



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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PAUL WALKER TO RETIRE AS CHAIRMAN

It was with great sadness that your Committee received the news that our current Chairman, Paul Walker, had decided not to seek re-election at the forthcoming A.G.M. However, the tragedy that struck Paul and his family last year when his wife, Victoria, was taken from them at such an early age, understandably has taken its toll. Coming to terms with such a devastating event takes time and has caused Paul to reflect on his future and the need to prioritise the family.

Paul's four years as Chairman have been a huge success and as a Club we owe him much. His lightness of touch, his humour, his willingness to trust others on the Committee to discharge their remits without interference and, above all, his vision to make our Club even more open and representative, without losing any of our treasured values, have all contributed to define his period in office.

The Club's current strong position owes much to the long hours Paul has devoted to the job and the many relationships, both within and without the Club, he has nurtured so carefully.

We shall miss him at the helm and I am sure I speak on behalf of all of us in saying "Thank you Paul, we wish you all the very best for the future – and don't lose touch!"

Filling Paul's boots will be a difficult task and your Committee will be nominating David Whelpton to take over at the March A.G.M. with confidence that the Club will move forward with equal passion and resolve. David may not be known to many, as he joined the Committee only last year. But in that short time, he has demonstrated his quick and deep understanding of Martlets' values and the Club's place in the wider recreational context. As an ex-chairman of Newick C.C., David has great experience of managing cricket clubs.

He developed his affection for our Club whilst regularly watching his son Ben, a prolific, popular and highly successful Martlet. David is involved in two companies, for one, Broadgate Creative Ltd, he is the Communications Director. He is also Chair of Governors of Chailey School, specifically responsible for Finance and Resources, H.R., P.S.H.E. and Safeguarding. On the basis that if you want something done, you ask a busy man, David fits the bill very well! Should he be elected at the A.G.M., he will be made to feel most welcome by us all, I'm quite certain, and those who know him are confident the Club will be in very safe hands.

Nigel Russell

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



2024 was a year like no other for my family and me. As I said in a recent email, announcing my decision to stand down as Chairman, I could not have got through it without the love and support of the Sussex Martlets.

It's often said that when we find ourselves at our lowest ebb then we truly realise who our friends are. I certainly have.

The Committee have supported me brilliantly for four years and most especially since Victoria's death.

Victoria's memorial in May took place at Arundel Castle Cricket Ground. It was a wonderful occasion at a place very special to all of us. I was able to thank the many Martlet attendees in person. Please allow me to thank all of you who have written, called and spoken to me face-to-face.

Losing a loved one and especially the mother of your children, brings about a whole gamut of emotions, including some that surprise you and those around you. I found that grief presents a gift: the sharp and ever-present reminder that life can be short and unpredictable.

At the memorial I compared a life well-lived to a cricket innings. Full of highs and lows, bright sunny days and darker, rainy ones too. It's our approach to life and how we choose to treat those who join us at the wicket, for fleeting or much longer partnerships, that mark out our characters.

I was reading an interview with Nicole Kidman this weekend. In it she said that the more relaxed you are, and playful, the better you are as a human. This doesn't work with every grumpy judge I come across, but there is much in her wise words.

My first trial after Victoria's death was a particularly harrowing murder case at the Old Bailey. I was extremely fortunate to be led by a close friend, David Josse K.C. Our friendship certainly helped navigate a case involving the most difficult and dangerous man either of us had come across — and he's been an M.C.C. member for well over 40 years. (To clarify, I'm talking about my leader rather than the client!)

I'm delighted that David — or Josse as he's known to his nearest and dearest — will be the speaker at this year's dinner. It will be fantastic — I've already booked my seat! Please contact Alan Newman or me to do likewise.

I've spent much time recently reflecting on some of the characters I have come across in my time with the

Martlets. In my early days I watched (often open-mouthed) the idiosyncratic bowling styles of Willie Bicket and Colin Oliver-Redgate, then joined in with their celebrations, while the non-plussed batter departed (probably open-mouthed himself). Both those colourful characters sadly died in 2024. They will remain a part of our folklore.

Our history is of course intertwined with Arundel. Our relationship with the F.A.C.C.C. grows stronger and I have really enjoyed working with first Mandy, and now Alistair Subba Row, along with James Rufey and their entire team. There are exciting times ahead as our clubs forge ever closer ties.

The present and future have been very much a part of my thinking as Chairman. I was determined to establish a women's section in the Club. This has happened due to the unflinching commitment of the likes of Tim Gregory, Mandy Jupp, John Goodacre and Nigel Russell. The entire Committee have been behind this venture and you should be rightly proud of them.

I'm loath to single out individuals for praise (I'm not sure we have the space) but I cannot express how much of a debt of gratitude the Club owes to Mike Charman and Alan Newman. Their efforts and enthusiasm know no bounds and they are the bedrock of the Sussex Martlets. I really hope those two special men know how much their hard work is appreciated.

Adam Lloyd has picked up the mantle of Jimmy Anyon and John Bettridge and catapulted our Juniors into a new realm of talent and opportunities. I say opportunities with a degree of pride. Some time ago the Sussex Martlets were seen, perhaps unfairly, as an elitist, privileged organisation. No-one can say this now. In 2024 Adam achieved his aim of selecting 50% of his teams from state school backgrounds.

We must not however rest on our laurels. Much work is being done on making the Club even more inclusive, by continuing to reaffirm links with the Crawley Hub and the Afro-Caribbean Engagement Foundation (A.C.E.) in London. Cricket, and the cricket we play and love, is for everyone.

Derek Horsham is, as ever, the magnetic presence that pushes our Over 40s into bigger and better adventures each year. Wonderful tours to Gloucestershire and Derbyshire are to be followed by Worcester in 2025.

I save a final mention for your President. The Club has been blessed with some special people, but Nigel Russell and his amazing wife Lynne, well... I (for once) am lost for words. Every time an issue has arisen, every time I needed advice, or a gentle steer, Nigel has been there for me. Of course that means he's been there for you. Please look after him and those whose work enables our wonderful club to flourish.

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.

So, on to the future. I am delighted that the Committee will be recommending that David Whelpton becomes the new Chairman of the Sussex Martlets. I've known David since his mega-talented son Ben began playing for the Juniors. It wasn't long (probably after one match, or one over even) before Ben was playing regularly for the "grown-ups" and he hasn't looked back. As chairman of Newick David fostered a warm, friendly, inclusive atmosphere. It was always a pleasure to be there... and not just for the sumptuous teas.

David loves the ethos, the camaraderie and the joy that makes us so attached to the Martlets. It was obvious to me after his first Committee meeting that David was a natural leader, whose heart is clearly in the right place. But he, like me, will need your support. I am sure you will give it to him, as you have to me.

I sign off, as I began, with thanks for that support. To steal the immortal farewell words of that great thespian, Vinnie Jones, in the film 'Lock, Stock and 2 Smoking Barrels'... "It's been emotional."

Paul Walker

DAVID WHELPTON



The Committee is delighted to nominate David for the role of Chairman of the Club. As not many Martlets will have had the opportunity to meet David, we have invited him to introduce himself.

Born and brought up in Sussex, I was educated at Cophorne Prep School and later Worth Abbey School, where my love of cricket was nurtured by Sussex 2nd XI player, John Denman. Adult cricket was played in Norfolk (where I studied at university) and at Walton Heath in Surrey. When I stopped playing, I took my L2 badge and coached at our home club, Newick C.C., for 15 years, where I was also Chairman (until 2023).

I work as a communications and engagement consultant and a government mentor to small businesses; I am married with two sons, the younger, Ben, being a regular in Martlet colours.

Subject to your approval at the A.G.M., I would want to build on Paul's excellent achievements by securing our long-term relationship with Arundel; continuing to develop the Women and Girls Section; working alongside others to support cricket in state schools; and exploring further options with the Crawley Hub. I

would also like to look at how we tell the Martlets story and to ensure new and younger players understand the significance of the Club and its legacy.

David Whelpton

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE



All the talk at the moment seems to surround the march of franchise cricket and how this will impact our game both at professional and recreational level. It is undeniable that the rapid rise of cricket's popularity across the world has come with both opportunity and threat. As Steve Wright used to say, "some factoids": next to football, unsurprisingly, our sport is the most watched and played, with 2.5bn followers globally. (Football has 3.5bn.) Over half of the United Nations' states have either full or associate membership of the I.C.C., (108 of the 193 U.N. states). 56 of those run women's national teams. The 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles will stage cricket for the first time since 1900. Franchise cricket is becoming an investor's dream and with it, the amount of money pouring into the sport is unparalleled. It is reported that Indian investors have sunk \$4bn into the U.S.A. major and minor leagues. The sale of The Hundred is likely to raise much more than the E.C.B.'s estimate of £350m with 10% of the proceeds due to be distributed to the recreational game. Has cricket ever been in a stronger or more commercially viable position?

In Sussex, over £1m is being invested annually in recreational and community programmes and that figure is likely to grow as the fat cow of franchise cricket is voraciously milked. The County's participation numbers are growing each year and we Martlets must take full advantage of this bull market by introducing our special brand and love of the game to ever-increasing numbers.

I hear you say, but at what cost? The threat, of course, is to the game's longer format, loved by us traditionalists, but viewed begrudgingly as a necessary obstacle by those white-ball advocates who want only to see overflowing coffers. It appears that only Australia, India and England have any serious love for the 5-day game at the moment and, ironically, those countries are gathering greater Test audiences and thus profits when playing each other, than at any time in history. The good news is that some of the counties, Sussex included, whilst recognising that the franchise genie is well and truly out of the bottle, are determined to make sure that both the county names and the longer format survive to live in some sort of harmony with the rich banker of T20 and/or The Hundred.

Is this all too ethereal for Martlets' concerns? As the game changes over time, Martlets will, as they have in the past, adapt to meet changing formats, but vitally our values are still as strong and relevant now as they have ever been and I know we all wish to see that continue. Hence, I'm not fearful about the rise of franchises as long as the traditions of our beloved sport are fully respected; whatever the outcome with the professional clubs, the recreational game will be an undoubted winner.

Meanwhile, back to earth. It's been another bumper year for the Martlets with 60 games programmed for the season across our men's, women's and junior sides, with some wonderful matches recorded elsewhere in these columns. I was privileged to watch some of the Junior Martlets' 2-day game at Blackstone against the Sussex U17s and, perhaps as a nod to comments earlier about the values of the long game, it was gratifying that the Sussex coaches noted the importance of playing such matches to teach patience, reading the scoreboard for the team's sake and the desire to fight for one's wicket. Adam Lloyd has some exciting ideas for his Juniors and it will be fascinating to watch their development over the coming years.

One of the key values in any good club is its camaraderie, its care for fellow members and the strength of its esprit de corps. Of course, we all witness this at any match but off the field it is equally, if not more, important. This year it has been fully tested. As well as losing two great Club characters, Colin Oliver-Redgate and my dear friend Willie Bicket, we suffered alongside Paul Walker when he lost his beloved wife, Victoria. The strength of kinship is a remarkable and enduring virtue of our Club and we Martlets can be proud of our qualities.

