enjoying Gloucester v Sussex and the odd pint of local cider. A posse of striped blazers then set out to paint the town in Martlet tricolour. Matches at the stunning Stowell Park and charming St Hugh's School followed. Top marks to Derek for an interesting AirBnB, which played host to the majority of the tourists at some point during that long weekend.

The weather was much wetter than 2022 and very sadly put paid to the Juniors v Martlets match. To celebrate our Club Day a lovely lunch took place though and was well attended by V-Ps, members and assorted friends. These included the Chairs of both Sussex C.C.C. and the Friends of Arundel Castle C.C.

The lunch gave me the chance to formally pay tribute to two titans of the Sussex Martlets, Geoff Wills and Ham Whitty. These wonderful men sadly both died in 2023. I was lucky enough to have got to know them both reasonably well. In September 2022 Ham had been at Sheffield Park, to see our end of season match against the Armadillos. My abiding memory of that day is of him smiling from ear to ear, on a glorious late summer afternoon in such a blissful setting.

It was very fitting that Johnny Wills was playing at Stowell Park in the first Martlets match after his father died. Geoff was looking down, I'm sure, at our happy gathering, enjoying the cricket, enjoying life. He had such a knack of doing both and of sharing that enjoyment. A warm-hearted, generous man and a brilliant cricketer. Let's hope we can all get over to Jersey in 2025 to toast his life once more.

We continue to count our blessings that Arundel, a place so beloved by Geoff and Ham, remains our spiritual home. Many of you will, like me, be members of both clubs. The Martlets and Arundel are inseparably bound by many years of cricketing characters and happy memories at this sacred ground.

Your committee recognize the importance of Arundel to the Martlets. Arundel's costs have increased markedly in recent years and the F.A.C.C.C. have had to cut their cloth accordingly. At a recent meeting attended by the Duke, I was able to make the case for the Martlets continued presence at the Castle. It is not something we can ever take for granted.

My argument included references to the high quality of cricket played by the Martlets and their guests in recent years – particularly in 2023. Darryl Rebbetts, the chair of our cricket sub-committee, deserves wholesome credit for this. He is largely responsible for formulating the high-calibre teams who represent our Club in its most prestigious fixtures.

I submitted that the Martlets offer, and willingly so, increasingly diverse and inclusive cricket to Arundel. Our links to the Crawley Hub are increasing, the

Women's team's fixtures are expanding and our Juniors are made up of cricketers from a wide range of backgrounds and schools (both private and state).

The Martlets will continue to support the F.A.C.C.C. by hosting our dinners and Club days there. We will encourage those of our members who are not yet members of both clubs to sign up (please do)! The F.A.C.C.C. value us not only on a financial level (obviously), but also because of the historical connection and most significantly of all because of the mood, tone and atmosphere of Sussex Martlet cricket at Arundel. This applies at all Martlet matches and is why our club is so magical.

The word atmosphere comes from the Latin – atmosphaera and from the Greek atmos (vapour) and sphaira (ball or globe). As we all know, wherever the Martlets are bowling, catching, clouting or (rarely) blocking the match-day globe, it's a good place to be. This, whether you are lucky enough to be playing, watching or officiating.

However, the only way that we can make our games at the Castle affordable – particularly for our younger players and the Juniors – is through sponsorship. Over the last four years various members have kindly contributed to individual matches and this has had a massive impact on our funding of these special games. If you can sponsor a game at the Castle or want to help the Club in any other way, please let me know.

I end, as always, by urging each and every one of our members to get involved with your club – I'm enormously grateful for those of you who do – match managers, officials and especially the Committee, without whom there would be no Sussex Martlets. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or ideas in respect of the Martlets. As with everything in life: the more you put in, the more you get out!

Paul Walker

TREASURER'S PENULTIMATE PONDERINGS!



I finished last year's article by reminding you all that I was about to enter the second year of what I plan to be my final term as your Treasurer. Those of you who sit as volunteers on committees, either with the Sussex Martlets or elsewhere, will not be surprised to learn that there has not been a long queue battering at my door imploring me to hand over the role. I shall be renewing my efforts to find a successor certainly with a view to have someone shadow me from this

March onwards to allow a smooth takeover in March 2025.

At the time of writing in mid-January, the draft 2023 accounts, which will vary little from the final accounts, have been despatched to our auditors with a request for their comment on how we should treat the stock of presentation shields purchased in the year. If they agree that this cost should be written off in 2023, the accounts will show a very small annual deficit. If it is decided that these items should be added to stock, we will show an approximate £600 surplus. What will not change is that our overall reserves are at what I believe is an all-time high of near £25k. This does of course include the balance of over £7k in the Harrison/V-P Fund which has increased by £1.2k, thanks mainly to a large donation, by a company owned by one of our V-Ps, which is earmarked to pay for the cricket kit to be worn by our new Women & Girls team from 2024 onwards.

Although last minute changes/cancellations reduced our matches at Arundel, our sponsorship of those matches increased, thanks to the generosity of a number of V-Ps and committee members. With the sad passing of a benefactor who had paid the £1000 subscription to maintain the Sussex Martlets as a Vice-President of the Sussex Cricket Foundation in 2021 and 2022, a decision was made that the Club would make this donation in 2023 and it has already been agreed to continue to pay in 2024.

Efforts have been maintained to persuade members to pay their subscription by Direct Debit and thus pay at a discounted rate, but a number of members are still paying by Standing Order and in many cases at lower rates than are currently due. If you are unable to switch to D.D. please at least ensure your Standing Order is being paid into the Club's main account at Barclays, Sort Code 20-79-31, Account No 20228966 at either £70 for Playing Membership or £35 for Non-Playing Membership, which includes golf and real tennis.

I would also ask all members to notify me on treasurer@sussexmartlets.co.uk of any changes in your contact details, including both email and postal addresses.

In conclusion, I believe it is right to say that the Martlets' finances are in good order at present, but costs continue to increase, although tight controls on expenditure are maintained. We are able to leave subscriptions at 2023 levels for 2024, but may have to consider a small uplift in 2025. Thank you to all our generous donors who enable the Club to flourish – if you are in a position to join them you will be helping to ensure that the Sussex Martlets continue to exist and flourish.

Mike Charman

A VIEW FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE



Elsewhere in 'The Martlet', you will find the regular contributions from the Chairman and the Treasurer, so this year, I thought I would complete the set of directors with my own effort.

My only experience of Sussex having been trips to see my great aunt in Worthing and the occasional Barnet F.C. awayday in Brighton or Crawley, I came to the Club without rose-tinted spectacles, preconceptions, or Sussex baggage. What I found in the early 00s was a club that was strong in tradition, was sound financially, had an attractive set of fixtures and comprised three sections, the Seniors, the Juniors and Golf. I think I only found the Club through an internet search during a (rare) idle afternoon at work. The cricket, I found out quickly, was at a level higher than my skill set (I almost hold it as a badge of honour that I have never applied for a cricket match at Arundel, even though I have played there under a different badge). The golf I was more able to cope with, being, on the whole, younger than my playing partners! On the down side, I found communication was at best sporadic.

How do we compare now? Well, the Club still has a strong tradition, the fixtures are (I hope) still attractive (if remaining above my skill set, which is now considerably lower!) and after a blip, we are back to being sound financially. In terms of sections, in addition to the three mentioned earlier, we have a thriving Over 40s, a resurging Real Tennis squad and, as of 2023, a fledgling Women's section that promises to establish itself in 2024. I should add the Golf section is actively recruiting younger players as well, rather than just relying on ex-cricketers.

I feel communication has improved, whilst there is always work to be done in this area. The relatively recently revamped website is now more regularly updated and links to our Play-Cricket site, where the match scorecards are kept. There is more use of Facebook and increasing use of WhatsApp by match managers to keep their players informed of match details.

Where are we still struggling? As ever, there is a challenge in finding match managers and getting commitment from playing members to new or resurrected fixtures. Whilst we will never return to having 90 fixtures in a season, we do still get requests from former adversaries to reinstate fixtures. To maintain our current level, we cannot do without a committed playing membership and an ongoing recruitment plan! For the same reason, it is difficult to get back to touring overseas, but despite some false starts the Club will continue to explore options in this area.

