

HISTORY OF THE SUSSEX MARTLETS GOLFING SOCIETY

Introduction

The history of Sussex Martlets golf was first recorded by Dan Mathews back in 1965. Forty years later Ham Whitty provided an update to mark the centenary of the cricket club. The history of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society is now recorded in this living document, the work on which commenced in 2020 by Peter Hartland Sussex Martlets Historian and Robert Forster Hon Sec Sussex Martlets Golfing Society.

Until the work on this living document commenced it was thought that the date of the first Sussex Martlets golf match against Littlehampton was believed to be on the 27th October 1929 as evidenced by the score sheet below. However, our research for the living document suggests otherwise, please read on.....

SUSSEX MARTLETS GOLFING SOCIETY.					
CLUB MATCH					
Played at <u>LITTLEHAMPTON</u>					
SUSSEX MARTLETS G. S. versus <u>LITTLEHAMPTON</u> G.C.					
Date <u>27th October, 1929.</u>					
SINGLES.					
I	C. H. Armstrong	Score	I	J. K. Mathews	Score
	D. F. Ranson	0		D.D. Grant White	6/5 1
2			2	D. Watson	
3	T. Crunden	0	3	Hon. O. Scott	6/5 1
	R. Large				
4			4	W. R. Riley	
5	F. L. Huxtable	0	5	E.F.B. Moore	2/1 1
	A.S.G. Scott				
6			6	A. H. Goodall	
7	A.L. Furneaux	0	7	A.E.R. Gilligan	0
	D.S. Petty				
8			8		
		0			3
FOURSOMES.					
I	{		I	{	
	Armstrong & Ranson	0		Watson & Scott	3/2 1
2	{		2	{	
	Crunden & Large	0		Mathews & Grant White	3/2 1
3	{		3	{	
	Huxtable & Scott	4/3 1		Riley & Moore	0
4	{		4	{	
	Furneaux & Petty	0		Goodall & Gilligan	4/3 1
TOTAL		1	TOTAL		6
Result:- SUSSEX MARTLETS Golf Club wins by <u>5</u> Matches					

Before The Great War

The Sussex Martlets cricket club was founded in 1905 under the name of The Hove Long Vacation Club, with an aim to provide good cricket for local amateurs during the summer holidays. In 1907 the club was renamed Sussex Martlets.

The new name was not original. A Sussex Martlets football club ran from 1887 until 1895. In November 1887 it provided several players to the Sussex County Association team that faced Northamptonshire at Preston Park in Brighton. The club mainly played fellow amateur teams from southern England, but also occasionally the likes of Arsenal, Preston and Nottingham Forest. Home matches were often staged on cricket grounds such as Hove, The Saffrons and Sheffield Park.

Seven Sussex Martlets footballers represented England: George Brann, George Cotterill, Edmund Currey, CB Fry, Leslie Gay, Elphinstone Jackson and Frank Saunders. Fry and Gay also played cricket for England, while Brann and Cotterill did so for Sussex. Brann and Gay were fine golfers, the latter representing Devon. Another member of the football club was actor and Test cricketer Aubrey Smith. George Brann is below pictured (centre) at Hastings in 1898. He was secretary of the Home Park Golf Club in Surbiton for twenty years.



There was no formal link between the old football team and the cricket club that formed in 1905. But there was a link of sorts. CB Fry was a member of both organisations, and so was Frank Gresson, a founder member of the cricket club. The renaming of the cricket club would not have been a coincidence.

There was also an earlier link between Martlets cricket and golf than had previously been believed. Previous historians of the club did not have the luxury of digitised old local newspapers. One such publication, The Sussex Agricultural Express, carried the following report on 21 November 1908 of a golf match between Lewes Golf Club and a team named Sussex Martlets.

GOLF : LEWES v. SUSSEX MARTLETS.			
Playing on the links, Cliffe Hill, Lewes, on Saturday, the county town club defeated the Sussex Martlets by two games. Scores :—			
LEWES.		SUSSEX MARTLETS.	
B. J. Saunders	.. 1	Hon. O. Scott ..	0
T. J. Farncombe	.. ½	A. R. Kenyon Stow ..	1
D. Cronin ..	.. 1	C. W. Dilke ..	0
W. F. Ingram	.. 0	H. L. Havers ..	1
H. E. Currey ..	.. 1	F. S. Inodera ..	0
O. C. M. Miller	.. 1	H. F. Watson ..	½
H. J. Brill ..	.. ½	A. S. L. Perfect ..	½
	<u>4½</u>		<u>2½</u>

The Martlets players belonged to the golf clubs shown below:

Hon. O Scott: Crowborough Beacon

A.R. Kenyon Stow: Brighton & Hove

C.W. Dilke: Brighton & Hove. Also Cambridge University.