As many will know, the Club has contributed annually to the Sussex Cricket Foundation and occasionally I'm asked what we as a Club get out of this arrangement. To echo J.F.K., I suppose this is less to do with what S.C.F. can do for us (although there are membership and other benefits), but more what we can do for the Foundation. I mentioned earlier S.C.F.'s investment in the recreational game and we should be proud that we play a role in that process. The Foundation not only governs and develops the recreational game for men and women in the County, but it serves the community. The stated aim is to "actively change lives through cricket across the community. We use the game to deliver accessible and enjoyable opportunities that grow the sport, tackle inequalities, improve health and well-being and enable people to fulfil their potential." Your Committee has taken the view that these worthy ambitions are to be applauded and supported. It is entirely right that a club of our standing should be part of any programme that acknowledges the impact cricket has on society and whilst we can afford to do so, the Committee will continue its support. If you wish

to read more detail about the work of the Foundation, its Impact Report can be found at <https://sussexcricket.co.uk/impact-report-2024>

As ever, I must record, on behalf of all members, our grateful thanks for the absolutely vital work of Alan Newman, our Secretary, and Mike Charman, our Treasurer, who between them continue to be the most effective "engine room" for our Club and who keep us all on the straight and narrow, particularly at times when enthusiasm is in danger of overtaking practicalities!

I look forward to seeing many of you during the season and what a season we have in store. Sussex in the First Division and visits from India, West Indies and South Africa, not to mention the Ashes Down Under, make for a mouth-watering menu this year. Enjoy!

Nigel Russell

THE TREASURER: TO BE CONTINUED!



The underlying theme of my missives over the past 2 years has been my standing down as your Treasurer as of March 2025, but how wrong could I have been! Even before the news that our Chairman was standing down at the A.G.M., I had already agreed/had my arm twisted to put myself forward for another 3-year term to take me through to 2028. In examining the Club rules to check the procedure for electing a new chairman, it was discovered that there was an "implied" ruling that no officer should serve for longer than 3 consecutive terms i.e. 9 years and I am already in my 11th year. However, in accordance with those same rules, 75% of the Committee agreed that I could continue and so I shall be with you for at least another year. It would not be in the Club's interests for more than one officer to retire at the same time, so we will be planning on me being replaced before the new Chairman finishes his first term. Active recruitment of my successor will continue!

The draft 2024 accounts are currently with our auditors and, provided no major changes are suggested, the accounts will again show a small annual deficit as in 2023. Our overall reserves are down from £25k to £23.5k, mainly because of a reduction in the balance of the Harrison/VP Fund following the anticipated expenditure of £1.5k to pay for the cricket kit worn by our new Women & Girls team from 2024 onwards.

Again, last minute changes/cancellations reduced our matches at Arundel and thus our sponsorship of those matches. As notified in last year's report, the Club once again paid the £1000 due to be a Patron of the Sussex Cricket Foundation for 2024, and it is hoped that funds

will become available to enable the continuation of this worthwhile support of recreational cricket in 2025.

Banking regulations required the Club to close the bank account into which many of the subscription Standing Orders had previously been paid, and all members still paying into that account have been contacted and advised of the action necessary to continue their membership. You may be interested to know there was still a STO being paid into that account for the equivalent of 2 guineas, which would have been the subscription from over 40 years ago! It, along with many others, had not been updated to reflect current levels. All those STOs will now be cancelled and the small loss from these "donations" will hopefully be balanced off by the remaining members paying the full subscription.

I would again ask all Members to notify me on treasurer@sussexmartlets.co.uk of any changes in your contact details, including both email and postal addresses, so we can continue to inform you of Martlets matters.

In conclusion, I believe it is right to say that the Martlets' finances are in good order at present, but costs continue to increase and we have had to recommend a small subscriptions uplift in 2025 to £75 for Playing Members and £40 for Non-Playing Members, which includes those playing golf and real tennis (but not cricket). Both categories are discounted for those who pay by Direct Debit to reflect the lesser administration required for DD payments. At the time of writing, we are currently negotiating a substantial sponsorship deal to push forward four main aims for the expansion of the Club. However, regular support from all our generous sponsors, which enable the Club to flourish, is still required and we thank them for their generosity – if you are in a position to join them, you will be helping to ensure that the Sussex Martlets continue to exist and grow.

Mike Charman

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE



Unbeknown to most people, I am a regular attendee at Horsham F.C. during the dark winter months and decided to sponsor a match in the name of the Sussex Martlets, inviting the President, Chairman, Treasurer, Phil Savage and part-time H.F.C. fan, Will Rydon, for a pre-match meal, washed down appropriately. This took place on the designated non-league day and followed on from a match-ball sponsorship of the home Whitehawk match.

The party took their reserved seats in the stand amongst a healthy attendance for the East v West Sussex derby.

Presidential loyalties did drift to the West for this one, self-preservation maybe?

Horsham completed the double over Sussex rivals Hastings United with a hard fought 2-1 victory in front of a bumper crowd of 1,310.



Paul Walker, Will Rydon, Phil Savage, Nigel Russell, Mike Charman [before their court appearance...? Ed]

In my few idle moments, I have been attempting to populate scorecards on our Play-Cricket site, to increase the digital archive. With the majority of matches now being live-scored, the future is under control! I would be grateful if anyone (maybe former match managers, scorers or players) who has any scoresheets, or photos of scoresheets, could forward them to me so that I can add them to our records.

Alan Newman

REVIEW OF THE SEASON



Few things are better in life than a summer evening on the pavilion steps after a tense victory, mulling over the intricacies of the game just played. Martlets cricket in 2024 did of course offer a few golden moments of that ilk: we basked in statement victories over Eton Ramblers, Hampshire Hogs, Old Hurstjohnnians, Frogs, Armadillos... Alas, those were too often interspersed with mooching around in the rain, and embracing the timeworn cricketer's lot: staring to the sky, switching to a different weather app in hope of a brighter picture, pressing the boot into the ground to test the water levels, sacrificing herds of oxen to the weather gods... and then shaking hands on a rain-cursed abandonment and heading homewards or to the pub, all brimming with unresolved competitive tension. 'Fear no more the heat o' the sun...' [Not many club cricket magazines include Shakespearean quotes! Ed]

To Worth College in April. Coaching guru Raj Chaudhuri there has always produced a well-drilled and competitive team, and the boys were being put through the full range of contortions as we huddled in

the pavilion and compared notes on the long winter past. Fergus strolled up, having been to Mass, so we had that on our side. We – customarily – bat first, and I was left in no doubt as to how seriously the boys were taking the task. Within two overs the young shaver at cover point had drifted under my eyeline to complain about my gardening, and then coolly informed me that he would have no hesitation Mankadding me were I to venture beyond the popping crease. Only one acceptable response to that sort of chat: block the hell out of it for two hours. That'll learn them!

We made slow and steady progress to a total of 154 for 4 declared, and despite Darryl marshalling every resource and instinct, it proved insufficient and we succumbed to a deserved defeat.

M.C.C., as we know, can call upon a huge pool of excellence for the fixture at Arundel. Opting to bat first, Sussex Martlets faced a disciplined attack but managed a competitive total of 214, 8 down, in the allotted 45 overs. Darryl Rebbetts top-scored with a well-crafted 53* off 67 balls, supported by contributions from Wergan (30) and Ferro, adding some steel to the Martlets innings before a spectacular catch ended his fun.

M.C.C.'s batsmen set a solid tone, laying a strong foundation. Barratt's aggressive stroke play saw him notch an impressive 74; Nandra anchored the innings and their partnership effectively took the game away. As the target drew nearer, T. Vickets joined Nandra at the crease, and his unbeaten half-century ensured that M.C.C. reached their target comfortably, with eight wickets in hand and 6 overs to spare.

A much-needed win arrived under the leadership of John Ashworth, putting his rapidly developing chess prowess to work in plotting the undoing of the Eton Ramblers, this year coming to Hurst College for what is always a most enjoyable and competitive game. A mighty 307-5 declared put the Ramblers under the pump; a crushing victory followed as they were dismissed for 184. The lachrymose Kim Hughes infamously said of Mike Brearley: 'he had nothing going for him except that he was intelligent'. Ashers, of course, has many more strings to his bow, complementing that steel-trap mind with devilish slow bowling of multiple flavours, and courageous batting when called upon.

To Glorious Goodwood. Skipper McCarthy's men assembled to rare sunshine, a lost toss and an invitation to field first. Fergus and Michael Murray opened up, and just two balls into proceedings Fergus induced an uppish drive from opener Ray, nestling in the skipper's safe hands at extra cover.

Another smart catch from Ed off Ashers and a composed run-out from Omkar saw G.C.C. reduced to

47-3 in the 12th; we were in the game. Not to last: opener Toby Toft advanced to a beautifully constructed century, ably supported by Martlet-in-Goodwood colours Peter Lamb. Lamb holed out to a wonderful running catch at long-on from Hector for a brutal 74, including bringing Chris Pring's promisingly tight spell to a premature end by completely dismantling the structural integrity of his index finger on a sharp return catching chance. The surgeon bowler himself immediately diagnosing it with a short 'That's broken', before departing the field.

Laurie Cadle and Hector then faced a very tight opening spell. With the wicket now offering little in the way of bounce, and an attack that offered little in the way of loose balls, the Martlets were behind the rate from an early stage. After a few starts from Hector (17), Ed (18), Laurie (28) and a smooth 39 from Mudders, no one went big as we fell away to a 140+ run defeat; well beaten by tighter bowling, and a batting display that had essentially hit us out of the game.

The Martlets' strong leg-spinning resources (see annual reports passim) came into play in June, Dom Heater impressing at Brighton College, in tandem with a welcome appearance from Daniel James, who seems to be spending more time taking selfies of his torso in the gym than bowling his excellent bouncy swingers these days... Lamby was set fair in the chase to 260 when the rain fell.

We lost to the Crawley Hub and Hurstpierpoint College before Stuart Ritchie stopped the rot at Christ's Hospital. No music from the band at lunch on this occasion, but Ben Whelpton played upon the opposition batsmen's minds like upon a many-stringed lyre, and his five for 16 brought us comfortable victory.

Chairman Walker masterminded a four-wicket victory against the Hampshire Hogs at Warnford, before a strange draw against the Lancing boys (veils drawn over that) and a loss to the ever-growing power that is West Chilton.

To Lancing College again for a better-tempered game against the Rovers, as ever in great spirits, those well-refreshed and exemplary hosts. We edged our way to a slightly sub-par 154, but were always in it as Fergus, Dilshan da Silva (generating some real pace), Daniel James and Ben Whelpton kept the Rovers batsmen honest. However, with Hector lurking in the opposition lower order, our hosts always had their noses ahead.

A defeat to the Yellowhammers at the bowlers' graveyard that is Tonbridge School was followed by a winning draw at East Grinstead against Nomads C.C. The Martlets posted 237-5 declared, Iain Allen wielding his Keeley to great effect. A tense chase followed, Nomads pegged back by excellent craft from Daniel James and sprite-like fielding from Luke Nelson. Six

overs to go and all results to play for. Nomads finished 8 down and twenty short – a well-fought and fair draw.

August dawned. For Broadhalfpenny Down, Chairman Paul Walker assembled a Martlet team of varying talents and diverse ages. Losing the toss, Martlets fielded, and evergreen Fergus O'Meara took the new ball to bowl 6 tidy overs for 16, clean bowling the left-handed Dingemans. At the other end, Kiwi guest Hamish Duncan looked threatening but, even with Dave Mann's voluble encouragement from behind the stumps, was unable to take a wicket. Ed Hands departed thanks to a nick on one of Michael Murray's outswingers, expertly taken at the wicket by Mann.