In an attempt to spread the word, thanks to an individual's donation, the Martlets sponsored the match ball for the Horsham F.C. v Whitehawk F.C. fixture and are match sponsors for the Horsham v Hastings fixture on March 23rd (hopefully with more Horsham success than the 0-1 reverse v Whitehawk!).

As with many a club, where we are today has been achieved by the work of too few individuals and for the Martlets to continue to improve and reflect the changing nature of cricket, new blood is needed to impart new energy and ideas. A volunteer is worth ten conscripts as the saying goes, so why not step up and offer your services? Why not establish a new section e.g. chess, bridge, winter lunch club, whatever you feel would represent the Martlet ethos appropriately...

With the spring approaching, prepare to follow the 2024 season via:

Sussex Martlets' website: www.sussexmartlets.co.uk
 Play Cricket website: www.sussexmartlets.play-cricket.com and Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/376046159253395/

Alan Newman

REVIEW OF THE SEASON



2023 saw us ducking and diving the weather like a young Michael Atherton avoiding Curtly's bouncers.

After a few false starts, the season began at Eastbourne College in early May. Dom Heater, one of the new generation of young Martlet match managers, oversaw a chastening loss against an ever-more impressive, well-drilled school side.

More like it at our first visit to the Castle, where we entertained South Wales Hunts, who included a moonlighting Om Khot in their ranks (can you 'run with the hare and hunt with the hounds?'). The Martlets hauled themselves to a workmanlike 162, built around Laurie Cadle's manful efforts, but batting was always a struggle in the face of the imposing left-armed Reeves, who booked in at one end and finished the day with figures of 7 for 58 – he was rather reminiscent of Phillippe Henri Edmonds. We ran them close, on the back of Jordan bursting through top-order defences, and skipper Loughton knocking over a few lower order batsmen, but Hunts got over the line. Derek Horsham's old mucker Pete Langham was there to introduce us to his prodigy son, fourteen-year-old Noah, who was to play a key part in many senior matches through the season.

Joy unconfined when Michael Murray led the Martlets to a rare victory against a mighty M.C.C. side (the

M.C.C. typically get hundreds of applications to play in this game, and could probably put out an all-first-class side if they wished). Martlets held M.C.C. to 245 for 7 in fifty overs – a sporting declaration. Toby Pullan and Tim Wergan attacked from the off, Wergan going on to record a fine run-a-ball century. With contributions from Read and Ed McCarthy along the way, it was left to Martlets debutant Archie Durrant to see us home with 3 balls to spare, and seven down.

Jordan is always mustard-keen for us to hand out some punishment to his charges at BACA. As ever, we were splendidly entertained there, but duly schooled the youngsters, posting 235 before rolling the callow youths for 144 – some ruthless captaincy from Dom Heater and fine bowling from the assembled ranks of spinners, with the palm going to Jack Trubshaw with a 'five-for'. I was rather amused to see the BACA opening bowlers wearing GPS performance trackers as they bustled in. We sneaked off with one of the devices, and at the start of the winter fitted it to Om Khot; I can now exclusively reveal that data analysis confirms that, as suspected, Om's off-season consists entirely of meandering amid smart St James's and Mayfair gentleman's clubs.

To Eton for the Johnny Barclay match, again pitting Ashworth père et fils against each other. With no secret weapon in Paul Walker this time, the Eton Ramblers reached an imposing 250 all out in good time, despite the indefatigable efforts of Arran Aris at cover point, sprawling on old wicket ends, pulling off a fine run out and then coming on to purvey his 'no run-up' quickies (it's all in the bound, apparently).

We were graced by a visit from the Provost and his wife – Sir William and Lady Waldegrave – at tea (Caroline, a renowned cook, has happily influenced the standard of catering there). The Provost gazed on with cerebral charm. There was once an Eton Provost who claimed that he could complete The Times cryptic crossword in the time that it took for his breakfast egg to cook – prompting one wag to respond that, while the school may have been Eton, the egg almost certainly wasn't.

It was a jamboree day of cricket there, with two other Ramblers teams in action on the out grounds – more grizzled versions playing I Zingari and the Authors. Correspondence still continues in various learned journals about the use of the definite article in the name 'I Zingari'. Dictionary corner (Ashers, Om, me) was most exercised, and controversy reached Bodyline levels. Did the raging literary debates affect our batting? It didn't quite click into gear, and we had to be content with a stalemate draw, reaching 200-6 by stumps.

May ended on a roll, wins against Ardingly College masterminded by *eminence grise* Stuart Ritchie (a brilliant ton from Tom Naish, not out 129 and winning the game by blazing the final ball through the covers) and Eastbourne (hundred from Arslan Khan, Buxted's

overseas, and steered home by Forster and Beechey in the engine room).

June too saw results largely in the Martlets' favour, with wins against Goodwood (a fine ton from Hector Loughton), the boys at Lancing, Christ's Hospital, the Hampshire Hogs (another blistering ton from Wergan) and Lancing College. Dilshan de Silva was proving a big-hearted opening bowler, Jon Peters a fine all-rounder, and Murray and Whelpton ever excellent. We enjoyed the best part of a draw against the boys at Hurst College, but their Brighton contemporaries proved too strong.

July started with a statement victory against Brighton Brunswick at the county ground. Jordan Shaw celebrated his impending nuptials with an irresistible 123 from 62 balls, as the Martlets posted 332. Arran Aris was the pick of the bowlers as Brunswick subsided to 246.



Jordan Shaw strides off the Hove pitch having scored 123 (apparently without a bat).

A remarkable game at West Chiltington, very much a club on the up. The Martlets were teetering at 134 for 8 when guest Archie Durrant (a late replacement for Jordan, who'd briefed skipper Hector that he was 'a quality bowler') strolled to the crease at number 10 and proceeded to strike a chanceless 104* from 60 balls. A thrilling finish saw the hosts win by a lone wicket.

James Dahl made a welcome return to Martlets colours for the game against Nomads, but neither he nor the excellent Freddie Ferro (97*) could get us the win.

To Lancing, where the Martlets bowling had the sign over the Rovers batsmen from the off. Gazing down from the banking, Rovers' skipper Hector Loughton described the experience of watching Ben Whelpton, yet again, destroy his batting line-up. "A blow," he exclaimed, "expected, repeated, falling upon a bruise with no smart or shock of surprise, only a dull and sickening pain and the doubt whether another like it could be borne." Well, actually that was Lancing alumnus Evelyn Vaughn in Brideshead ... but the point

stands. Another relentless display of excellence from Whelpton, another five-wicket haul, paving the way to a six-wicket win. The Rovers were, of course, gracious in defeat and exemplary in hospitality.

A joyous intermezzo on July 23rd, as Jordan Shaw married opera singer Angharad Lyddon – all Martlets joined to wish them every happiness, though I'm not sure how often we'll now see Angharad on those damp May afternoons at Worth Abbey...

Mark Semmence proved an immovable object in the match against the Old Hurstjohnians, nearly carrying his bat. The OJ's total, though, proved insufficient as Luke Forster and Freddie Ferro were surefooted in the chase.

A fired-up Darryl Rebbetts is an imposing opponent on a cricket field. Without raking over the embers, let's just say that he was cherishing a few scores to settle against the Band of Brothers. At their home ground of Marden (surely one of the quickest wickets around) BB were duly rolled for 122; not too many alarms as Ferro and Osborne reeled it in.

Finally some sun in September, and de-mob happy Martlets saw off Seaford College (a nice internecine Walker subplot there) and the Armadillos (mentions in despatches for Ferro, Shaw and Whelpton).

Net-net, with wins over M.C.C., Brunswick and BB, a most satisfying season, and the land is bright ahead.

Sam Carter

LEADING AVERAGES

Batting (Qualification: 4 innings)

	Innings.	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
F. Ferro	7	3	99	451	112.75
T. Naish	7	2	129*	361	72.2
L. Forster	17	2	80*	351	23.4
T. Wergan	4	0	157	323	80.75

Centurions: Tim Wergan (157), Redding Barnes (138), Tom Naish (129), Jordan Shaw (123).