H.L. Havers: Littlehampton (2nd and 3rd teams)

F.S. Inodera: Unknown. Played cricket for Dale House near Haywards Heath

H.F. Watson: Lewes

A.S.L. Perfect: Lewes



The Club House, 1923. Photo: Reeves of Lewes.

A photograph of the Lewes Clubhouse (The location of the very first Sussex Martlets match) taken in 1923 from 'The History of Lewes Golf Club 1896-1996'

Two weeks later the Sussex Martlets golfers were in action again at Willingdon, this time winning by three to two and a quarter. Osmund "Om" Scott was the only Martlet to play in both matches.

GOLF.			
Willingdon (Eastbourne) Golf Club.			
WILLINGDON G.C. v. SUSSEX MARTLETS.			
Played at Willingdon on Saturday with the following result :—			
WILLINGDON.		MARTLETS.	
J. F. Fishwick	0	Hon. O. Scott	0
H. A. Beaton	14	Capt. Armstrong	0
O. P. Tidman	0	G. H. Peacock	1
G. R. Hunt	0	E. Matheson	1
F. W. Sparrow	0	Capt. Campion	0
R. J. Cowrie	0	G. E. Madera	1
W. G. Willoughby ..	0	H. P. Jameson	0
S. A. Hughes	1	W. Newcombe	0
	<hr/> 24		<hr/> 3

Peacock, Matheson and Newcombe all played for Royal Eastbourne. Matheson also turned out for Willingdon. Peacock had been a scratch golfer in 1905. By 1908 his handicap was +4. Matheson played off 3 in 1908. Armstrong represented Somerset at golf. He had a handicap of 4 in 1908. Captain Campion played at Pyecombe.

The cricket and golf teams shared the same name, but were they part of the same entity? It is almost certain that they were. In 1908 Lord Willingdon was about to become president of the cricket club. Havers had represented the cricketers in 1907 and was leading run-scorer in 1909. Scott would make his Martlets cricketing debut in 1910 and was pretty handy at both sports, playing first-class cricket for Gloucestershire and finishing runner-up in the 1905 Amateur Golf Championship of Great Britain.

Peacock was Yorkshire Amateur Champion in 1896, Sussex Amateur Champion in 1899, 1906 and 1913, and runner-up in 1901 and 1920. In his history book Fairways In Ashdown Forest, Colin Strachan describes Peacock as "the father of Sussex County golf".

Captain Armstrong won the Sussex Amateur competition in 1911, as mentioned below.

GOLF.	
SUSSEX MARTLETS BEAT LITTLEHAMPTON.	
<p>Playing a match with the Sussex Martlets on Saturday, the Littlehampton Club were unfortunate in being unable to play their best team, several players not being available. The visitors on the other hand, brought a very strong side, including the amateur champion of Sussex, Captain Armstrong, and the result—a narrow win for the Martlets by 7 to 5—was a very creditable performance for the Littlehampton team.</p> <p>On the same day at Worthing the second team met with a heavy reverse at the hands of Worthing II. Scores:—</p>	
LITTLEHAMPTON.	SUSSEX MARTLETS.
SINGLES.	
H. P. Collins	0
F. E. Rowe	1
H. C. Butler	0
H. L. Havers	1
F. Newman	0
H. Blunt	0
G. H. Beechey	1
G. Frisch	1
D. W. S. Smith	1
J. S. Armstrong	0
C. W. Dilke	1
F. W. J. Merlin	0
B. B. Green	1
D. A. Cox	1
J. M. Hay Grant	0
J. C. Partridge	0
FOURSOMES.	
Collins	Smith
Rowe	0
Newman	Merlin
Blunt	0
Butler	Armstrong
Havers	0
	Green
	Dilke
	Cox

The Chichester Observer confirms how strong Martlets golf was at the time. The same report appeared in The Bognor Regis Observer on 20th November 1911

Before the outbreak of war in 1914 the Sussex Martlets golfers had also played matches against Seaford, Southdown, Piltdown, Pyecombe, West Hove and Worthing. Results below. Seaford was the strongest in the club in the county.