Despite Martlets' best efforts, runs continued to accumulate on a fastish outfield (in most places!), even as wickets fell – Murray finishing with the best figures of 4-74 off 13 overs, Walker Snr 2-32 off 5, including a wicket maiden. Everyone had done their utmost in the field, young James impressing and Patrick Jackson also throwing with the arm of a youthful colt: Brigands declared 7 down and set a target of 217.

After the customary sumptuous tea, Willy Boulter and Luke Nelson began a fruitful partnership of 118 in 80 minutes... the former scored 20. Rightly avoiding playing the ball off the pitch when possible, Luke hit cleanly and very effectively, five 6s and ten 4s in a dominant 93, causing Brigand heads to drop. Jamie O'Meara contributed a bright 18 and, even with Luke gone (a shade unluckily some would say) at 158, odds were on a Martlet win. The required run rate was roughly one a ball.

Brigands cannily brought the nagging accuracy of Ladenburg into play, and he also caught the dangerous David Mann for 17: Peter Lamb batted breezily for 14 before one stuck in the pitch. 18 runs now needed off 18 balls. Tight bowling with the field spread salvaged a draw for Brigands. Hamish was cleaned bowled with 2 needed off the last ball.

[Further examination of the scorebook after the season's end revealed that in fact the scores had ended level. Ed]

An August highlight was a brilliant hundred for Ben Whelpton at Arundel Castle v. the Emeriti, the first of many there we trust. Jordan Shaw was just getting some steam up when on came the covers – match abandoned. The Martlets gained a tense victory against Old Hurstjohnians in a twisting contest, eventually victorious by 69 runs. Jordan top-scored with a sprightly 54. Rhys Atkins, Rob Burgh and – inevitably – Shaw shared the wickets, victory secured with just four balls remaining.

The Frogs fixture at Horsham was played as a 40-over game (Dave Mann: "Look, no one wants to stand around all afternoon watching two guys pushing and prodding the last twenty," o tempora, o mores). *[Cicero*

this time! Ed] James Chadburn made a welcome return to the lists, chipping in to a competitive total of 223, built around Adam Trees' ton. Jules Hunt, skipping and with ball in hand, worked the oracle and bowled a wicket maiden in the final over, securing a thrilling victory by four runs.

A 'red-in-tooth-and-claw'* game against the Juniors (the days of 'no bouncers at the tail' well forgotten) ended with the Juniors' last pair bravely seeing out Jordan in full pomp. A thrilling contest before a healthy crowd, and the Seniors must wait another year to wrest back the trophy.

Chastening losses to Band of Brothers, the Getty XI and the Hurlingham Club followed, before we brought the curtain down on the season with a splendid victory at Sheffield Park, Michael Murray deftly shuffling his pack of spinners to send us into the off-season with a crushing win.

Sam Carter

(Additional reporting by Laurie Cadle & Willy Boulter)

*[*From 'In Memoriam A.H.H.' by Lord Tennyson. I think we will need footnotes in future! Ed.]*

BATTING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 4 innings)

	Innings.	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
Peter Lamb	4	1	89	230	76.67
Freddie Ferro	9	0	103*	367	40.78
Jordan Shaw	7	0	106*	283	40.43
Ben Whelpton	14	2	107	353	29.42

Best performances: Hugo Gillespie (131), Adam Trees (108), Ben Whelpton (107), Jordan Shaw (106), Freddie Ferro (103).

BOWLING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 25 overs / 7 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
J. Shaw	32.1	7	101	9	11.22
D. De Silva	34.5	7	113	10	11.3
M. Murray	57.2	10	219	10	21.9
P. Walker	57.2	5	343	7	49.0

Best performances: Ben Whelpton (5-16), Chanuka Rahinduge (4-13), David Mann (4-18), Reuban Martin (4-34), Paul Walker (4-57).

OVER-40s CRICKET

Played 8, Won 3, Lost 5, Cancelled 5.



Having completed a fabulous tour, our season saw 4 fixtures cancelled due to weather, plus the Bradfield Waifs having a Cricketer Cup semi-final – for which their over-40s support was naturally required.

The Sussex Martlets Over 40s took the field on July 17th against one of our oldest competitors, Cuckfield. The Martlets posted 215-5 from 35 overs; Kapadia (49), Boulter (32), Pugh (40) and Whyte (38) provided top and middle-order class. The home team were on track at 181-5 with overs in hand, and thoughts of early ablutions. Cue bowlers Lack, Whyte (3 wks.) and Wilson to ensure they were made to work for every run in crawling over the line at 219-9. A thriller!

July 23rd arguably produced our most competitive match of the season against the mighty XL Club. After inserting the XL, Saleem (100*), Clarke (71) and Barnes (30*) posted an imposing 242-4 from 38 overs. The Martlets flew out of the traps like greyhounds. We rattled up 65 runs before our rapid progress was stemmed, albeit temporarily, by Willy Boulter's run-out (for 20) in the 7th over. Chakravartty (43) and Dahl (purring to 41) then provided the impetus to take us to 196-5. Now, my father once said, in the nicest manner, there are three things in life one can never predict: weather, women, and cricket! We duly found ourselves 240-9. Dave Mann being our 9th out for a superb 67. Only one person could possibly transcend this pressure-cooker moment, Captain Fantastic Dave Messenger! A clipped boundary through midwicket produced the most animated celebrations. A fabulous day!

August 14th brought us back down to earth against the obdurate Streat & Westmeston team. Boulter (36), Johanson (37), Peters (27), Savage (26*) and Cantrell (20*) realised 203-6. However, three half-centuries from Style, Hart, and Foulerton, respectively, overpowered a plucky Martlets XI.

August 22nd saw us return to Fletching C.C. Thanks must go to David Pullan for inviting the Martlets to be part of their fun cricket week. We played an enjoyable 20/20, eventually won by the hosts: Martlets 130-5 (Mansfield 38, J O'Meara 38), Fletching 131-5. Two things stood out that afternoon; (1) We played in light rain from start to finish, which dampened no one's spirits! and (2) Johnny Wills flew over from Jersey to participate! Naturally, somehow, we found ourselves in the Sussex Martlets' unofficial clubhouse, The Griffin Inn.

A sweltering August 28th at St. James Montefiore had the hosts posting 205-6 from 30 overs, with contributions from the evergreen Piper (31), Van Niekerk (30), Lee (27), Ashton (37), Stevenson (25) and Hall (26). Despite the efforts of Bushell (43), Christmas (33), Whyte (34) and Foulerton (21), the Martlets faltered by 27 runs. With loyalties torn, your humble scribe turned out for his old league team of 15 years, and produced his best bowling figures of the season (2-16). *[Shame! Ed]*

Sept 1st witnessed a clinical victory at the historic and stunning Petworth Park. Resistance came with the home side's Ivison (59) and Benham (20). Excellent bowling spells from Whyte (2-21) and Walker (4-45) ushered Petworth to 155 all out. Enter stage left, Murray (50*) and stage right, Arris (70*), motoring the Martlets to victory in 22 overs!

Unfortunately, three of our squad incurred injuries during the campaign: Fergus O'Meara (arm), Willy Boulter (arm) and Chris Pring (hand). I have no doubt they will be fit and raring to go in 2025!

An enormous heart-felt thank you to all who umpired, scored and played throughout the season, and those involved during the off-season.

Finally, a special mention for our retiring Chairman, Paul Walker. Walks took a risk in pushing me to take an involvement in the Over 40s, and I'm forever grateful he did. It has enhanced my life. I loved his beautiful wife Victoria, I love his beautiful children James, Harry (the Beast) and Poppy. And, I love him!

Derek Horsham

VETS ON TOUR – Repton & Chatsworth



For the third year in succession, the Over 40s (a generous description for most of the team...) accomplished a Spring tour thanks to the efforts of many, including Horsham, Newman, Walker and not least Semmence, who warmly welcomed us to Repton on the Sunday. A hard core had spent Saturday watching the County side take on Derbyshire, in the genial company of Jon Filby and his wife, as last year at Bristol. By the time your correspondent caught up with them, Messrs Walker, Aris, Degsy, Savage and Mann were deep into a tour of the Derby hostels. We ended up in a Cuban dancing club, where Sambucas were the order of the day and most of the Derby youth ran a mile at the sight of the bright Martlet blazers! *[Thankfully, no pictures of this debacle survive. Ed]*

This proved good training for a night in the outer suburbs of Derby, where Degsy had found an Air BnB with remarkable characteristics, none really positive: a reply when the dodginess of the on-street car parking was raised was "That's what you have insurance for isn't it". Mmm, true. It was probably the first time a Morgan had been sighted in those parts, to be accompanied the following night by the ex-Chairman's top-of-the-range Range Rover (although maybe not, since that is the drug dealer's chariot of choice!).

Anyway, to the cricket and, for those who had not been there before, Repton was a stunning venue – still a little damp, but definitely a setting of the highest quality, with a welcoming oppo of almost equivalent age, and Mark Semmence to ensure all was set up properly. Michael Murray was our skipper for the day, lining up against his younger bro, Nigel, both old Reptonians of course.



Derek Horsham & Mark Semmence

The Martlets took to the field and found, with few exceptions, the Repton Pilgrims were talented and diligent batsmen, compiling runs on a slowish outfield at a reasonable rate for a 40-over game. Dan James bowled a very lively five-over opening spell with a satisfying clean-bowled, while Jeremy McGahan posed questions with his nagging line and length – his first four overs went for only 9 runs. Three of the top five retired after passing 35, the rule for the day, and whilst all the bowlers had their moments, none was able to take more than one wicket. No one was really hammered, even Dan Jackson's leg spin only went for 11 off three overs, and Repton ended at 218.

Indeed, the only brace of the innings was two stumpings by the ever-alert Phil Savage and Martlets completed a competent fielding display with reasonable hopes of winning.

Aris and Boulter started at a gallop, with 36 off 4 overs before the latter swung across a cunning long-hop. Then Mann entered and helped Arran reach his 35, before adding further runs with skipper Michael

Murray: Martlets looked dominant as they passed 120 for the loss of only one real wicket, but then the "35-and-retire" rule began to take its toll. Some straight bowling by Piper and O'Gran, and skewed batting, ripped out the heart of the middle order, and it was left to Damien Cashinella and Paul Lack to try to keep up with the rate. More cynical supporters might have told them to quickly commit suicide, allowing the guns of Aris, Mann and Murray to return, but this only happened when the rate was nigh impossible, and Aris was soon well caught attempting another big 6. Martlets ended 28 runs short, Mann (52*) and Cashinella (17*) at the crease.

So, an honourable loss on a lovely ground in very genial company – followed by delightful drinks on the lawn of the headmaster's residence. Thank you to all involved, most especially Mark Semmence, a super day in all respects.

* * * * *

When you frequent Arundel Castle, not much comes up to similar standards, but the Martlets were greeted by some fantastic vistas (for those who took the scenic route north of Derby), and then beautiful views of Chatsworth House itself on the final approach.

The pitch was, shall we say, damp, being next to the river, and the quaint pavilion bore markings of the various flood levels stretching back years. This being the first game of the year, it was also liberally covered with the evidence of the Chatsworth sheep population, but the oppo, as they arrived, had a good drill to roll the wicket and clear the outfield.