Bowling (Qualification: 25 overs / 7 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
B. Whelpton	75.5	12	282	23	12.26
A. Osborne	63.3	2	347	14	24.79
D. Rebbetts	34.5	2	157	10	15.7
D. Heater	44.4	3	260	8	32.5

5 wkts in an innings: Ben Whelpton (6-45), Ben Whelpton (5-14), Oscar Warmington (5-34), Jack Trubshaw (5-38).

OVER-40s CRICKET

Played 10, Won 2, Lost 7, Drawn 1.



Derek "Degsy" Horsham took over the reins of the Martlets Over-40s cricket from Phil Savage in 2023, and got us off to a great start with a West Country weekend tour. This started on the Saturday, watching Sussex take nine Gloucestershire wickets in the presence of Jon Filby, Sussex Cricket's Chair, and his wife.

Surely the Vets team, a quorum fuelled by an evening in the student bars of Bristol (including a "10 quid for 4 shots" place), would rise to the occasion against the Gloucestershire Gypsies on the following day.

Played in damp conditions at Stowell Park, the Martlets batted first and accumulated runs effectively but slowly, as the match report shows (most of the games can be reviewed in detail on the website), and the canny Gypsies were able to manage their run-rate a little better, despite effective spells from Johnny Wills and Damien Cashinella, as conditions for batting improved. We had them eight down at the end, so it was only a narrow loss.

The following day, at St. Hugh's School against the South Oxfordshire Amateur Vets, was less even. In rather better conditions, the Martlets were bowled out for 128, only reaching that thanks to a marvellous 70 from David Mann. As last year, Wildman starred for the oppo as they reached the target with only four down.

So, unlike last year, when the three-match tour saw us unbeaten, 2023 had two losses – not that the tour should be judged through the lens of mere results. The

Chairman launching himself into Bristol nightlife, Savage's wine selection in the AirBnB, Bushell's masterful ordering of the Chinese takeaway, Degsy's breakfasts – these are the memories we will keep!

Back in Sussex, it was a month before we took on a rather youthful Heathfield Park side at their beautiful ground in the east of the county (relatively less travelled for Martlets generally...). We made 260-4 dec, largely thanks to our visitor from Estonia, Stu Hook, and some lusty blows from Sam Collyer and Rob Willsdon – two of our more youthful stars. Heathfield looked assured in overhauling it, led by a talented young man, David Rippengal.

Regrouping, it was July by the time we met at Rottingdean, only to be bowled out for 83, chasing 180-odd. Less said about that game the better – although James Dahl was very well set and scoring freely, only to perish to a spectacular and unlikely catch in the deep. The highlight of the day was definitely the fish and chips in the White Horse Hotel – again, culinary maestro Bush in command.

Moving onto Cuckfield in mid-July, we were on the all-weather pitch with no tea, circumstances which raised comment from some, and will be put right in 2024 one understands! Nevertheless, a good total of 234-8 in 35 overs was amassed thanks to Walker (54*), Willsdon (63) and Christmas (39*), but again it was not enough – the bowlers strived hard, without much luck, and a short boundary didn't help.

It was a similar story against the Forty Club on the main square at Horsham a week later: 188-8 on a slowish pitch was insufficient once their young player got going (we had one too in Oscar Mann, who contributed 29



Standing: Nigel Russell with his supportive (or should that be supporting?) wife Lynne, Mike Charman, Willy Boulter, Phil Savage, Johnny Wills, Neil Bushell, Neil Billing, a local eccentric interloper, Dave Mann. Seated: Dave Christmas, Derek Horsham (c), Damien Cashinella, Paul Walker

off 21 balls, but somewhat short of his father's very fine 92* off 96 balls!). XL's Barnes ended on 90 off 73 balls and transformed an innings which had been plodding along after 18 overs. Dave Messenger and young Mann accomplished two splendid run-outs, and Deepak Kapadia bowled five very tidy overs for 17 runs. Jeremy McGahan was also economical: 1-35 off 7, but after drinks we just could not get the breakthrough we needed.

So, into August and the Band of Brothers game at the well-appointed venue of Marden in Kent. A betting man would not have put money on the Martlets, given the strength of the oppo and the record thus far, although cricket is of course an unpredictable game. A disciplined bowling performance (Tomkinson with three maidens in his 7 overs, Kapadia 3-45, Lack 2-20, even Mann showing his versatile talent with 2-23) preceded a fine innings from Tomkinson of 77, supported by James Dahl with 57* and skipper/keeper Philip Wise with 19, overhauling BoB's 179 with just less than 8 overs left!

Next up was the batting haven of Streat and Westmeston, where Messenger and Boulter compiled an opening stand of 85, followed by a 50 each from David Mann (again!) and Stuart Ritchie (who ran ten singles, for the record, and slammed ten 4s...) in a total of 240-3 (there were three retirements) off 34 overs in an 80 over game. Sadly, 46 overs were not sufficient to take more than six opposition wickets, although Guy Keeling spectacularly clean-bowled Hooper off the second ball. McGahan bowled supremely well with 2-15 off 8 overs and Lack always looked threatening (in his bowling too) with 2-33. Sam Collyer was unlucky and the innings ended with Boulter and Ritchie also being given the ball, a sure measure of frustration all round!

St. James Montefiore were our next hosts and again David Mann was in the runs with 44*. Tom Whyte bravely batted through injury with 52*, contributing to a total of 170. In reply, McGahan as usual took wickets, 3-16 off 6.2 overs, Christmas had 2-27 and a more generous umpire would have given Lackie at least one vital breakthrough. Unfortunately, there was depth in the batting and from 50-5, St. James recovered to win with only one more wicket lost, although we had our chances...

The final game of the season was at Petworth and once more a thoroughly good day was had in this stunning setting. Petworth's total of 242-6 was a challenge, which Jules Hunt was certainly up to, scoring a wonderful 133*, having hit his second ball for six. Beechey contributed an important 30 in their stand of 121, whilst Phil Savage scored a quick 15 to ensure victory with 2.2 overs left. With six 6s and eleven 4s, Jules gave a masterclass in aggressive batting, allowing

the Vets to end the season on a high with a win, unfamiliar as that was in 2023.

What to say in summary? Another fun year of Over-40s cricket, for the Over 50s and Over 60s too and, as last year, an appeal for more of the former to step forward and help us put out (even) more competitive sides. Major thanks to Alan Newman, the mastermind behind the fixtures.

Willy Boulter

Derek Horsham adds:

We are hoping to take the Over 40s on tour every year through the early May Bank Holiday period, to coincide with the Sussex C.C.C. 1st XI away fixture at that time.

We found this to be a perfect warm-up day before taking the field ourselves, with Gloucestershire C.C.C. warmly opening their pavilion to us. Our thanks must go to Sussex Chairman Jon Filby, who (bravely) arranged our fun day out! 2024 will see us visiting Derbyshire C.C.C.



Daniel Oliver, Dave Mann, Willy Boulter, Derek Horsham, Phil Savage with Jon Filby and Paul Walker

OVER-40s AVERAGES

Batting	Innings.	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
D. Mann	7	3	92*	275	68.75
P. Walker	5	2	54*	117	39.00
D. Christmas	5	1	37*	77	19.25
W. Boulter	8	0	37	104	13.00

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
J. McGahan	47.2	8	189	13	14.54
D. Christmas	24	3	139	6	23.17
P. Walker	25.1	1	142	6	23.67
P. Lack	41.3	1	216	8	27.00

MARTLETS WOMEN'S CRICKET

The newly formed Sussex Martlets Women's team set out in 2023 to play a small number of fixtures of a decent standard against strong opposition, drawing players from as many clubs in Sussex as possible. Although this proved challenging, with an originally planned fixture against Eastbourne College having to be cancelled, ultimately four matches were played. These included the inaugural fixture against Hurstpierpoint College as well as matches against Free Foresters and Burgess Hill.