1908

14 November - Lewes. Lost

28 November - Willingdon. Won

1909

16 October - Seaford. Lost

13 November - Pyecombe. Won

1910

1 October - Southdown. Lost

15 October - Seaford. Lost

29 October - Worthing. Won

Date unknown - Piltdown. Result unknown

1911

14 November - Littlehampton. Won

1912

16 November - West Hove. Won

1913

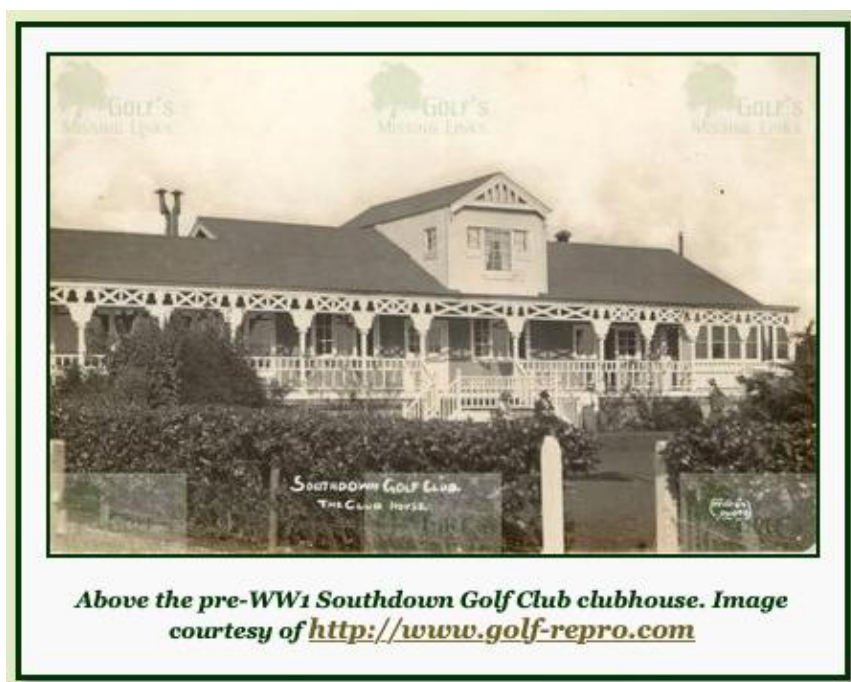
29 March. West Hove. Result unknown.

Between 1908 and 1914 there were at least 42 golf clubs in Sussex: Beckley, Bexhill, Birling Manor, Bognor Regis, Brighton & Hove, Burgess Hill, Burwash, Chichester, Christ's Hospital, Cooden Beech, Cowdray Park, Crowborough Beacon, Cuckfield, Dyke Park, East Brighton, Gatwick, Goodwood, Hastings & St Leonards, Heathfield, Holtye, Horsham, Lewes, Littlehampton, Newhaven, Piltdown, Pyecombe, Royal Ashdown Forest, Royal Eastbourne, Rye, St Leonards & East Sussex, Seaford, Seaford Head, Selsey, Shernfold Park, Southdown, Summerdale, Sweetwoods, Wadhurst Castle, West Hove, West Park Handcross, Willingdon and Worthing.

The top clubs competed each year in the Sussex Amateur Championship team event which began in 1899. By 1914 Seaford had won it eight times, Royal Ashdown Forest four, Royal Eastbourne three and Brighton & Hove once. Since then, Worthing have been most successful with 21 wins, followed by West Sussex, with thirteen.

In 1914 the top twelve clubs entered and finished in the following order: 1 Seaford, 2 Royal Eastbourne, 3 Royal Ashdown Forest, 4 Crowborough Beacon, 5 Worthing, 6 Brighton & Hove, 7 East Brighton, 8 Willingdon, 9 Southdown, 10 Goodwood, 11 Bexhill, 12 Littlehampton.

A photograph of the old clubhouse at Southdown.



Golf clubs of which a few pre-1914 Sussex Martlets players were members. Those in italics only played cricket for the Martlets pre-war.