Skipper Paul Walker had us field first, reckoning that the drying wind would do its work, and the bowlers sped in – Dan James again opening up with a very effective spell, six overs for 16, whilst Degsy bowled four for 9. Scoring runs was hard work, but so was taking wickets – the first fell in the 16th over, a smart stumping by Dave Mann (trying to keep up with Savage), Damien the bowler.

McGahan again bowled tidily without reward and Paul Lack took two wickets. One bowled and one "hit wicket", unusually. Canny work, Lackie! Skipper Walker bowled well, 1-19 off 5, while Dan Jackson improved his handicap with 1-22 off 3 overs (he will never live down those golf shoes of last year, or was it two years ago?!).

Mann equalled Savage's record with a second stumping and his usual good-natured banter, it not being an Ashes year. Elsewhere in the field, Dan James covered kilometres as the ball consistently refused to cross the boundary, and everyone chipped in to try to minimise the runs.



Dan Jackson, Willy Boulter, Jeremy McGahan, Damien Cashinella, Dave Mann at Chatsworth

Arran Aris displayed all-round skills with some sharp deliveries off a short run, and Chatsworth ended at 143-6 off their 35. Their opener Ed Buchan had retired at 51.

In contrast to Repton, bring your own tea was the drill. Fortunately, Mann's passion wagon delivered up a smattering of victuals from breakfast provisions etc, which kept the Martlets mostly upright. Aris opened strongly again, before holing out for 34, and a bowler with the slightly sinister name of Stasi did for Boulter, Ritchie and Horsham, while Savage was smartly caught and bowled, leaving Martlets precariously perched at 68-5.

Never fear, Mann (45*) and the skipper (27*) put on 76 to take us to a comfortable victory in the event – a clear indication of the conditions being Mann's two 4s and a solitary boundary for Walker. They batted very sensibly and professionally, against some tight bowling and smart field positioning, to take the Vets to a welcome win to balance the loss of the day before.

An excellent session in one of the local hostleries followed, where the teams mingled on very friendly terms, and thirsts were quenched before most of the Martlets headed for the 5- or 6-hour haul back to Sussex, where they met the customary Bank Holiday rain at the Watford Gap. So closed another fantastic season-opening tour, new friends made, and horizons widened – credit again to Degsy, Alan, Walks and others involved.

Willy Boulter

MARTLETS WOMEN'S CRICKET

This was the second season of Women's cricket following its introduction in 2023, when four games were played, including the first ever played on English soil by the Italian Women's national side.

Although ultimately it could be considered another successful season, which showed progress in the establishing of the Women's Martlets as a better-known entity and providing a high standard of cricket in Sussex to a wider audience, there were considerable challenges along the way.

We successfully completed four matches, winning two, losing one and drawing the other, a rain-affected match versus the Free Foresters that I have little doubt we would have gone on to win had the English summer weather allowed.

Three of our matches were double-headers versus Horsham, Free Foresters and Hurstpierpoint College; this is an excellent format, as it is a rare opportunity for the Club to bring players and supporters together to interact on match day.

Game 1 v Hurstpierpoint College resulted in a resounding win for the Martlets with strong contributions from a number of players including Alice Noakes from Burgess Hill, who made an unbeaten 57 out of 151-2. Hurst were bowled out for around 100 in reply. Many thanks to Alec Hepburn from Burgess Hill, who managed the fixture on the day and who has made an enormous contribution to the development of the Women's Martlets and 'totally gets' the whole concept of how the women's game should develop in the future. Alec has done great work at Burgess Hill, which is a club with a great infrastructure for the development of the women's game. Alec's daughter Charley, made a very useful 35 and has played in most of our fixtures; she is an excellent and thoroughly committed player.

Game 2 v M.C.C. was our marquee fixture of the season and a great honour to be able to add this fixture to our programme. Unfortunately, captain Regina Khan and I had quite a battle to get an appropriately strong side together for the day, as a number of our players were inevitably playing for the M.C.C. It was also one

of the coldest days of the year (not just the summer) at Blackstone Cricket Ground and the parents of a number of players who braved the elements required a more than normal number of cups of hot tea to get through the day. Special thanks to Cathy Gregory, who sat in a freezing cold score box all day and who has been a regular scorer for us along with Alison Skinner, to whom I am also immensely grateful. M.C.C. batted first and compiled a decent score and although for a while it looked like we might launch a spirited challenge to the total, we were eventually all out quite a way short of the target. I hope we are able to keep this fixture going and that we can provide a stronger challenge in the future.

Game 3 v Free Foresters, as mentioned earlier, was spoiled by the weather, but we were ahead on the Duckworth-Lewis scoreboard when stumps were drawn and had seen very good performances from a number of new players. New players who joined the team for this game included Lottie Davidson and Georgia Moran, both excellent young players who represent Kent and Tunbridge Wells. Both will hopefully continue to play next season and bring more players from that county in the future. Sophie Bowen, who is a superb player and represented us last year, has moved to Tunbridge Wells and hopefully will be available in 2025 and beyond, having unfortunately not been able to play any games this year.

Game 4 v Burgess Hill was a superb occasion, once again beautifully hosted on a lovely August day. Tia Joseph, who had played against us for the M.C.C., became the first player from Brighton and Hove to play for the Martlets, and made an excellent half-century that created a platform for a very strong total. Harriet Brookfield from Worthing did well on her debut, as did Violet Clements and Fleur Baker from West Chiltington. They are both really promising players for the future, having already represented Sussex in their age group. The match ended in a comprehensive win for the Martlets, having set a target that was too much for a young but talented Burgess Hill side. Charley Hepburn played against the Martlets on this occasion and made a brave 50. Charley is one of a number of Burgess Hill players who have played regularly over the two seasons and have made a great contribution to our initial success.

There was also the first official Mixed-Martlets game versus Horsham, which was originally intended to be a Women-only fixture, but unfortunately Horsham were not able to get a full side out on the day. The game was appropriately captained by Paul Walker, whose daughter Poppy played and who has been a regular performer for the Women's team since its inception last year. No doubt Paul will be massively missed as the Martlets' Chairman next year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him and all his family the very best for the future after such a difficult time.

The match resulted in a win for the Martlets and featured four other women players: Anna Scriven Wood, Annie O'Gorman, Kirah Ambroziak and Eve Atkins, who had made her Women's debut against Burgess Hill.

After subsidising the entire project in season one, match fees were introduced in 2024, at a level that reflects that a high percentage of our playing group are juniors or at college. A small number of players have become Martlets members and hopefully this will continue to grow in the future, as the Club offers a higher number of match opportunities in the season.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to our second season, notably Alan Newman, who does tireless work as Fixture Secretary and umpire, and also to all the parents of juniors who bring young players to matches and who have been very supportive. We have had great support from a number of clubs: Burgess Hill and Worthing most notably, both of which have great junior girls and women's sections. The Martlets should look to find more clubs like them to work with in the future.

As we move forward, we need to address a number of challenges to grow both fixture list and the playing pool in order to develop and strengthen the Club. I believe we have done quite well to attract players from a broad array of Sussex clubs, including Aldwick, Ansty, Bells Yew Green, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Fernhurst, Horsham, Middleton, Petworth, Roffey, West Chiltington, Worthing and Worthing Chips. Annie O'Gorman, a former Cambridge Blue, travelled from Hertfordshire to play two games, for which I was very grateful.

Regina Khan was an excellent and enthusiastic captain again in 2024, but with work commitments was only available to play two games. Kirah Ambroziak joined from Petworth this season, played all four games, contributing with bat and ball and showing great leadership qualities. She is our player of the year. Lucy Western, the 2023 player of the year, once again contributed enormously to our success.

Although we did not play as many games as initially hoped, we did grow the playing pool and the number of clubs who participated, which represents good progress. However, drawing players from so many clubs with many other cricketing commitments can represent quite a challenge and match management requires a huge amount of communication with senior players and the parents of juniors.

After two years of leading the early development of the Women's Martlets, I am now stepping down and I wish the Club the very best with taking this very important project forward in the future.

Tim Gregory

MARTLETS MEMORIES...

REX SALTER'S cricket focus Martlets next Sussex KO conquerors?

Sixty years ago, in 1965, the Sussex Martlets were to celebrate their diamond jubilee, occasioning an article in the *Evening Argus* by Rex Salter under the above heading. He noted that we had arranged 108 fixtures for that summer, featuring tours to both Oxford and Cambridge and a week at Arundel Castle playing the Cryptics (twice), Old Amplefordians, Eton Ramblers, Repton Pilgrims and Harrow Wanderers. The climax, however, was to be a special match, played under Gillette Cup rules, between the County and the Sussex Martlets on the County Ground at Hove. This was at a time when the County had only been once beaten in this format of the game.

Of the 22 players who featured that day, 8 are still alive: Tony Buss, Peter Graves, Mike Griffith, Peter Ledden, Tony Lush, John Snow, Dale Vargas and David Walsh. However, some 60 years later it is not surprising to find that their recollections are rather limited, as I discovered.

Mike Griffith, along with John Snow and Peter Graves, reckoned they had virtually no recollection of the day, although Mike observed "I guess the Martlets team was put together very early in the season and it was quite a coup to play on the County Ground and against the County side." This is explained by the fact that Eddie Harrison was not only the Sussex Martlets' Hon. Sec. but also chaired the S.C.C.C. cricket committee. He also ensured that the Martlets took priority with regards any County players who had also played for the Martlets. Hence the Martlets had a star-studded side – probably the strongest they have ever fielded, featuring four Test Match cricketers: Rev. David Sheppard (capt.), Nawab of Pataudi, Hubert Doggart and a young John Snow.

Peter Graves, playing for the County, recalled, "1965 was a first-class debut year for me. I played as a slow left-arm spinner and Dexter put me in at No 11 against Leicestershire, first match. To see me batting as high as No. 6 in this game would have likely given me a nose bleed!" Peter was particularly irked to learn that he had been dismissed by his great friend Snowy (skying a catch to square leg).

Peter kindly contacted Peter Ledden, now living in Australia. Again, a blank: "Sadly, I cannot remember what happened a month ago, never mind 60 years ago. Keep breathing. Yours, Peter" was the response.

Dale Vargas was a bit more expansive, even if he too remembered little regarding the day's play. "I felt very honoured to be selected to play in such distinguished company. I don't think I ever played, before or since, in a side with four Test caps and I must have been the only one that day not to have played first-class cricket. Whatever aberration could have overcome David Sheppard to let me bat at 4? What on earth was Tony Lush doing at 10?"

Tony Lush agreed, feeling he really should have batted higher up. His memory of the Sussex bowlers that day reveals "it was easier facing Buss and Thomson than I thought it would be, as they were not overly quick." On being asked who was the quickest bowler he ever faced in his career, he replied that the infamous West Indian Roy Gilchrist was the most fearsome. Apparently Gilchrist bowled five bouncers at him in one over (and not necessarily from 22 yards). Tony reckoned that the opposition had signed Gilchrist up whilst he (Gilchrist that is) was in jail for beating up his wife! (As his wiki entry confirms, Gilchrist was no advertisement for the 'spirit of cricket':

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Gilchrist).



Some of Sussex players of the 1965 squad who played that day were (seated) Alan Oakman and Ian Thomson.

Standing alongside Les Lenham (who although not playing then, was and is still a Sussex Martlet) are Peter Graves, John Snow & Peter Ledden.