Italy's captain, Emilia Bartram, presents the Martlets' Maggie Martin with a commemorative pennant

In addition, we were very honoured to be invited to play a match against the full Italian Women's cricket team – their first-ever fixture played on English soil, at Jordan Hill in Oxford.

Two matches were won and two lost, the last of which against Burgess Hill was a real nail-biter that went to the second-last ball, and the second of our T20 double-header games against Italy was also a cracker that went down to the final ball.

In all, 23 players represented the Martlets from at least ten different clubs that included Ansty, Aldwick, Bells Yew Green, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Fernhurst, Horsham, Middleton, West Chilmington and Worthing. We received great help from Lara Johnson and Charlotte Burton at Sussex and also tremendous support from Alec Hepburn at Burgess Hill and John Kaye at Worthing.

Regina Suddahazai became the first captain of the Sussex Martlets Women, Shobhavi Waduge bowled the first-ever delivery and was the only one to play all four matches. Phoebe Wilkinson was the first player to score

a half-century and Lucy Western from Ansty was the player of the season for her outstanding wicketkeeping and batting in three matches.

Many thanks to everyone from the Martlets who helped make this a successful first season, notably Paul Walker, Nigel Russell and Alan Newman (who umpired against the Free Foresters and organized umpires and scorers for other matches).

It is hoped that 2023 will prove to be a small but important stepping stone for the future growth of the Martlets Women's section. We would hope to significantly increase the number of fixtures played to as many as ten next year, including repeating the three fixtures that were played last year and replacing the Italy game (unless they tour again) with a marquee fixture against the M.C.C.

One suggestion which makes a great deal of sense would be to dovetail a number of fixtures alongside existing matches, as we did with the inaugural Hurstpierpoint College game. We would hope to be able to use a number of grounds such as Burgess Hill and Fernhurst to stage matches – we have built a strong rapport with both of those clubs, which have thriving women's sections and superb leadership. A new coloured kit has already been selected and will be ordered over the winter and caps were awarded to most of the players who represented the Martlets in season one – we have put in place a system where players will have their own numbers that they can put on their cap.

Tim Gregory

On 26th June 2023 history was made when the Sussex Martlets Women's team took to the field at Hurstpierpoint College.

Undoubtedly the most exciting and intriguing match of the inaugural season was against the Italian national team! We were lucky enough to have an insider – Regina Suddahazai has represented Italy on a number of occasions, plays club cricket with Roffey and her brother Shams plays for the Junior Martlets. Italy had a spare date in their tour week so in stepped the Martlets. It meant a trip to Oxford – but it was well worth it. A very moody sky inspired a revised format. We would play a 20/20 (hopefully) and if the weather held sufficiently another 20/20.

As it was, we squeezed 2 full games in. Where there's a will there's a way. In the first match the Martlets tried hard, but were comprehensively outplayed. The Italians were an experienced team containing a number of expatriate Indians and Sri Lankans.

Between matches there was talk of mixing the sides up. However, the consensus amongst the team was that the

Martlets wanted to stick together and give it another go. The second match was a thriller, which went down to the very last ball.

Everyone present was captivated by the battling performance of the Sussex Martlets Women. The Italians clearly enjoyed the day and the hope is that a firm bond has been established for the future.

Paul Walker

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2023



It was an exciting and busy season for the Junior Martlets in 2023.

Touring sides from Australia provided extra opposition in an Ashes summer. Marcellin College and Scotch College were the first of these sides in a T20 day hosted by Middleton Cricket Club. 185 wasn't enough in the game with Scotch College, 51 from Guy Moore and 85 from Jayson Butler the stand-out innings. The game with Marcellin was reduced due to bad weather and saw the Martlets come out on top.

The next tourists to visit were St. Peter's Adelaide and Arundel Castle was the venue. Two great games resulting in a win and a loss, but both were competitive fixtures. It was a great day and will have created some lasting memories for our visitors, playing at such a historic ground on their tour.

The Chris Snell trophy was retained at Hurst College as the Martlets ran up a score of 248-7, Ben Willson

(85*) was supported by younger brother Oliver Willson (33) and Johnny Prior (34). It made it three wins in a row for the Martlets, now level with Band of Brothers since the competition started in 2018.

A game against the Crawley Hub followed. Batting first the Martlets scored 313-6, Jimmy Lloyd scoring his first 100 for the team, setting a formidable target. 209-9 was a respectable reply from the opposition.

Brighton & Hove City Clubs were the opposition once again at Hurst College, 345-3 was the score posted by a very positive Martlets batting line-up. 105 from Shams Suddahazai and 113 from Jimmy Lloyd were backed up by 54 from Aryan Yattapu. In reply, the opposition were restricted to 176, with 3-39 from Max Jull and with 2 wickets each from Ben Whelpton and Jayson Butler.

Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us for the final game of the season against the Seniors, but it had been a great year.

It was my final year as the coach for the Junior Martlets and I have enjoyed the role immensely. I have seen some great cricket and some great bonding amongst the boys in the team. The matches were always played with great spirit and welcoming of new players into the Club. There are too many people to thank from my time here, but a special mention to Paul Walker who has really helped me along the way, David Whelpton and Martin Rutherford have also been great at providing players, sometimes at short notice. I hope to see the Club go from strength to strength and keep providing young people with an extra avenue to play the great game.

Jimmy Anyon



Standing: Harry Walker, Shams Suddahazai, Oscar Warmington, Jayson Butler, Matt Ritchie, Sam Green, James Anyon
Kneeling: Freddie Wallis, Ben Whelpton (c), Dill Howell, Johnny Rutherford, Ollie Moore

BERTIE FOREMAN

John Bettridge follows the progress of a former Sussex Junior Martlet:



Bertie Foreman

With his successes as part of the England U.19 'Test' squad in Australia behind him, Bertie began the season of 2023 with a 'rookie' contract with Sussex. This saw him playing regular County 2nd XI cricket and Premier Division cricket with Horsham. He eventually broke into the top rank playing in two of the later games of the county 50-over competition after many stints as the 12th man in all forms of the game. His contract was extended for a further year at the end of the season. He has spent the winter playing grade cricket for Manly Warringah C.C., New South Wales, where he has met with marked success with both ball and bat. Here's hoping that he makes the breakthrough into the 4-day game when he is back in Sussex in the spring!

John Bettridge

SUSSEX C.C.C. ACADEMY



Harry Walker & Fergus Kenyon

Freddie Wallis

Hot on Bertie Foreman's heels are three more Junior Martlets, who will be joining the Sussex Cricket Academy in 2024: Harry Walker, Fergus Kenyon and Freddie Wallis.

Former international, James Kirtley (now the Sussex fast-bowling coach) has spent time with two of them.

"Fergus has height and bounce with quite a unique action that, when it clicks, makes him a useful prospect. Harry too shows good skills and has that competitive edge needed.

Hopefully they can make the sort of progress it has been my pleasure to see with Henry Crocombe and Danny Ibrahim over recent years."

GOODBYE JIMMY & HELLO ADAM



Adam Lloyd

The Juniors were well-marshalled in 2023 by Jimmy Anyon, as they have been for the last couple of seasons. He was helped by Rob Burgh, a colleague at Hurst and a cricketing debutant himself this season for the Martlets. Sadly, for us and Hurst, if not Jimmy, Mr. Anyon is now teaching at Sedbergh School in Cumbria, taking over from fellow Martlet Martin Speight (who has gone to work at Repton under yet another Martlet, Mark Semmence)! It is a small world... Previous alumni of Sedbergh include Harry Brook. No pressure Jimmy!!

We extend our thanks to Jimmy for all his efforts with the Junior Martlets and extend a warm welcome to Adam Lloyd, who takes over, again with the support of Rob. Adam's club is Hurstpierpoint C.C. and he has three children (two boys and a girl) in the Sussex pathway. Adam has been heavily involved with Sussex C.C.C. as a major sponsor. I know that Adam's infectious enthusiasm will be a serious asset to the junior side of the Club.