Brighton & Hove - AH Kenyon-Stow

Crowborough Beacon - O Scott

Cuckfield - Major P Crawford

East Brighton - DA Cox, JF Gore-Little, JC Partridge

Littlehampton - HL Havers, *FE Rowe* (Both played in the 2nd and 3rd teams)

Pyecombe - Capt R Champion

Royal Eastbourne - GH Peacock, *Ernest Smith*

Southdown - *BK Sundius-Smith*, *DF Sundius-Smith* (also West Hove)

West Hove - FWJ Merlin, *DF Sundius-Smith*, DT Sundius-Smith

Willingdon - JF Fishwick

Worthing - *H Mathews*, *KP Mathews*

1920s and 1930s

The cricketing Martlets returned to the field relatively soon after the war, in July 1919. It would seem that the golfers took rather longer. The first newspaper report is of a match at Worthing (course pictured below) on 17 April 1926. The team included three former or future England cricket captains, Arthur and Harold Gilligan, and Freddie Calthorpe who founded the County Cricketers Golfing Society.

GOLF.			
HONOURS EVEN.			
WORTHING DRAW WITH THE SUSSEX MARTLETS.			
Representatives of the Worthing Golf Club met the Sussex Martlets on the Worthing links on Saturday, when an interesting match ended in a draw, each side winning four of the singles and two of the Foursomes. Details:			
WORTHING—SUSSEX MARTLETS.			
SINGLES.			
D. D. Grant White	J. K. Mathews		
(3 and 2) ... 1	...	...	0
W. H. Simpson	A. H. Goodall		
(4 and 3) ... 1	...	...	0
J. Forbes	Hon. F. C. Cal-		
(3 and 2) ... 1	thorpe ...	...	0
H. P. Roberts	A. E. R. Gilli-		
(3 and 2) ... 1	gan ...	...	0
F. Evelyn	A. H. H. Gilli-		
... .. 0	gan (4 and 3) ...	...	1
G. Trimming	Capt. B. B. Green		
... .. 0	(2 and 1) ...	...	1
T. S. Bailey	Capt. Pickard		
... .. 0	Cambridge (2 up) ...	...	1
H. G. H. Butcher	F. E. Rowe		
... .. 0	(2 and 1) ...	...	1

Something of a sensation occurred at Littlehampton on Tuesday 16 April 1929 when for the first time a representative Sussex Amateur team defeated a team of Sussex Professional golfers. The score was fifteen and a half to fourteen and a half. Of the twenty amateurs selected, no fewer than seven were Martlets: D.D. Grant-White, A.H. Hollins, Harold Mathews, G.H. Peacock, Osmund Scott, Ernest Smith and Darsie Watson.



While Sussex Martlets cricket club had played over 500 matches by the end of the 1920s, the number of golf matches recorded to that time stood at twenty.

GOLF GLEANINGS.

The "Eight" at Waterlooville Twice Holed in One.

The eighth hole at Waterlooville was twice holed in one stroke last week. The feat was accomplished by both Dr. D. G. Cooper, in winning the weekly sweep, and by the resident professional, B. Daish. Incidentally in the same round Daish broke his own record for the nine holes, his score being: 3, 4, 3, 5, 3, 4, 2, 1, 4—29.

Local Play.

Hayling Island.—Ladies' section, 1st Division, Monthly Medal: 1, Mrs. Gilbert, 88 less 14—74; 2, Miss Wales, 103 less 18—85. 2nd Division: 1, Miss Waymouth, 107 less 21—86; 2, Miss Robin, 107 less 19—88. Men's section, Monthly Medal, Senior: A. P. Patey (8), one down. Junior: Rear-Admiral Moorshead (18), five down.

Hindhead.—Monthly Medal: C. Turner, 87 less 13—74; W. R. Tanner, 90 less 13—77; L. Gardiner-Hill, 83 less 5—78. In a match at Hindhead yesterday the Old Malvernian G.S. beat the Staff College (Camberley) by 8½ points to 3½. Hindhead yesterday beat a team representing the Oxford University Golf Club (Southfield) by 6½ points to 5½.

Liphook.—Liphook entertained a team of the Sussex Martlets G.S. in a match by foursomes on Saturday, and the home club, after sharing the morning series at two games each, took three of the four afternoon matches, to win on the day by five games to three.

Rowlands Castle.—Monthly spoon winners: Silver division, Mrs. White, 98 less 13—85; bronze division, Mrs. Dashwood, 103 less 30—73.

Waterlooville.—Men's monthly spoon, A. H. Watson. Weekly sweep, Dr. D. G. Cooper.