David Walsh was invited to play in the game as a representative of the Junior Martlets, whose captain he was in 1965. Happily, he does remember the occasion: "I had only played schoolboy cricket, with a few Martlet adult games, so that, stepping out on the County Ground in front of a decent crowd was somewhat daunting. It helped having around me not only the great and good like Pataudi and Sheppard, but also schoolmastering stalwarts of Martlets summer holiday cricket like Dale Vargas, Alan Duff and David Mordaunt. Alan Oakman, playing for Sussex, had also coached me for several seasons in the Easter nets at Hove, and was always a sunny and friendly face. I was at a lowly number eight in the order, just managing to scrape together a double-figure score, with Alan Oakman bowling me a couple of friendly half-volleys,

before being caught off Don Bates. Facing the likes of Ian Thomson, Don Bates and Tony Buss showed me the gulf between schoolboy and first-class cricket, which I was to sample more competitively at Oxford the following season."

With regards the contest, David remembered "the game itself was low-scoring on a difficult wicket. The Martlets bowled out the County for 151 off the last ball of their 50 overs, Graham Cooper top-scoring with 46 and John Snow, Hubert Daggart, David Mordaunt and Alan Duff all taking wickets. In reply the Martlets could only muster 121, the Nawab of Pataudi and David Sheppard both getting into the 20s and Tony Lush top-scoring with 39." Of his innings Tony remembered "giving Alan Oakman a bit of stick, as I liked facing off-spinners..." However, Oakman had a hand in his dismissal – literally – taking a good catch off the bowling of Ian Thomson.

If, as would often be the case, Oakman & Graves were at slip and gully, all but one of the Martlets fell to catches behind the wicket. Wicketkeeper Gunn's catch to dismiss Sheppard was noted as "one-handed. V. good!"

It was a very creditable performance by the Martlets and Jack Arlidge's article in that day's *Evening Argus* had the headline "The Martlets Shock Sussex".

Salter's article had stated "the game will be followed by a cocktail party and with typical hospitality the Martlets have invited every club that they play to send a representative." Our survivors have no memory of that either! This rather suggests it was either unmemorable or an exceptionally good one!

In further reflections, David Walsh, who had been brought up in Cuckfield (then a very sociable village team with no great ambition beyond having fun) comments, "Martlet cricket was a great complement to this, with a fixture list to choose from of over 120 games, giving me such an enjoyable and often very competitive experience on lovely Sussex grounds, including Arundel and the County Ground where we often played matches. I was also lucky enough, on my way back to U.K. from teaching in Australia for two years, to join the Martlets in South Africa for their January 1972 tour." It was great to hear from David that the friends made in the 1960s playing Martlet cricket have been lasting ones. "I shall always be grateful for the fun and good cricket it gave me," he added. And that is what Sussex Martlet cricket is all about.

In addition to the scorecard above I have another, given to me, I think, by Sandy Ross many years ago (but probably completed by David Mordaunt). On it is noted the fact that "Ted Dexter [was] on the ground wearing a Martlets tie" and that Arthur Gilligan, Dennis Silk and Billy Griffith were also present.

SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB														
SUSSEX					1st Innings					2nd Innings				
1.	K.G. Suttle	c	Sheppard	b	Mordaunt	10								
2.	R.J. Langridge	c	Duff	b	Lush	18								
3.	A.S.M. Oakman	c	Vargas	b	Mordaunt	13								
4.	G.C. Cooper	c	Pataudi	b	Daggart	46								
5.	P.R.V. Ladden	c	Lush	b	Duff	7								
6.	P.J. Graves	c	Vargas	b	Snow	20								
7.	D.J. Foreman	c	Lush	b	Pataudi	16								
8.	A. Buss	c	Griffith	b	Daggart	0								
9.	N.I.V. Thomson	c	Run out			0								
10.	D.L. Bates	c	Griffith	b	Daggart	7								
11.	T. Gunn	c	Run out			2								
					b	lb	wd	nb	Extras	b	lb	wd	nb	Extra
					TOTAL					151				
Runs at fall					1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
of wicket					1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
Bowling analysis:					O	M	R	W	WB	NB	O	M	R	W

SUSSEX MARTLETS														
1.	D.S. Sheppard	c	Gunn	b	Bates	21								
2.	M.G. Griffith	c	Oakman	b	Thomson	0								
3.	Nawab of Pataudi	c	Gunn	b	Bates	28								
4.	J.O.G. Vargas	c	Oakman	b	Cooper	5								
5.	D.J. Mordaunt	c	Graves	b	Bates	8								
6.	I.G. Thwaites	c	Graves	b	Oakman	0								
7.	G.H.G. Daggart	c	Oakman	b	Oakman	5								
8.	D.R. Walsh	c	Graves	b	Bates	10								
9.	A.R. Duff	c	Gunn	b	Thomson	5								
10.	J.A. Lush	c	Oakman	b	Thomson	39								
11.	J.A. Snow	c	Run out			0								
					b	lb	wd	nb	Extras	b	lb	wd	nb	Extra
					TOTAL					121				
Runs at fall					1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
of wicket					1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
Bowling analysis:					O	M	R	W	WB	NB	O	M	R	W

David Walsh's scorecard from the day

We have always claimed Ted Dexter as having been a Martlet, but along with many of the above, in later life, he had no memory of it, so this is useful evidence!

Desmond Devitt

DEREK SEMMENCE, THE SWEEP & HARRY BROOK

Martin Speight played for Sussex and Durham (1986-2001). In 1992 Martin was the winner of the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the season's fastest first-class century. A Sussex Martlet centurion (1987) and some may remember him batting with Derek Semmence in the game against the Old Hurstjohnians (in 2003) when he scored 57 and Derek 85.

From the age of ten years old Derek Semmence was a constant in my cricket life, initially as a coach and latterly a friend and mentor. In every respect he taught me far more than just how to play cricket and I credit much of the way I coach the game today to his influence, manner and ability to connect with his charges.

My father initially started taking me for 1-2-1 sessions with Derek in a dark, cold and damp indoor net between the squash courts at Hurstpierpoint College in September 1978. The hourly sessions themselves formed the foundations of my batting, but I learnt nearly as much about the game having a coffee chez-Semmence afterwards. Derek would recount stories of his playing days, show me pictures of him getting a pair and talking about how he played and inevitably his beloved India. He was, until recently, the youngest player ever to score a First-Class century. It was in every respect a cricketing education. One such time he told me about sweeping and late cutting and how he nearly bit off his tongue after top edging an attempted sweep into his face – those of you who knew Derek will remember he never wore a helmet, but of course this did not stop him sweeping!



Derek at Arundel

Derek always viewed the sweep and late cut as two of his favourites and defined him as a touch player – he loved to “dab” the ball through third man off an off-stump line, but his range of sweeps was far more annoying to the bowler. He would bravely get across the stumps and fine-sweep,

hard-sweep in front of square, or stand up a bit taller and slog-sweep spinners and medium pacers alike straighter towards the straight mid-wicket boundary. But, unlike the modern-day players, he would play whichever version sent the ball where the fielders weren't. His way was not to hit the ball out of the park, but let the ball come to him and manoeuvre it to frustrate the bowler.

For me the sweep was imbedded early into my cricketing foundations. Every session involved playing pace – Derek, my father and regularly the wonderful Sandy Ross often bowled – and then spin. Derek taught me to use my feet to get to the pitch or sweep, initially on line and latterly on length. My reverse-sweep however was not of his doing, that came from my hockey and squash-playing days. Similar to Derek, I was not particularly worried about sweeping spin or pace. At the age of 15, I was playing for E.S.C.A. (England Schools) at the West of Scotland ground in Glasgow against Scotland under 16s. Late in the first innings on day one, batting without a helmet, I attempted to sweep the opening left-arm bowler who had a 7:2 off-side field, and top-edged the ball into my chin. A visit to the hospital resulted in a number of stitches, but fortunately I didn't nearly bite off my tongue! All I was concerned about was getting back to keep wicket!



Martin putting early lessons into practice

Fast forward to the NatWest semi-final of 1993 at Hove against Glamorgan and I'm caught on the boundary for 0 top-edging a sweep off Steve Watkin. Two weeks later, batting first at 10.30am in September on a green seamer at Lord's in the final, I couldn't get a bat on the ball as Tim Munton and Gladstone Small made the ball go around corners. My answer: sweep first and run down the wicket second and the rest was history... and of course I eventually got out trying to sweep Dermot Reeve. Ray Illingworth, commentating on the Beeb, viewed it with disdain. Derek, commentating for Radio Sussex, later asked me why I didn't bat for myself and get a hundred, having done all the hard work. He of course was right, I should have, but that was not in my DNA by then.

Fast forward thirty years and Harry Brook, a lad I have coached and mentored over the past 10 years, is trying to learn how to bat against the mystery Indian spinners. He is having a tough time working out a game plan to survive, let alone score quickly against India's batch of spinners bowling between 90 and 110 kph. Difficult to get down to the pitch, he knows he has to develop the sweep, and he is having to learn on the job such is the hectic and busy nature of being an all-formats England cricketer. At school he was a very technical batter, more concerned with batting for long periods than striking at 150, but he has developed into what one reporter described as a “Joe Root on steroids” batter. I'm sure he will find a way, it will just take time; he has overcome all the obstacles placed in front of him to date. He has taken to Test cricket like a duck to water – four centuries in six Tests in Pakistan, including a 317. In New Zealand he has had similar success; and he is already the proud possessor of a T20 World Cup winners' medal and is the only batter to have scored centuries in the I.P.L., P.S.L. and Hundred. I would like to think that throughout his time at Sedbergh and beyond, I have tried to help Harry with the same calm and positive nature that Derek helped me. Derek was a great friend of mine, I hope Brooky will be too.

Martin Speight

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2024



With no touring sides available for this season's fixtures, we managed to organise new fixtures, against West Chiltington & Thakeham (away) and a season-ending two-innings declaration match v Sussex County Under 16s at Blackstone cricket ground, to supplement the usual Band of Brothers, Hampshire Hogs and Sussex Martlets matches.

Our opening fixture of the season was held at our unofficial home venue of Hurstpierpoint College on the 17th July. Band of Brothers had "gunned up" with a majority of 17- and 18-year-olds after last year's defeats and their team proved too strong for our mainly 15- and 16-year-old Junior Martlets, reaching our 138 runs in 35 overs with 8 overs to spare (Oscar Harman taking 4-24).

A week later we played in a triangular T20 competition at Hurst. We avenged our defeat by the Band of Brothers in the first T20, chasing down their 113 with an over to spare (Harry Walker 47). We played Hampshire Hogs next and won easily taking only 12 overs to reach the target of 112 (Aryan Yattapu having captured 4-26).

Our first away-day was a week later, at the stunning Warnford Cricket Club, playing two T20 matches against a strengthened Hampshire Hogs side. The first match was won by 29 runs (Dylan Carter 3-16) and the second won with 4 overs remaining (Jimmy Lloyd 37*).

Our new fixture v West Chiltington was next on the 13th August. West Chilt batted first and scored a handy 247 off their 35 overs with Oscar Harman taking 4-33.



(Left to right): Hugo Tanous, Oscar Harman, Johnny Prior, Oscar Warmington, Hamish Kidd, Tom Baily, Oliver Wicks, Harry Tobias, Jimmy Lloyd, Matthew Richie, Theo Tippler, Kai Taylor

At lunch I spoke to the team and explained that we needed a quick start to gain momentum. In came Matt Ritchie. The cars and young children in a local park had to take cover! 131 came off 52 balls, as he smashed 9 6s and 14 4s in an explosive batting performance. His century came off only 33 balls. The Martlets won with 14 overs to spare. The day was a great success, and it will become a regular fixture in future Junior Martlets seasons.