Paul Walker

MARTLETS OF THE YEAR

These annual awards were made at this year's dinner, held in the pavilion at Arundel Castle on March 1st 2024.

Best Batter – Freddie Ferro



It was a wonderful season for Freddie, both with Eastbourne 1sts and the Martlets, for whom he averaged 125! Still in his teens, he is a seriously exciting cricketer, who is also an exceptional 'keeper.

Best Bowler – Ben Whelpton



The skipper of the Juniors in 2023, he managed senior games with maturity and selflessly and with maturity. His figures proved what a promising cricketer he is, taking 23 wickets in 76 overs – almost twice as many as any other bowler.

Best Over-40s Player – Willy Boulter



A star tourist, an excellent opening batter, a dependable fielder and always smiling! He rounded off a fantastic season by playing a crucial role with bat and in the field in an epic encounter with Seaford College at the Castle.

Junior Martlet – Jimmy Lloyd



Jimmy Anyon writes: Player of 2023 goes to Jimmy Lloyd after scoring back-to-back 100s in what was a bit of a breakthrough year for him. Always available and a great boy to have in the team, he exhibits all the qualities the Club stand for.

Martlet of the Year – Derek Horsham



Degs excelled in his first year at the helm of the Over 40s. A driving force behind the successful West County tour, his good humour and positive vibes were a constant presence throughout many Over-40s and regular Martlet matches. He even found the time to attend and support the inaugural women's match in June at Hurst. Totally understands and promotes the Martlet ethos at any opportunity. A worthy Martlet of the Year.

Martlet Golfer of the Year – Robert Reed



Robert's contribution in 2023 didn't end with his club action. A popular member of the golf section he is renowned for his entertaining after lunch speeches.

Paul Walker

THE GOLF SOCIETY 2023

The tally for the matches played in the 2023 season was Won 2, Lost 5, Halved 3, and one was cancelled. This was a slight decline on 2022, which is disappointing since we have strengthened the playing cohort in recent years. We were delighted, nonetheless, to welcome a number of new members to the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society this year – how young they are starting to look!

We sourced a new silk tie to start the season, a snip at £25 with all proceeds going back to the Club. If you have not yet bought your new tie, please contact Robert Forster at robjforster@btinternet.com

As always, our thanks go to our match managers for their efforts in raising sides and running their matches, for without their dedication, patience and humour we would not have such a wonderful and welcoming golf society. Their hard work is very much appreciated by all our members.

Martlets Golf Day at Mannings Heath G.C. (June 16th)

An increased number of Martlets gathered for the annual golf meeting at Mannings Heath in the middle of June. Proceedings commenced with a delicious luncheon on the Club's balcony, under wide parasols in a cloudless sky. The course is always a challenge to anyone's game and was in great condition, with fast true greens and well-manicured fairways.

The day was a repeat win for Richard Foster (41pts), who was followed closely by Robert Reed and Steve Pook. The longest drive and the nearest-the-pin competition were both won by Jon Heaven.

Our thanks go to Robert Reed and the Mannings Heath G.C. for organising the event and creating an atmosphere and environment that matched the camaraderie and bonhomie of the Martlets. We look forward to the 2024 Golf Day, which is scheduled for Friday 14th June.

The Martlets' relationship with the Band of Brothers of Kent is developing into a most valuable fixture, played home and away at West Sussex G.C. and Royal St. George's G.C. on alternate years. This will become a much-sought-after match.

This year a team of ten Martlets arrived at Royal St. George's Golf Club (R.St.G.) in Sandwich Kent, the venue of the 2021 Open Championship, in overcast conditions following a day of heavy rain. The format for the day was to be 9 holes – lunch – 18 holes foursomes match play. After a warm welcome from the Band of Brothers, which included coffee and bacon rolls, we set off for the morning 9 holes. The Martlets, fielding a strong side, took the morning matches 4 to 1 – William Forster partnering Ben Burrows rudely beat their opponents 4 & 3 over just 9 holes!!! This is the equivalent of an 8 & 6 win over the full 18 holes. We wonder if the Band of Brothers will allow them back!

With the morning round of matches 4 to 1 to the Martlets, we went in to sample the fabled R.St.G. lunch, which is only rivalled by the lunch at the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield. The Band of Brothers were most generous with the wine at lunch. However, they seemed to come off worse, as the Martlets took the afternoon matches 4-1, resulting in an



“The Punch Bowl” – the 5th Hole on the Waterfall Course

overall win of 8½ to 1½, a result the Band of Brothers would not have expected, as R.St.G. is the home course for several of their team. The Martlets will host the Band of Brothers at West Sussex G.C. in 2024 and return to R.St.G. in 2025.

Reflections on the 2023 season and plans for 2024

Like certain other sports teams, the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society is in transition, as we settle in many new members who have joined this merry group with hope of triumphs to come on the beautiful courses of Sussex, Hampshire and Kent, where our host clubs are located. That said, the 2024 season is shaping up nicely with 12 fixtures now confirmed, which includes the Hampshire Hogs arranging their home fixture at Hayling Golf Club, a wonderful place to play, if the weather is kind.

The Martlets v The Purchasers match at Piltdown G.C. will take on an important significance in 2024, when we will be playing for a trophy in memory of Ham Whitty, who sadly passed away in early 2023. The trophy has been donated by Mary, his lovely wife, in memory of Ham who so enjoyed his golf at Piltdown. This will be a special day as we honour Ham with this fixture for many years to come, remembering all of Ham’s wonderful qualities as a golfer, past Hon. Sec. of the Sussex Martlets G.C. and a wonderful sportsman.

Researching the History of The Sussex Martlets G.C. – an update

Peter Hartland and I have made some significant progress on updating the history of the Sussex Martlets G.C. in the early part of 2023, as we were very kindly provided with the histories of Crowborough Beacon G.C. and the Royal Ashdown Forest G.C., which has revealed many rich pickings of early Martlets golfing history. This new research has uncovered information showing that early Martlet golfers played prominent roles at Royal Eastbourne G.C. and Royal Ashdown Forest G.C.

We discovered that G.H. Peacock, a Sussex Martlet who played in the Martlets match v Willingdon G.C. in December 1908, was Yorkshire Amateur Champion in 1896 and the following year the Sussex Amateur

Champion. By then he had moved to Sussex, playing his golf at Royal Eastbourne. Peacock is mentioned in the 125-year History of Royal Ashdown Forest G.C. as being the founding father of Sussex County Golf. This hitherto unknown piece of history further deepens the Sussex Martlets connection with Sussex Golf in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Work continues over the 2023/24 mid-winter break with visits to the Keep (East Sussex County Archive) and several libraries, where we have identified histories of The Royal Eastbourne and Littlehampton Golf Clubs. It is hoped that we will have a final manuscript of the missing years of the Sussex Martlets Golfing History during 2024.

Robert Forster

REAL TENNIS



Real tennis for the Sussex Martlets continues at the Petworth House Tennis Court. In the year past, a number of morning weekend sessions have been organised, all of which have been most enjoyable. Three successive court slots are typically taken from 10.15 a.m. and conclude with a light lunch sourced locally from Petworth. The arrangement works well and is very convivial, often with the players supported by their partners.

There is a core of players lead by Stuart Ritchie and supported by Jules Hunt, Michael Murray and Nick Beechey, with honourable mentions for Mark Stevenson, Peter Baxter and Will Rydon. Due to proximity to the court, of those new to the game, Jules and Mudders have played most often, and their skills are progressing well.

Jules Hunt is probably taking the game most seriously, mainly it is thought as he has yet to master real tennis, unlike all of the other sports he plays! He has joined Petworth House Tennis Court as a member to get more exposure on court.

Stuart Ritchie



Stuart Ritchie, Peter Baxter, Nick Beechey, Michael Murray, Matthew Ritchie and Tom Durack (Head pro at PHTC).



Since its inception in 1975, the Sussex Martlets have enjoyed a special relationship with the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club. We asked the Chief Operating Officer & Director of Cricket, James Rufey, to review their season and give Martlets an idea of what to expect in 2024.