The first newspaper reference to the current title of "Sussex Martlets Golfing Society" appears in the Hampshire Telegraph and Post's "Golf Gleanings" on 23^r November 1933 for a match at Liphook. Subsequent reports usually continued to refer to the team as Sussex Martlets. To begin with at least, the longer name was mainly used within the club to distinguish golfers from cricketers.

Some results of Martlets golf matches between the wars:

1926

17 April - Worthing. Drawn.

23 October - Crowborough Beacon. Won

1927

16 October - Haywards Heath. Lost

29 October - Worthing. Drawn.

1928

7 October - Worthing. Lost

21 October - Haywards Heath. Won

17 November - Liphook. Lost

1929

27 October. Littlehampton. Won (First match in Sussex Martlets Golfing Society Records book)

1930

5 October 1930: Worthing. Won

19 October 1930: Littlehampton. Won

1931

17 November 1931: Goodwood. Lost

1932

6 November 1932: Worthing. Lost

1933

22 October 1933: Worthing. Won

3 and 4 November 1933: Liphook. Lost

19 November 1933: West Sussex. Lost

26 November 1933: East Blatchington. Drawn (Halved)

1934

9 and 10 November 1934: Liphook. Lost

23 November 1934: Piltdown. Won

25 November 1934: Littlehampton. Lost

1935

12 October 1935: Piltdown. Lost

17 November 1935: Littlehampton. Lost

1936

29 March 1936: Southdown. Won

October 1936 (Exact date unknown): Piltdown. Lost.

25 October 1936: Worthing. Lost

15 November 1936: Littlehampton. Result unknown

29 November 1936: Goodwood. Lost

HAYWARDS HEATH GOLF CLUB.

NARROW VICTORY OVER THE SUSSEX MARTLETS.

A. E. R. Gilligan, the county cricket captain, was included in the Sussex Martlets' team which visited the Haywards Heath Golf Club for a match on Sunday, when the home players proved successful in a close finish. The scores were as follow:—

SINGLES.

SUSSEX MARTLETS.		HAYWARDS HEATH.	
D. D. Grant White	0	Darsie Watson (3 & 2)	1
J. K. Matthews (7 & 6)	1	A. N. Hales	0
Hon. O. Scott (3 & 2)	1	S. Leslie	0
Capt. B. B. Green	0	Capt. D. M. Crowe (5 & 3)	1
A. E. R. Gilligan (3 & 2)	1	G. C. Wadham	0
L. V. Donne	0	J. M. Lee (3 & 2)	1
Capt. M. H. Ravenhill	0	H. S. Gunson (4 & 3)	1
E. B. Woollan	0	W. B. Trethewey	0
	3		4

FOURSOMES.

Grant White and Matthews (4 & 2)	1	Watson and Hales	0
Scott and Green (7 & 6)	1	Leslie and Crowe	0
Gilligan and Donne	0	Wadham and Lee (1 up)	1
Ravenhill and Woollan	0	Gunson and Trethewey (3 & 2)	1
	5		6

The Haywards Heath club dates from 1922. A Martlet member there was Darsie Watson who won the Sussex Amateur Championship in 1932 and 1934. He also represented the county at cricket and scored 216 for the Martlets in 1919, the second highest-ever innings for the club.

Sussex Martlet Elite Golf & Sussex Martlets Honours Board

England Amateur International

Hon. O (Osmund) Scott 1902, 1905, 1906

British Amateur Championship Runner-up

Hon. O Scott 1905

Sussex Amateur Champions

G.H. Peacock 1899, 1906, 1913. (Runner-up 1901, 1920)

Captain J.S. Armstrong 1911

D.F. Sundius-Smith 1920

D (Darsie) Watson 1932, 1934

D.D. (Donald) Grant-White 1936, 1954

J.H. (Jack) Langmead 1949. (Runner-up 1950)

Sussex Amateur Championship - Other Runners-up

E. (Ernest) Smith 1913, 1925

H. (Harold) Mathews 1921

G.H. Lintott 1929

B.L. Sundius-Smith 1930

J.K. (Ken) Mathews 1933

K.B. (Kenneth) Scott 1936

W.N.F. (Warwick) Sabey 1977

Represented Sussex Amateurs

H.J.C. Collett, A.E.R. (Arthur) Gilligan, D.D. Grant-White, A.H. Hollins, J.H. Langmead, G.H. Lintott, J.O. Lintott, H. Mathews, J.B.F. (Dan) Mathews, J.K. Mathews, K.P.A. (Pat) Mathews, T.C.H. (Tom) Mathews, G.H. Peacock, N.R.M. (Nigel) Philcox, D. (David) Richardson, W.N.F. Sabey, Hon. O Scott, E. Smith, E.A. Snow, D.F. Sundius-Smith, D. Watson.