It's important that the Juniors play all the different forms of the game, and I managed to arrange a 2-day declaration match with Sussex C.C.C. on their 2nd team ground at Blackstone C.C. We won the toss and batted first, scoring 268-9 before declaring (68 overs). We bowled out Sussex for 148 and batted again, putting on a quick 147-8 (23 overs) before declaring and leaving Sussex requiring 267 to win with 5 hours play remaining. Our spinners then took seven wickets, and we bowled Sussex out for 91. Four innings were completed in two days of sunshine and our game plan worked to perfection.

A special mention to Jimmy Lloyd, who scored 123* in the first innings, which put us in a great position to win the match. Another special mention goes to the two spinners, Oscar Harman (3-45 and 3-28) and Tom Baily (3-38 and 4-15).

Our last fixture was at Arundel Castle v the Sussex Martlets men's team. After a rain-delayed start, the men's team declared on 211-6 off 40 overs. The Junior Martlets went into bat after a 5-star lunch and managed to hold out for a draw (198-9, also off 40 overs) with Oscar Warmington (74*). The Junior Martlets therefore retained the Wills Trophy.

It was my first season as coach for the Junior Martlets.

Taking over the reins from the great Jimmy Anyon was an honour and a pleasure. The standard of cricket has been incredibly impressive and great bonds have developed between the boys. I have included boys as young as 14, and a good proportion of the teams' players are from state school backgrounds. I look forward to next season and will try to get new clubs involved in fixtures and maintain the 2-day fixture with Sussex C.C.C.

Many thanks to all the parents for helping to score and running warm-ups etc, and to Alan Newman for organising the matches.

Adam Lloyd

SMASH & GRAB 100

Matt Ritchie's extraordinary 33-ball 100 for the Juniors deserved further investigation. It comfortably eclipses anything achieved by the men's team – indeed it makes Jordan Shaw's effort v Brighton Brunswick in 2023 off 53 balls look positively pedestrian!

Ed: Did you have any sort of plan when you went out to bat?

Matt: My plan from ball one was to come down the track, which resulted in me edging it over the slips for 6. After that, I thought I should carry on in this manner, although I started actually hitting the ball properly against both their pace and various types of spin. A lot of it went down the ground, and a couple went through square leg and offside.

Ed: At what point did you think 100 was on?

Matt: When I got to around 70, realising it was only 5 more 6s needed to get to this milestone.

Ed: What about the so-called "nervous 90s"?!

Matt: I did feel a bit shaky then and on 99 I was debating, "Do I hit a 6, or get smart and hit a single?" After this brief thought, I clipped it into the leg side to bring up my fastest-ever hundred.

Ed: Who was your cricketing hero growing up?

Matt: I would say my dad, as I find I get most of my shots from his shot book, and he has the ability to access all parts of the ground.

Ed: Who is the coach who has influenced most?

Matt: I would say my school coach, Jordan Rollings, as after facing hours of short balls from his side-arm, I have actually started really hitting the ball.

Ed: What is it that you like most about playing Junior Martlet cricket?

Matt: I would say the team spirit, as everyone gets on so well, creating a great vibe; also, the face-off at the end of each season between the juniors and seniors at Arundel Castle.



Matt Ritchie with his father (and erstwhile hero) Stuart

PROGRESS REPORT

John Bettridge continues to keep tabs on the progress of his former Sussex Junior Martlets, Archie Foreman and Charlie Tear – via their fathers!

Michael Foreman reports "Bertie spent the winter of 2023/4 in Australia playing First Grade for Manly Warringah C.C., finishing top wicket-taker in the competition with 51 wickets. He was the joint recipient of the Bill O'Reilly Medal, which is the player of the season award voted by the umpires at the end of each fixture. Previous English winners are Mason Crane, Mike Gatting, Tony Greig and Geoffrey Boycott. On his return, he signed a 2-year professional contract at Sussex. He made his first century for Sussex 2nd XI v Essex and made his First-Class debut against Gloucestershire, when Sussex clinched promotion to Division 1. More than anything else, he loves playing cricket for his home county and his ambition for the 2025 season is to continue to work hard on his game."

The Tear household was a little less forthcoming, but we gather Charlie made his debut for Scotland in March 2024 v U.A.E., scoring 54* and then played in the T20 World Cup in the West Indies. A game against Australia and a tour to Dallas, Texas followed. On the Sussex front, he had a couple of 1st team games and had a good season in the 2nd XI.

John Bettridge

NEW MEMBERS 2023/24

The Club welcomes into membership:

Cricket: David Brook (Palmer's C.C.), William Burch (Cuckfield C.C.), Robbie Hodges (Rottingdean C.C.), Steve Lovell (Buxted Park C.C.), Tayyab Mahmood, Mitesh Patel (XL C.C.), Andrew Westgate (Ditchling C.C.), Ben Whelpton (Roffey C.C.).

Kirah Ambroziak (Petworth Park C.C.), Jane Green (Lewes Lightnings C.C.), Charley Hepburn (Burgess Hill C.C.), Annie O'Gorman (Cambridge University C.C.), Poppy Walker (Chichester Priory Park C.C.).

Golf: Stuart Avern (Mid Sussex G.C.), Peter Ewen (Seaford G.C.), Stephen Hay (Royal Ashdown Forest G.C.).

Non-Playing: Malcolm Griffin (Club photographer), David Whelpton (ex Chair Newick C.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

THE GOLF SOCIETY 2024



The 2024 golfing season was disappointingly less successful than the 2023 one, as the Society won 2, lost 7 and halved 2. However, we strengthened the match-playing pool with a number of new members from across Sussex.

This year we have recruited new match managers in Nigel Cook, who will take over from James Goddard in 2025 to manage the match v Crowborough Beacon and Simon Bulteel, who has temporarily taken over managing the Cooden match from Mike Stewart, before Martin Phillimore takes the reins in 2026. Finally, Greg West will take over from me managing the Reciprocals fixture at West Sussex in 2025. The hard work of all our match managers is very much appreciated, thank you to one and all.

The very wet 2023/24 winter was extremely challenging for many course managers across the U.K. and particularly so in West Sussex, where the Pulborough area saw twice the average annual rainfall in 2023. Therefore, we were very appreciative that the West Sussex course in Pulborough was in such good condition when we played the first match of the season on 7th April.

The Martlets' Golf Day was again held at Manning's Heath Golf Club, superbly run by Robert Reed, who organised a very agreeable lunch. The course was in very good condition, but not so tricky for Richard Foster, who won for a third time in a row. This is a very popular event, which is much enjoyed by all who play in it. The 2025 Martlets' Golf Day is scheduled for Friday 13th June.

Reflections on 2024 and a look ahead to 2025

Through the efforts of Nigel Russell, we had a Martlets' golf umbrella made. This initiative has proved very popular with the members of the Golfing Society and they were put to good use on the last fixture of 2024 – read on!

The Hampshire Hogs welcomed the Martlets to Hayling Golf Club for the first time for this fixture. The Martlets and Hogs match alternates between West Sussex and a venue of the Hogs' choosing. The news of the selection of Hayling G.C. was extremely popular with the Martlets and we hope that it will be a regular setting for our match with the Hogs in the future.

Finally, mention should be made of the seven-all draw with Rye G.C. in October. Rye has proved notoriously difficult opposition to secure a win over in recent years, despite the Martlets taking some very competitive sides to play in this match. Next year, gentlemen!!!

On June 12th 2025, the Martlets will send a few sides to the Army Golf Club in Aldershot to participate in the Willie Bicket Memorial Golf Day. The course is a bit of a hidden gem, so we expect that there will be no trouble in raising a good few groups of four to play in this event.

The Martlets v The Purchasers match at Piltdown G.C. was played for the inaugural Ham Whitty Memorial Trophy. The Purchasers ran out narrow winners with a 3½ to 2½ result.

We were delighted that Mary, Ham's widow, was able to join us for lunch, after which she presented the trophy to the Purchasers' match manager, Peter Ludgate.



Peter Ludgate with Mary Whitty

This year's Reciprocals fixture was held on 21st November at West Sussex G.C. on a wintry day. This did not stop 32 Martlets and guests arriving for coffee and bacon rolls and setting off to play a pairs 18-holes Stableford competition. It was not long before the sleet/snow turned the course white for 45 mins, resulting in a temporary course closure, which meant that everyone was called in from the course. After a shortish delay and some quick thinking on our feet, the fixture was reduced to 9 holes. Lunch was brought forward by 45 mins and was enjoyed by all before the prizegiving. First place was taken by Simon Bulteel, Piltdown's match manager, who partnered Gary Barnett from Mid Sussex G.C.

History of The Sussex Martlets Golfing Society – an update

Work has continued updating the history of the Golfing Society, but at a much-reduced pace due to time



Sussex Martlets and guests pictured from the gallery overlooking the dining room at West Sussex G.C.

constraints. It is hoped that a final draft will be possible towards the end of 2025 before publication.

Robert Forster

REAL TENNIS



Real tennis for the Sussex Martlets continues at Petworth House Tennis Court. It has, however, been a quiet year with only a few mornings organised on either a Saturday or Sunday. Thought was given to taking the last two courts on a mid-week day, but working commitments precluded such an approach.

In the year past, a number of weekend morning sessions have been organised, and each has been much enjoyed. Typically, three successive courts are taken from 10.15 a.m. and we conclude with a light lunch sourced locally from Petworth. The professional on duty, either Tom or Louis, provides a drill to get us in shape before a round robin approach to either a set of four or six games follows. The arrangement works well and is very convivial, often with the players supported by their partners.

There is a core of players, led by Stuart Ritchie and supported by Jules Hunt, Michael Murray and Nick Beechey. Due to proximity to the court, Jules and Mudders have played most often, and their skills have progressed well.

We are edging closer to our goal of playing a match, all being well, in 2025.

Stuart Ritchie

ARUNDEL CASTLE

The new chairman of Arundel Castle Cricket Club is Alistair Subba Row, son of former England cricketer Raman Subba Row.

(See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raman_Subba_Row)



Alistair has served as a trustee of the Lord's Taverners and is currently also a member of the M.C.C. Estates Subcommittee. Educated at Hurstpierpoint College until 1983, he toured India with the School in 1981 and has fond and grateful memories of being mentored by Derek Semmence.

In his last season at school, he took 7-48 with his powerful off-cutters against St. George's Weybridge and took 12 wickets during the Woodard Schools Cricket Festival at Worksop College, which Hurstpierpoint went on to win. Today Alistair enjoys watching the game at Lord's, The Oval and of course circling the boundary at Arundel.

In April 2024 I had the great honour of stepping into Mandy Jupp's shoes as the new Chairman of Arundel Castle Cricket Club. I want to begin by thanking many members of the Sussex Martlets for their warm welcome and messages of support. The historic relationship between us continues to go from strength to strength and long may that continue.

Since April last year, I have taken the time to dig into the Club's rich history and enjoy many days at the ground meeting members, watching some exciting cricket. The 2024 season focused on our desire to continue to provide a "strong diet of cricket" ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to play at the Castle ground. A young side from Zimbabwe played against the M.C.C. and we saw the return of Sussex C.C.C. in a high-scoring match against Hertfordshire. The Southern Vipers produced some hugely entertaining matches in the glorious sunshine, whilst new visitors to the ground included teams from the Vatican and a number of schools, universities, disability XIs and charities.