What a wonderful summer we all enjoyed! Arundel's reputation for hosting cricket in all its infinite variety did not disappoint. As I write this piece, the cricket square is wreathed in a cloud of dust which signals the end of season renovations and offers a chance to reflect on the last six months.

2023 was the first year of our three-year strategy. The key aims were to:

- Ensure that we maintained our position as one of the finest independent grounds in the world.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships to help deliver a rich diet of cricket covering many forms of the game, including the enhancement of women's cricket.
- Continue to invest in the cricket estate.
- Deliver a strong visitor experience.

I am pleased to say these objectives were met, and various works are on-going to ensure that we reach similar standards again in 2024.

There were of course many highlights, but the visit of Sri Lanka Women was a particular joy. It was also wonderful to see such a high standard of youth cricket delivered via the various T20 finals days. All match results are available on the website (www.cricketatarundelcastle.co.uk).

I am immensely proud and grateful for all the hard work the Club staff have put into providing a wonderful experience for spectators, players, and visitors. The season is the culmination of a huge amount of planning, preparation, and dedication.

We received many wonderful comments, especially regarding the condition of the playing arena, presentation of the ground and the new catering operation.

Membership and Members' Events

The membership is the backbone of our Club, and we are so grateful to all members for their support. However, we are always seeking new recruits and

would of course welcome members of the Sussex Martlets into the Club. Membership is pivotal to the longevity of cricket at Arundel Castle. The Membership & Marketing sub-committee met recently and has approved the following fees for 2024. Single £100 – Joint £150 – Life £700 – Joint Life £ 1,100.

The sub-committee is considering additional social events for members during the year, by expanding the number of members' lunches with events to take place in the Spring, mid-season (in the marquee) and at an end of season fixture, with a date to be confirmed.

2024 Season

Several conversations are taking place regarding the 2024 fixture list in which we will again seek to offer a rich diet of cricket, including various Sussex Martlet fixtures. At the time of writing, I am pleased to announce that the M.C.C. match will take place on 12th May and the Sir Paul Getty XI fixture on 4th September. We are also close to confirming a date for the V-P Day.

We are working on a 'Partnership of Opportunity' with Sussex Cricket, which will see the return of the 1st XI next season, when they take on Hertfordshire in a 50-over match on Sunday 21st July. More detail on all fixtures will be available on our website by the time you read this.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the Castle ground again this summer.

James Rufey

INTERNATIONAL MARTLETS

1. A catch-up with Campo

The Sussex Martlets can now add Marcus Campopiano to the formidable list of those Martlets who have played international cricket.



Man of the Match vs Isle of Man in the sub regional qualifiers

The year of 2023 started with a major challenge, namely a chance at the 2024 T20 World Cup! This year was of particular interest for us as England and the Netherlands had gained automatic qualification for the 2024 tournament. This left seven teams fighting it out for the two remaining places. All that stood in our way was the considerable opposition of Scotland, Ireland, Jersey, Austria, Germany and Denmark!

Before the tournament started, we were bolstered by the addition of Grant Stewart from Kent, and Wayne Madsen from Derby. These players brought a wealth of experience and some devastating match play. The team looked in a good place and we had a warm-up camp in Sussex against the CricX XI. We played two T20 matches in preparation and spent six days together as a squad.

We arrived in Edinburgh for the tournament, playing Ireland first up. We dismissed the dangerous Stirling and Tector for single digit scores and we thought we were onto something! The game was nip and tuck the whole way but we lost by a margin of 7 runs in a closely fought encounter.

Next up was Jersey, filled with young talent including fellow Martlet, Jonty Jenner. Wayne M got in on the action and created a platform for us to build on, and we finished with 170 off our 20 overs. We won that game and now needed to turn over Scotland to secure our hopes of qualifying. We were met by some brutal hitting from Olly Hairs scoring at a 200 strike-rate for over an hour. This loss to Scotland inevitably damaged our hopes of qualifying, but we finished the tournament off strongly by comfortably beating Denmark and Germany. So, the story continues. We missed out on qualification by 7 runs... what could have been...

2. Jenner of Jersey



Jonty lining up (mouth or hands?) for a catch in the deep

Playing for Jersey has always been very enjoyable – a population of only 100,000 people attempting to take down teams in the top 20. We have had some great success along the way and have travelled to some amazing places; Uganda, Los Angeles and Malaysia to name but a few.

This tournament was no different and a tight knit Jersey squad looked to get into one of the two qualifying spots. We started strongly with a convincing win against Austria, chasing down their total in 12 overs. After this, it was the hosts Scotland on a Friday night at the Grange. Tartan Army. A tight spell of bowling from the Jersey spinners restricted Scotland to 149, very chaseable on a good wicket and a fast outfield. The run chase ultimately fell short by 15 runs and we felt this was one that got away from us.

Italy and Ireland followed and unfortunately that ended in two defeats. A tight game against Italy in which we came short (due to some Campopiano power-hitting) was followed by a trouncing by a strong Irish side.

This left Jersey with games against Germany and Denmark to finish. We managed two wins in the last two fixtures and ended up finishing 4th in the group. We now look forward to another qualifier in Germany in July 2024.

The Jersey cricket journey will continue throughout the next few years and I look forward to meeting many other cricketers and creating friendships along the way. It's always nice to see familiar faces wherever we play, so if anybody from the Martlets would like to come and support at any stage, it would be great to have you on the boundary edge and to catch up for a chat and a beer.

Our records, assembled by our archivist Peter Hartland, reveal that 26 Test cricketers have played at some point for our Club. We would now like to assemble a list of those Martlets who have played some form of competitive international cricket.

Our President, Nigel Russell, claims to have represented Brunei in the Borneo Cup v Sabah, Sarawak and Malaya in 1980 and also El Salvador in a match v Nicaragua in the British American Tobacco Trophy (Central America). This was whilst he was posted to Belize and on a weekend visit to San Salvador. Apparently, he was hijacked by the El Salvador captain, who happened to run the very nice bar Nigel found himself in!

Surely there are others who have a better claim to fame! We would love to hear from/about them for the next edition.

FORDY'S FAREWELL

In a playing era that spanned 50 years, Adrian Ford amassed over 6000 runs in Martlet colours, being our leading run-scorer seven times. He served as our Chairman (1998-2001) and has been a Vice-President since 1995. He was elected Trustee of Friends of Arundel Castle C.C. in 2001, succeeding Colin Cowdrey.

A lunch was organised by Nigel Russell and attended by Johnny Barclay, Robin Carr, Mike Charman, Desmond Devitt, Adrian Ford, Chris Gray, Charlie Hartridge, Alan Newman, Brian O’Gorman, Colin Oliver-Redgate, Norman Philpott, Chris Snell and Adrian White.



Adrian Ford and John Barclay raise their glasses

This was a bitter sweet lunch organised for me by my great chum, Nigel Russell, in recognition of Liz and my departure to live permanently in Tasmania. Bitter because I was saying goodbye to the wonderful friends who have given me and Liz so much fun over the years as fellow Martlets, and sweet because we share so many terrific and amusing memories of times gone by, both on and off the field of play. Whilst it was a farewell event, I like to think it is rather *au revoir*, as the modern technology we enjoy in this day and age will allow us to remain in close contact.

This particular group of friends represent the good and the great of the Martlets and, as Brian O’Gorman said, we could have fielded a very strong Martlet XI from those present. My sincere thanks to all who came and special thanks to Johnny Barclay for his very kind words of farewell and Nigel for arranging a lunch that I will always remember and cherish.

I wish all my Martlet friends the very best for the future and remember, if you ever visit Tassie, there will always be a warm welcome to be had chez Ford!

Adrian Ford

MILITARY MARTLETS – Past & Present

As with cricketers hidden behind their batting helmets, soldiers similarly attired are difficult to identify. So, if you were watching recent royal events, you are very unlikely to have spotted a Sussex Martlet in the form of Capt. J.M.J. Bushell (Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment).