Other Honours

Kenya Amateur Championship

TCH Mathews 1955

Hampshire Amateur Championship Runner-up

P Hunt

Father and Son Foursomes Champions, West Hill Course, Woking

Hon O Scott and KB Scott 1934, 1937

JK Mathews and KPA Mathews 1956

Runners-up

JH Langmead and D (Donald) Langmead 1956

Sussex Martlets Category One Golfers

Osmund Scott +3, 1905
Harold Mathews +2, 1922
JK (Ken) Matthews +2, 1922
Donald Grant-White +1, 1932
DF Sundius-Smith +1, 1910
AH Hollins scratch, 1928
Jack Langmead scratch 1939
GH Peacock scratch, 1905
Ernest Smith scratch, 1929
BH (Brian) Valentine scratch, 1930's
Darsie Watson scratch, 1937
Kevin Bartlett scratch 1990
Julian Hunt scratch, 2024
George Brann (Martlets footballer) 1, 1906
GH Lintott 2, 1938
William Forster 2.3, 2024
Simon Bulteel 2.6, 2025
Kenneth Scott 3, 1934
David Tod 3, 1973
Neil Martin 3.8, 2000 (Cricket Blue, Oxford)
JS Armstrong 4, 1908. Played golf for Somerset.
Guy Baxter 4.0
Arthur Gilligan 4, 1947
Robert Forster 4, 2000
Andy Rodgers, 4.7, 1996
CW Dilke 5, 1900
Peter Baxter 5.0 (brother of Guy)

Notes on Some Prominent Sussex Martlets Golfing Members

G.H. Peacock

George Herbert Peacock is generally accepted as being the father of the Sussex County Golf Union. A Yorkshireman, he won the Yorkshire Amateur Championship in 1896, beating H Steel 6&5 at Cleveland Golf Club, before moving down to Sussex and winning further amateur titles. In 1910 a print appeared entitled "GH Peacock, Edwardian Professional Golfer." That might cast doubt on his amateur status.

He taught classics at Eastbourne College and won 27 tournaments at the Royal Eastbourne club. The last of these came after a round of 72 when he was 66 years old.



The Hon Osmund Scott (24th March 1876 – 9th September 1948)

Osmund "Om" Scott played in the first two Sussex Martlets golf matches in 1908 and was still turning out thirty years later. He represented the Martlets at cricket between 1910 and 1928, finishing both leading run-scorer and wicket-taker in 1914. He also played first-class cricket for Gloucestershire.

He represented the England Amateur golfers against Scotland in 1902, 1905 and 1906, and was runner-up in the 1905 Amateur Championship of Great Britain. Scott and his fifth son Kenneth won the Fathers and Sons competition at West Hill in both 1934 and 1937.

Scott became captain of the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in 1909. His wife, Hon Mrs O Scott, captained the Ladies six times in 1910, 1921, 1925, 1929, 1931 and 1934. Below is an extract from "The Life and Times of Crowborough Beacon Golf Club 1895 – 1995".



1909 The Hon. Osmund Scott, (24th March 1876 - 9th September 1948). Osmund Scott was the son of John Scott, 3rd Earl of Eldon, and the fifth of seven children. He attended Winchester College and served with the Royal Army Service Corps in the First World War between 1916 and 1918. His siblings were Lady Margaret Scott, an early women's golf champion, (See **Chapter VI**) and Michael Scott, who won the Amateur Championship in 1933. In 1906 he married Mary Cecilia Stuart, and himself had seven children.

He played first class cricket for Gloucestershire in 1905 as a right hand bat and slow left arm orthodox bowler. Scott was also an excellent amateur golfer being runner-up in the 1905 Amateur Championship and representing England Amateurs against Scotland on three occasions 1902, 1905 and 1906. Osmund Scott was elected Captain at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in 1909.

With thanks to Crowborough Beacon Golf Club for the loan of "Crowborough Beacon Golf Club then and now- celebrating the 125th anniversary of the club in 2020

Picture below of the English and Scottish amateur teams in 1902. Courtesy of *Fairways in Ashdown Forest*.