Behind the scenes we have developed an excellent "home" team, who between them provide all the ingredients necessary for an exceptional experience, whether playing cricket or simply enjoying watching in our stunning South Downs setting. The support which they provide throughout the year from admin., catering, stewarding and groundwork is tremendous and rewarded by the growing number of requests to play at Arundel. Around the ground there is always work to be done, but we are in good shape with 2024 delivering a

new pavilion roof, a refurbished pavilion interior and enhanced tea hut/catering facilities.

During the summer we also managed to obtain planning permission to replace the existing office at the ground with a replica building, but with twice the floorspace. This exciting and inspirational new facility will house both the Foundation and Cricket Club once completed.

At the same time as I took over as Chairman of the Cricket Club, David Kidd stepped into Peter Bristowe's shoes at the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation. As part of our combined desire to work closer together we have established a Joint Strategy Board, which is focusing on areas of mutual support and benefit. The Foundation provides growing support to over 1500 children through various programmes undertaken at the ground and locally.

The forthcoming season is shaping up nicely too. With the help of S.C.C.C. Chairman, Jon Filby, and Chief Executive, Pete Fitzboydon, we have expanded our "Partnership of Opportunity" with a week-long cricket festival due to take place at Arundel in July 2025. During the week there will be men's, women's and disability 1st XI matches at the ground. Throughout the 2025 season we will also host white-ball Women's County 1st XI cricket fixtures, with a further seven matches involving Sussex and Hampshire planned.

These are exciting times for both the Cricket Club and the Foundation. I look forward to meeting you at the ground during one of the Sussex Martlets' forthcoming matches over the summer for what I hope will be a fun and entertaining cricket season.

Alistair Subba Row

INTERNATIONAL MARTLETS

Following on article in last year's edition of this magazine, which featured Martlets who have played some form of international cricket, other claims to be added to this list have emerged.



Undertaking my National Military Service in 1954, I was seconded from the Royal Sussex Regiment to the 3rd Battalion Nigeria Regiment, stationed in the eastern region of that country, now Biafra.

This was a remarkable and challenging posting, but fortunate in many ways, not least because at Enugu, where the battalion was based, there was a splendid ground and much fine, well-established cricket. Being given the chance to go in first in all matches was a wonderful opportunity and, in fact, the making of my

batting on the mat on tarmac, a fast and true surface. Some successes brought an invitation to play for Nigeria against Gold Coast (Ghana). This match (in 1956) was of long standing and was the first in which all cricketers, European and African, were available for selection.

A sense of excitement and expectation filled the air, increased by the radio ball-by-ball commentary and press photographers. The match, played at the Lagos and Colony Ground on the edge of the racecourse, was over three days. For Nigeria G.F. Anson (Cambridge Univ and Kent), H.J. Savory (Gloucester) and Major V.T.W. Troman (Army and Devon) were prominent, as were D. Woodruffe (Eastern Province) and Dr. Irvine, from West Indies. Fine African Cricketers were Eddie Hughes and Albert Osakwe. Our captain was the redoubtable W.S. "Stan" King.

The Gold Coast had two very fine African players: A. Okine and J.J. Janney, a tall and lithe fast bowler, among the most difficult I have played against, having pace, swerve and bounce. Also bowling was Jack Smith of Bedfordshire, who performed so well for Minor Counties against the Australians with his most accurate slows.

The match proved to be a low-scoring one. This artificial pitch turned out to be somewhat uneven, Eddie Hughes being hit in the face. Scores in all four innings were only middling – 49* by Okine being the highest score.

This seemed then, as now, as being a match of high standard and lasting interest. It was my pleasure to wear the cap when playing subsequently: green for the Muslim Community and Crown Badge on red for Lagos and Colony.

Brian O'Gorman

Brian recalls there were several Martlets in Africa at this time: Johnny Brookes (who played for the Gold Coast in the above match), Reggie Webber, Keith Jenkin (who played for the Northern Region) and Mike O'Brien.



Another Martlet international is Kerry McLean who, whilst stationed out there with the Army, was selected to play for Hong Kong against Malaysia in November 1979. However, it is the match that clinched his selection that turns out to be of even greater interest. Picked to play for the Kowloon C.C. against the local Free Foresters, Kerry found himself having to bowl to a Foresters' "ringer" by the name of Geoffrey Boycott, who was passing through on his way out to Australia to play in a three-match Test series there.

Kerry's recollection is that Boycott had cruised to an effortless 40 "and was no doubt eyeing up another century" when he was called upon to come on to bowl and effect a breakthrough.

Kerry describes himself as being at that time "a bowler of some talent who, amongst his military medium seamers, possessed 'one-that-nipped-away', which caught many a top-order batsman unawares."

Being a military man, Kerry deployed "a strategy" (aka "a cunning plan"), as he explains.

"The strategy involved surprise, one of the key principles of war, so it was he was served up three swinging half-volleys; the first was unexpectedly driven to mid-off, the second firmly pushed for two and the third contemptuously dispatched for four, a smile growing on the great man's face. Then the fourth, which seemed pretty much the same as the other three, but those with a practised eye might have noticed that this one had almost imperceptibly a little more zip, a little more fizz! Sir Geoffrey started to shape up for another half-volley, but realised too late there was something different about this ball and changed his shot to a defensive prod. Indeed, it was 'the-one-that-nipped-away'. He was caught behind for 48."

McLean, a reliable opener or middle-order man who has made his mark in Sunday League cricket after only five weeks of competition, secured his place with a fine display on Monday in a friendly game between a Kowloon Cricket Club selection and the locally-based Free Foresters.

The right-handed back-foot player, who has a fine range of strokes ideally suited to the frequently unpredictable Hongkong wickets, hit an unbeaten 63 in the match, which featured an appearance by Geoff Boycott.

The local paper reveals that Kerry also starred with the bat and suggests that perhaps the wicket was not altogether unfriendly for bowlers.

The following month, Boycott was opening for England at the W.A.C.A. ground in Perth, where he was dismissed by Lillee for 0 in the first innings and scored 99* (carrying his bat) in the second. Clearly that boundary he got off Kerry ignited something in the master batsman, as in this innings he scored his first boundary in a Perth Test for nine years (ref: The Wisden Book of Test Cricket, vol 2)!

Kerry McLean / Desmond Devitt

Martlets with stories of any brush with a cricketing legend are invited to submit them for next year's edition.

A MUSEUM PIECE

These Sussex stalwarts have all represented the Sussex Martlets at some point in their cricketing careers – this according to our records, rather than their memories!



Johnny Barclay leads an enthusiastic escape group from the S.C.C.C. Museum: Jerry Groome, Peter Graves, John Snow, Roger Marshall, John Barclay

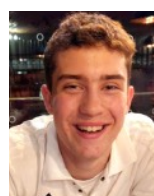
Peter Graves and Roger Marshall played for us in our 80th Anniversary game against the Duchess of Norfolk's XI in 1985; John Snow played as a Junior Martlet as well as in the 60th Anniversary game (see p. 12-13).

Our Patron, Johnny Barclay, recently conducted an excellent interview with Peter and John for the Sussex Cricket Museum, reminiscing far and wide. This is part of a series of podcasts (see – or rather hear – here: <http://sussexcricketmuseum.org/podcasts>).

SUSSEX MARTLETS ANNUAL AWARDS

These annual awards were made at this year's dinner, held in the pavilion at Arundel Castle on March 7th 2025. The citations were provided by Darryl Rebbetts, Derek Horsham, Adam Lloyd, Tim Gregory, Robert Foster and Brian O'Gorman.

Batting Award – Freddie Ferro



Freddie went one better this season, improving on his 99 and making his first Martlets century – 103 against Buxted Park. His season's total of 367 at over 40 shows his consistency and reliability at the top of the order. He also made three 50s and fully deserves to retain the Batting Award for the second year running.

Bowling Award – Ben Whelpton



Ben's retention of the Bowling Award is fully deserved, having taken 23 wickets at 19, with a best of 5-16 against Christ's Hospital School. Ben's off spin is a captain's dream, offering consistency, a huge variety and excitement when chasing wickets or enticing batters into attacking stroke play.

Over-40s Award – David Mann



Derek Horsham writes, "Dave Mann is the spur, kick, stimulator, fillip, shot in the arm, motivating force and heartbeat of any Sussex Martlets O40s XI. A once proud and out-of-control Aussie, his wise switch to honorary cricketing Brit has seen him top our batting averages for the past three seasons. His glove and vocal work behind the stumps ensured both home and opposition teams play – and leave with – a smile from ear to ear! A friend to all, and a great bloke!"

Junior Martlet Award – Oscar Harman



Oscar played in every match for the Junior Martlets in 2024, prioritising the Martlets over club fixtures. His leg spin was effective on all pitches and he was our top wicket-taker for the season. Oscar's attitude to cricket is always so positive and his enthusiasm during matches rubs off on the team. In our 2-day match v Sussex C.C.C. Oscar picked up 3 wickets in both innings, contributing to a memorable win.

Woman Martlet Award – Kirah Ambroziak



Kirah played every game, showing tremendous commitment as an attacking top-order batter and off-spin bowler. She showed great leadership qualities and, as a professional coach, willingly shared her knowledge and skills with the younger players. She follows in the footsteps of Lucy Western in winning

this award.

Golfing Award – Mark Stevenson



Mark Stevenson is a distinctive figure, often accompanied by his spaniel, who is a welcome addition to the Martlet golfing scene.

Whilst there were notable performances from Stuart Ritchie and Bob Mitchell, the

Society's nomination for the Golfing Award goes to Mark for his superior win ratio in our Golfing Society matches.

Martlet of the Year – Robin Carr



Robin has been a Martlet for many years being elected on leaving Hurst, where he played in the XI. He played less regularly as the years passed and professional and family concerns became more demanding. However, he did keep his hockey going, leading to selection for England in a World Veterans' Competition where he was a Gold Medal Winner. Robin's interest and commitment to the Martlets, and therefore to cricket, are wide and deep. He cares deeply for the play, organisation and standards of the Club. He knows the players and follows the results keenly. He attends most matches at Arundel and is also regularly seen at West Chiltington, Goodwood, Horsham, Hurst and other schools. All are grateful for his presence and encouragement at funerals and memorial services for deceased members, showing support and concern; a splendid ambassador to the local clubs. Not least he is an enthusiastic presence at the annual dinner and other Arundel events.

He is a very keen and knowledgeable student of all cricket history – a source of much interesting conversation and enlightenment about Martlets who have played for Sussex. Robin has also been very active in administrative and organisational matters, speaking forcefully at A.G.M.s and bringing necessary matters into focus, proposing action with clear and sensible recommendations for the benefit of the Club.

In addition to the above, Nigel Russell, on behalf of the membership, presented Paul Walker with a framed aerial photograph of Arundel by Malcolm Lamb in recognition of his time as Chairman.

As one of Eddie Harrison's final acts, in 2001, he enticed Paul to join the Martlets. He can have had little inkling that here was a future Chairman of the Club.

Paul has played numerous matches, as a cunning spinner and more-than-handy batter, as well as shouldering the role of Social Secretary for many seasons. During his time in post, the Club has flourished with the establishment of a Women's Section and the development and strengthening of ties across organisations within Sussex, and beyond.