The past few months have been, as you might imagine, exceptionally busy for anyone involved in State Ceremonial Public Duties within the British Army and particularly for the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

For the Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, I had the honour to be a Divisional Commander as part of the Sovereign’s Escort. Naturally, friends and family ask what it was like to be involved in these parades, however during the event you are so focused on it going well, overarched with an overwhelming desire to stay in the saddle should your horse mess around, that I don’t believe you truly appreciate the spectacle of it all until you look back at photographs or speak about your experiences afterwards.



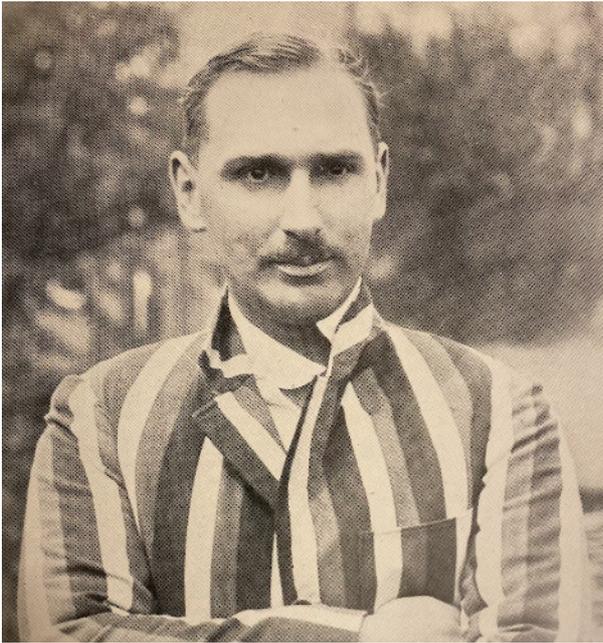
Jeremy leads the Fourth Division of the Sovereign’s Escort from Hyde Park Barracks to collect HM The King from Buckingham Palace

When I do, however, the prevailing emotion is one of immense pride in the hard work of all soldiers who made the Funeral and Coronation a success, and beyond that, a pride of being British. The British identity manifests itself in a variety of ways, wandering cricket being one of the most important in my mind, but for sheer size and scale of pomp and circumstance it is these great state occasions that we turn to. To be involved in the two largest parades ever broadcast is something that will endure in my memory for the rest of my life, and I count myself truly lucky to have had the opportunity to represent the Monarch and in some ways the country in this way.

Jeremy Bushell

GROUP CAPTAIN A.J. HOLMES

Sussex Martlets' President (1946-50)



Group Captain Albert John Holmes was one of the Sussex Martlets' most illustrious presidents, who combined distinguished cricket and service careers with becoming the President of the Sussex Martlets in 1946. (My thanks are due to Peter Hartland and Brian O'Gorman for assistance with this article).

He was in the Repton Eleven in 1917. Then, after service in the First World War (the Royal Flying Corps, which became the Royal Air Force), he joined Sussex County Cricket Club. In his second season (1923) he scored 1000 runs, but in 1925 he re-joined the R.A.F. and it was not until 1935, when he transferred to the R.A.F. Reserve, that he was able to take up county cricket again. He took over the Sussex captaincy in 1936, which he held until the outbreak of W.W.2. He proved an enthusiastic, tactful and popular leader.

In 1937, he again scored 1000 runs for the County. This represented a unique record, for his previous season's 1000 runs was 14 years before. He had played only occasionally in between.

In 1938/39 he was a very successful manager of the M.C.C. team which toured South Africa. His fine leadership qualities were again acknowledged when he was appointed captain of the M.C.C. team due to tour India in 1939/40. Also selected were John Langridge and two other Sussex players, both Martlets, namely Billy Griffith and Hugh Bartlett. Sadly, the tour was cancelled due to the outbreak of W.W.2.

He served with distinction in W.W.2 and was awarded the A.F.C. and Bar. After another devastating World War, a dramatic recovery of Sussex Martlet cricket was needed – no Martlet cricket having been played during

the War. A.J.H., known affectionately as either "Jack" or "Sherlock", was instrumental in ensuring the speedy restoration of Martlet cricket in 1945, when a full fixture list was re-instated with 20 matches played against traditional rivals, as in the 1930s.

He played very few games for the Martlets. He was a busy man, having been a Test Selector in 1939 and 1946; he was then appointed chairman of the Test Selection Panel (1947-49). The Panel caused a bit of a stir – especially in Yorkshire – by dropping Len Hutton (probably the best batsman in the World at the time after Don Bradman) from the England Team for the Third Test against Australia in 1948. He was soon re-instated.

In early 1950, he found himself part of a committee formed following a Sussex C.C.C. crisis resulting in the Duke of Norfolk's resignation (this proved only temporary), which was resolved when the County's first professional captain, James Langridge, was subsequently appointed. Very sadly, soon after this A.J.H. suffered a heart attack and died suddenly on 21st May 1950, aged only 50.

His genial and resolute personality contributed to his success as a cricketer, County Captain, M.C.C. Manager, Test Selector and fine ambassador for the Sussex Martlets. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

Robin Carr

GEOFF – fond memories...

On April 21st Nigel Russell and Desmond Devitt flew over as the Club's representatives to attend Geoff's funeral in Jersey. A particular highlight of the service and the reception that followed were addresses given by his son and fellow Martlet, Johnny.



Father & son...

While happy to share a few thoughts about Pa and the Martlets, I know the first thing he would want me to do is to thank the Club for all that it gave him over many, many years. The passion and pride for the Charterhouse pink and Oxbridge blue and navy was something he felt very deeply.

My early memories were watching him keep wicket at Arundel, dabbing the ball behind, running quick singles and storing his tea in his cricket bag so he didn't miss out if he was batting or fielding at the time (curious now, but seemed totally normal then)! However, it was later that I understood the Club meant far more to him than just the joy he got from playing.

Having experienced county cricket and the early days of league, 'The Martlets' was where he found his true cricketing home. This was when the fixture card stretched to pages, friendships made lasted a lifetime and was why I think he felt such a close connection.

From his first to last game – on the millennium tour of Australia at Don Bradman's ground at Bowral, where he opened the batting, out-scored his son (as usual) and was named Man of the Match – he gave his all, and after he hung up his gloves he still continued to play his part.

Over the years Pa held pretty much every position going. He wasn't a proud man, but took great pleasure in others' enjoyment, which led him to creating the trophy that the Juniors and Seniors play for each year, as well as helping expand the Club's horizons with tours to the Channel Islands, where he loved hosting the team at his beloved Boulivot Farm.

But he always returned to his spiritual home whenever he could, even in later life, always determined to make the annual pilgrimage to Arundel Castle for the Vice-Presidents' Day.

The last few months were tough for Pa and I should have known when, after months stuck inside, he forced himself out to take a quick single to his office, that the end of his innings was close; he died within a few days on the 1st April... yes, I know, and I'm pretty sure he did as well!

I was lucky enough to go on the Martlets tour to the West Country soon after and there, before the first game, Paul Walker gathered the teams and spoke so kindly of my father. It meant a great deal to me, and I know it would have done to him and that he would have said another big thank you.

Johnny Wills

The following was part of an email to Johnny, from three Sussex stalwarts.

The fixture is Sussex 2nd XI v Surrey 2nd XI at Reigate C.C. Peter (Graves) is facing David Gibson, the Surrey pace bowler with Geoff at the non-striker's end, resplendent and immaculate in his Sussex single Martlet cricket sweater. Gibson makes the ball bounce "a bit", resulting in Peter, being carted off to hospital for stitches above an eye.

That is all I can remember about the game, but every time I saw Geoff thereafter over the years he would always say, "Do you remember that game when Gibbo hit you over the eye... I was at the other end." What is it about a bit of mirth between sportsmen!

Thereafter, over the years, we have seen Geoff at the County Ground Hove, Amberley – but mostly at Arundel Castle with the Sussex Martlets and for County games.

Among the great experiences that cricket enables us to share are the endless walks around cricket grounds, where tales of the sport both on and off the field are recounted. I like to think as cricketers we have all been there. Happy days.

A gentleman fondly remembered, we are sure Geoff will now be compiling a cricket fixture list wherever he may be. RIP

Peter Graves, John Snow, Jerry Groome

OBITUARIES

PETER ROBINSON (1929-2023)



Peter was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, before going to Lodge School in Barbados aged 8. He came to England soon after the conclusion of W.W.2. in 1945, and to Lancing College...

Peter went up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1949 and studied Law, played cricket with the likes of Raman Subba Row, Peter May, David Sheppard and Hubert Doggart and captained the squash team, earning a Blue. He would go on to represent England at squash twice, winning on both occasions.

After a short spell as a teacher at Westbourne House Prep. School near Chichester, Peter began his long and distinguished career in film and television in 1958, specialising in current affairs and travelling all over the world. He became a freelance producer/director in 1964, directing the first documentary to be broadcast in colour on British television, which included Martin Luther King's famous speech, 'I have a Dream'. He made his first training film, for E.M.I., in 1971 before founding Video Arts with Sir Anthony Jay and John Cleese, producing informative, enjoyable and amusing training films for businesses starring, amongst others, Ronnie Barker, Ronnie Corbett, Prunella Scales and Cleese himself. Peter was Managing Director, also directing most of the films, which included such titles as 'Meetings, Bloody Meetings', 'Balance Sheet Barrier'

and 'Who Sold You This, Then?', growing the company in the U.K. and internationally. In 1982, they were awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement at Buckingham Palace, before selling the company in 1988.

Peter's love of sport and, in particular cricket, led him to play for a number of wandering clubs including M.C.C., Sussex Martlets and Free Foresters and he often represented the Duke of Norfolk's X1 at Arundel Castle. He played his club cricket for Esher C.C. and his one first-class game, for Colonel Stevens' X1 v Cambridge University, came in 1961. He also played golf for the Hazards, XL Club, which he captained in 1992-93, and at Burhill G.C. in Surrey...

His love of both Lancing College and the Rovers led him to setting up the 'Peter Robinson Cricket Scholarship', enabling talented cricketers to benefit from an education and tailored sports programmes at Lancing...

Peter passed away peacefully at home in Esher, Surrey, in March aged 93 and leaves his wife of 58 years, Wendy, three children – Sally, Michael and Jonathan – 10 grand-children and seven great grand-children.

The Robinson Family

Peter Robinson had just come down from Cambridge when he began to play for Middleton in Sussex – an outstandingly strong club at that period (1950-69) – and of course for the Martlets and Lancing Rovers, when I first met and played with him, which was always a delight.

As a cricketer, he was talented and effective, being lithe, athletic and a fast runner. Equally gifted as batsman and bowler, he produced very many remarkable performances. He knew the game and was a most encouraging captain.

He had a perfect stylish technique with all the strokes and readiness to use them. I recall sharing a partnership with him approaching 200 (he was the senior partner!) among many fine scores. He once came to St. George's to play for the Lancing Rovers, because he felt they had some credit to restore after the previous year's defeat by the Old Georgians. He was determined to make a century – which he did.

He bowled off-spin, owing more to length, flight and variation of pace than break, with an easy rhythmic action. Also, he was a wonderful fielder in the covers – a great help to fellow spin bowlers.

He wrote, "I took my cricket seriously" and indeed he did. He was very competitive in every match, being difficult to overcome, radiating intensity of purpose rather than spoken attitudes.

One final memory is of Peter coming to Lancing to watch the Rovers play in the semi-final of the Cricketer Trophy, success in which would see the winners promoted to the Cricketer Cup. Rovers won a fine close, tense, match and were duly restored to the Cup – much to Peter's intense satisfaction. I felt all day that he was palpably willing his team on.

Brian O'Gorman

HAM WHITTY (1938-2023)



At Ham's Funeral Service at Fletching Church, it was a reflection of the high regard he was held by so many people that at the age of 85 over 275 people attended the service.

As his daughters, Catherine and Joanna, said in their eulogies, he had a really good innings leaving his family reflecting on an amazing life, varied and very well lived.

Sadly, Ham's father, John, was killed in action in Italy during W.W.2., having been awarded a M.C. and D.S.O. The family then lived in Seaford, where Ham attended St. Peter's Prep. School, followed by Clifton College. Here he excelled at sport – particularly cricket. He played 1st X1 cricket at Clifton and played both golf and cricket for the Army. He played at Lord's on four occasions.

After Sandhurst, like his father, Ham joined the Royal West Kents and the army provided him with some interesting postings.

He left the Army in 1969 and after a brief flirtation with I.C.I. he qualified as a Valuer and Auctioneer, selling the first £1m house in London and once had dealings with the notorious Christine Keeler (in property of course!).

Ham then switched to shipping, spending ten years with U.S. Lines until it went bust. Finally, he returned to the Valuers and Auctioneers as their C.E.O. for the last 10 years of his working life.

In retirement Ham thrived doing voluntary work, often as founder, chairman or treasurer, which included the Wealden Branch of his old regiment, the Prince's Trust, the Friends of Fletching Church and the Army Benevolent Fund.

Ham played cricket for the M.C.C. and Free Foresters, as well as the Sussex Martlets and was a member at Pilttdown and Rye Golf Clubs.

Peter Ross

For many years Ham was a keen member of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society and was Honorary Secretary from 1998 to 2011. Whilst being a highly competent golfer, he loved the social side of the matches as well. If you saw you were drawn to play a foursomes match with him you knew you were in for a good day.

Ham first played golf for the Army when he joined Sandhurst in 1958 and he played for his Regiment, the Royal West Kents, throughout the 13 years he served.

From 1970 Ham was a member of Royal Ashdown Forest G.C., playing off a 6 handicap. Ham remained a member there until 1978, when he and Mary moved to Piltdown, at which point he changed allegiance to Piltdown G.C. In 2011 Ham was captain of the Elders Golfing Society. Ham was also a member of Rye G.C. from 2000-17 and he served on their committee. He also played golf in the Halford Hewitt competition for his old school, Clifton.

Adrian White

GEOFF WILLS (1933-2023)



Geoff Wills was a notable personality and a very fine cricketer, having been educated at Chichester High School and London University.

He achieved early prominence as a cricketer, being selected for the first English Schools' Cricket Association senior cricket team in 1951 and was captain for the match at Lord's – this in company of others who had significant cricket careers.



Geoff goes out to bat with Alan Oakman (Sussex & England) for Sussex II v Kent II (1959).

He was a wicketkeeper and batsman who radiated competence and was a most reliable presence for a captain to have. I think that I never saw him make a mistake. He played regularly for Martlets, Worthing – very strong in 1950s and 60s – and for Sussex 2nd X1, again in an era of strong contemporaries. He later took his skills to Hampshire 2nd X1. It takes ability to be accepted by the professionals. He played in the team which won the 2nd X1 Championship – another notable achievement.

He was also a fine footballer, playing for Arundel in the Sussex County League under the management of Sussex stalwart, Ken Suttle.

A most loyal Martlet who made an immense contribution to the success and general welfare of the Club, as player and President.

Brian O'Gorman

NEW MEMBERS 2022/23

The Club welcomes into membership:

Cricket: James Alder (St. Lawrence & Highland Court C.C.), Guy Baxter (Lindfield C.C.), Rob Burgh (Hurstpierpoint College Staff), Ayan Chakravartty (Buxted Park C.C.), Sam Collyer (West Chiltington & Thakeham C.C.), Freddie Ferro (Eastbourne C.C.), Alex Foulds (Barnes C.C.), Sammy Hart (Cuckfield C.C.), Joseph Joyce (Buxted Park C.C.), Deepak Kapadia (East Grinstead C.C.), Thomas Naish (Eastbourne C.C.), Fergus O'Meara (Ditchling C.C.), Tim Wergan (Chichester Priory Park C.C.), Paul Yule (Pulborough C.C.).

Golf: Neil Martin (West Sussex G.C.), Tim Sneath (Mid-Sussex G.C.).

If you know of anyone 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 website of the Club.

Paul Walker

Photo credits: Robert Forster, Malcolm Griffin, Colin Oliver-Redate, S.C.C.C., Paul Walker and Johnny Wills.

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

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