His unrelenting enthusiasm and positivity have pushed the Club forward, even when faced with personal circumstances few could comprehend. Paul is therefore a richly deserving recipient of this award.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Cricket club committees are usually the preserve of the old and bold, but the Martlets' Committee benefits from Dom representing the views of younger players — to say nothing of reducing their average age considerably!



NAME: Dominic Heater

EDUCATION: Uckfield Community College, Bede's, Oxford Brookes University.

CAREER: Nearly 3 years working as a Sports Records Expert at Guinness World Records.

SUSSEX CONNECTIONS: Born in Haywards Heath, lived in Newick ever since.

CLUBS: Buxted Park C.C., Mid Sussex & Brighton Nomads, Sussex Martlets.

BEST MARTLET MOMENT: Arundel Castle debut against Hurst College in April 2022, playing against the likes of current pro Bertie Foreman. We witnessed a masterclass as Tom Drake-Brockman, Chichester PP's overseas scored a chanceless big ton!

BEST MARTLET TEAM PERFORMANCE: A good win over B.A.C.A. in 2023, with a good young team, including a sprinkling of experienced heads (notably Sam Carter). The majority of batters then chipped in with runs as we posted 235-6, before a quickfire Jack Trubshaw 5fer secured a 96-run victory! Two good sides battling it out, and we got the upper hand in the end.

FOOTBALL OR RUGBY? Footballer in my teens, and continue to follow Q.P.R. home and away. Never played or watched rugby.

OTHER SPORTS: Keen runner over medium/long distance, very sporadic golfer, keen follower of darts and occasional player! Always interested in trying new sports.

OTHER INTERESTS: World Geography/International Relations. A fun fact about me is that I can name all the capitals of the world. Comedies from the 90s onwards are a television favourite of mine. Once a qualified football referee. Regular concert/gig attendee.

FAVOURITE BANDS: Oasis, Queen, Stone Roses, Catfish and the Bottlemen, Arctic Monkeys, ABBA.

FAVOURITE FILMS: The Shawshank Redemption, Moneyball, and Rom Coms are a guilty pleasure.

BEER OR WINE? Neither! Very occasional drinker of the odd cocktail.

OBITUARIES

WILLIE BICKET (1949-2024)



Those who knew Willie Bicket will never forget him. A permanent twinkle in the eye, an ever-ready smile and a constant searcher of fun, he was a joy to have in any Martlets side and a team mate beyond compare.

Born Graham Christie Bicket, his Scottish roots earned him the nickname "Willie" whilst at Sandhurst and the sobriquet stuck thereafter. He was born in Egypt in December 1949 and his father, who served in the Colonial Service, moved shortly afterwards to Nigeria where Willie spent his formative years. He was sent back to Scotland for schooling, at Morrison's Academy in Crieff, where Jack Walsh, the Australian Test player and school coach, developed Willie's talent for swing bowling. "That boy could bend a melon," Jack was reported to have said of his protégé.

Sandhurst followed and Willie was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. However, a year later, during a secondment with the Royal Hampshire Regiment, Willie's great qualities as a soldier and his congeniality with fellow officers was recognised by his C.O., who persuaded him to transfer into the Regiment. A further transfer was to come following another attachment, this time with the Brigade of Gurkhas in Brunei, Hong Kong and Nepal. The uniqueness and history of these soldiers together with the seductive Nepalese culture encouraged Willie to make the Gurkhas his military home and he spent the rest of his 30-year Army career under their Colours.

Sport was a driving force in his life. He played football for the Army and rugby and cricket at Infantry Corps' level. When he came back to the U.K. in the mid 90s his then wife, Cheryl, was appointed polo manager at Cowdray Park and they settled in Sussex. Willie joined the Martlets at that stage, purveying his unique brand of swing bowling and, by his mere presence, brought much happiness and amusement to his team mates. Those not used to his bowling action were often put off by the fact that he appeared to start his run-up looking away from the receiving batter, only then to complete a semi-circle as he approached the stumps! This distraction clearly added to the confusion in the striker's mind as he then had to contend with a masterful in-swing, causing the demise of many. He played in the occasional match for the Golfing Society, but always considered himself primarily a social player.

In later life, as early-onset Alzheimer's took a grip on him, he always claimed to have played his best golf. It's probably true to say that this was largely due to the fact that he couldn't then remember the number of shots he

had played on any particular hole – “Put me down for 5” he’d declare to his empathetic partners!

Sadly, this dreadful disease took Willie from us in June 2024, on D-Day, and whilst his last years were extremely difficult, he will be remembered with huge affection by all those who had the privilege of knowing such a large character and loyal friend. He leaves two sons, Hamish and Alastair, from his first marriage to Linda.

Nigel Russell

COLIN OLIVER-REDGATE (1941-2024)



Liz and I first met and befriended Colin and Chrissy (his former wife) in the early 70s when they were living in Teddington and Colin would commute to Sussex for Martlets cricket.

Chrissy gave birth to their daughter, Rachael, in the late 70s and Liz and I were asked to be her godparents. Sadly, Chrissy and Colin divorced when Rachael was eight years old, and Colin moved out of the family home to live with his parents in Worthing.

This was a dark period for Colin and the relationship between Colin, Chrissy and Rachael soured badly and from that time on Rachael had little or nothing to do with Colin. This hurt him deeply and sadly the relationship never recovered.

We all know that Colly-Olly was an archetypal eccentric throughout his life and his career followed an equally eccentric path. Having left Haileybury (where, by coincidence, he was a peer of Chris Gray and Sandy Ross) he chose a mix of banking and market trading based in London, New York and Madrid.

Despite many people, including myself, enquiring as to what he actually did in these fields of endeavour, no one became any the wiser, but it has to be said that he appeared to spend a limited time in each of the many financial institutions.

Cricket was Colly's life and, apart from his later representations on local councils, he devoted much of his spare time to it and particularly coaching young cricketers at Ferring Cricket Club.

He was a devoted member and Vice-President of the Sussex Martlets, playing a huge number of games each season for many years.

Among many hilarious memories of Colly-Olly, I remember the following as if it were yesterday:

Arundel Castle 1974. Colly arrived at the ground driving a Citroen Maserati with “British Ski Coach” emblazoned on a magnetic strip on the back of the car. This became a trait with Colly, for in later years the “British Ski Coach” morphed into “Madrid Cricket Club Coach” followed by “Sussex Cricket Coach”.

Martlets v. Storrington c. 1976. Colly arrived at the ground with his pet budgerigar on his shoulder. Martlets batted first and part way through the innings, the bird flew off Colly's shoulders towards the wicket whereupon it landed on leg stump at the bowler's end. Match halted whilst all concerned cavorted around the square in an attempt to capture the bird. Needless to say, the bird avoided capture and flew off into nearby trees hotly pursued by Colly. The match resumed; the bird was caught.

Martlets v. Haslemere – early 80s. Colly was living in Notting Hill and this fixture fell on the weekend of the Notting Hill Carnival. Colly arrived late in order to make a grand entrance to the ground with his car festooned with bunting of flags representing each West Indian Island together with many multicoloured balloons and playing at full volume a CD of Bob Marley and Reggae music. All in honour of the Carnival.

Arundel Castle, late 70s. Martlets take the field with Colly sporting 3 pheasant feathers in his hair that he had secreted under his sweater until walking out. Skipper immediately reprimanded him and told him to get rid of them. At lunch, Colly was taken aside by Billy Griffith and given a stern talking to.

I skippered Colly in the annual Robert Green XI v. Martlets in the 80s. Before play, Colin told me that he had mastered a new run-up for his bowling and intended to give it a try in this match. I put him on first change and to our astonishment he went to the end of his run, performed a perfect pirouette and proceeded to bowl. At the time it seemed ridiculous, but Colly being Colly he proved to be ahead of his time, as in the intervening years we have witnessed similar displays from Morne Morkel, Nathan Ellis and others.

Colly – a good man with a heart of gold, a cause of great mirth over the years, infuriating at times but impossible not to like. May he continue to pirouette on the hallowed turf of the hereafter.

Adrian Ford

Although not a member of the Club, we would like to record the death of **SIR PETER HORDERN** (1929-2024). Our records show he played a couple of times for us (scoring 95 and 5). He was a Horsham M.P. from 1964-97 and died on his 95th birthday.
<https://www.aahorsham.co.uk/content/peterhordern>

COLIN SHARMAN (1930-2024)



Colin Sharman was a notable cricketer, a fast-scoring, consistent and most successful left-handed batsman, particularly effective with back-foot strokes on the off side with the square cut and backfoot drive. Many an opening bowler retired discomfited. His consistency is exemplified by this run of scores for Middleton in 1953: 78, 79, 61, 69, 59 and 33* – typical success in the extensive August programme.

He was a most effective, encouraging and sympathetic captain of Middleton for several years, organising a good day for all. He was also swift, alert, a sure catch and an attacking fielder, especially on the off side. Having him, Peter Robinson and Peter Fuente fielding in the covers gave bowlers like me a brilliant and most effective shield.

He was a centurion for the Martlets in late 1950s, though playing less when he began his most successful headmastership of Westbourne House, Shopwyke.

It was my pleasure to be often asked to share days of golf with him at West Sussex. Of his high skill at squash, I am not qualified to write.

Colin was always a delightful companion, assuring jollity always prevailed.

Brian O'Gorman

HUBERT DOGGART PLAQUE



In March 2024, a blue plaque in honour of Hubert was unveiled in the presence of his wife Sue and granddaughter Clare.

Hubert and Sue lived at 19 Westgate, Chichester for 33 years. This is part of the citation that was read out:

"Hubert was undoubtedly an all-rounder – and a man of formidable intellect. His speeches were always meticulously prepared, and he would address the assembled company with booming voice and arms



waving. Wine glasses and nearby guests were in dangerous territory! Microphones were superfluous!

...His Memorial Service in Chichester Cathedral was packed. There was not a spare seat. The cathedral over-flowed with family, friends, former Test cricketers and Sussex players, locals, and Hubert's many former pupils who all wanted to say farewell to the man who had inspired them in so many different ways to go out and face the world."

Hubert Doggart, M.C.C. President and Sussex Martlets Vice-President was remembered in the 2018 edition of this magazine.

SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

We are very grateful to Stuart Ritchie and his company, Ritchie Phillips Chartered Accountants, for their contributions as principal sponsors and welcome his on-going support of the Club through other channels.

The existing three-year arrangement has now come to an end, and we are pleased to announce a new three-year principal sponsor – Hub Telecoms Ltd.



Martlets stalwart John Goodacre is a director of Hub Telecoms. He said: "Being a Sussex Martlet has brought me

so much pleasure over the years – playing proper cricket on some of the most beautiful grounds alongside great people: what's not to like. I am delighted to be able to put something back into the Club and am keen to support the continued development of the Women & Girls section, state school involvement and our partnership with the Crawley Hub. In the meantime, I am looking forward to an exciting new season playing for the Over 40s."

For more information on Hub Telecoms, visit www.hubtelecoms.co.uk

David Whelpton

Photo credits: Sue Doggart, Robert Forster, Peter Graves, Malcolm Griffin, Alan Newman, S.C.C.C., Paul Walker.

A full colour version of this magazine can be found on sussexmartlets.co.uk
Ideas and articles for future editions of *The Martlet* are gratefully received.
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