First International Match, 1902

Scotland (top)

Standing: J Robb, F MacKenzie, J R Gairdner,

C E Dick, J Graham Jnr, E Blackwell

Sitting: R Maxwell, L Balfour Melville,

S Mure Fergusson, J E Lindsay

England

Standing: B Darwin, J A T Bramston,

H C Ellis, Hon. O Scott, S H Fry, G F Smith

Sitting: H G Hutchinson, John Ball,

Harold Hilton, C Hutchings

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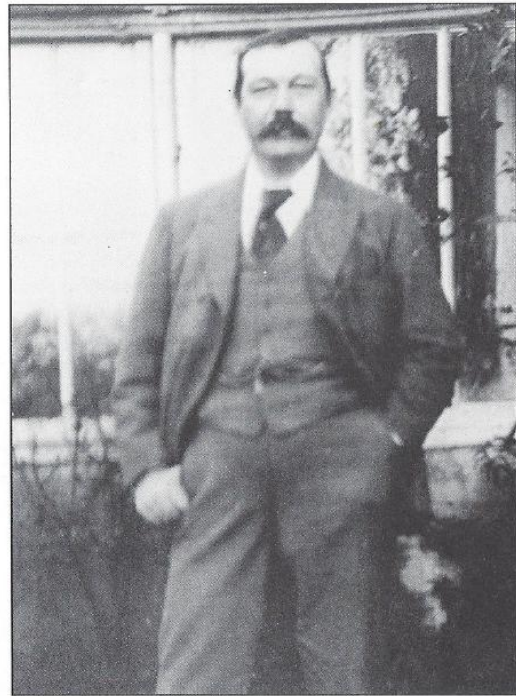
Scott's sister, Lady Margaret, won the first three British Ladies Amateurs events in 1893, 1894 and 1895. But the best golfer in the family was brother Michael, who won the first Australian Open in 1904, and again in 1907. He also picked up four Australian Amateur titles and six Victorian ones. In 1933, at the age of 54, he won the Amateur Championship of Great Britain and the following year captained the Walker Cup team, still the oldest man to take part in the event.

CAPTAIN		LADY CAPTAIN	
1895	H.C. Malden		
6	F.H. Gresson		
7	G.L. Greig		
8	A. Watson-Griffin		
9	D.C. Wickham		
1900	G.S. Ashby-Darby		
1	A.E. Tylor		
2	H.H. Goldfinch		
3	M.L. Mackintosh		
4	L. Dennis		
5	H.E. Sheppard	Miss Gurney Champion	
6	R.B. Limbery-Buse	Mrs Chalk	
7	A. Chalk	Miss Stuart	
8	J.W. Sidey	Miss Mackintosh	
9	Hon. Osmund Scott	Mrs Gresson	
1910	Sir A. Conan Doyle	The Hon Mrs O. Scott	
11	Col. G. Rumsey	Lady Conan Doyle	
12	Hon. R. Brougham	Miss M.E. Phillips	
13	J.R. Birnie	Mrs Cordy Simpson	
14	W.A.D. Evanson	Mrs Evanson	
15	"	"	
16	"	"	
17	"	No Captain	
18	Major F. St. Quintin	No Captain	
19	M.C.H. Ashby	Mrs Evanson	
1920	Rigby Swift, K.C.	Mrs Paxton	
21	Hon Mr Justice Swift	The Hon Mrs O. Scott	
22	A.E.Newbould, M.P.	"	
23	Lt. Col. J.W. Hamilton	"	
24	G.N.Watney	Miss M.D. Phillips	
25	R.H.Martin	The Hon Mrs O. Scott	
26	H.J.Mulliner	Miss M.E.R. Green	
27	Maj.Gen.Sir H.B. Williams	"	
28	E.F. Medcalf	Miss E.B. Gardner	
29	H.L.Boyd	The Hon Mrs O. Scott	
1930	J.D. Smart	Mrs Sharp	
31	W. Smalley	The Hon Mrs O. Scott	
32	W. Stuckey	Miss G.M. Stubbs	
33	G.D. Lyell	Mrs Eckersley	

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, KStJ, DL (22nd May 1859 – 7th July 1930)

Arthur Conan Doyle was one of eight founder members of Sussex Martlets. Born in Edinburgh, he was educated in England at Stonyhurst college, Lancashire and the Jesuit school Stella Matutina in Felfkirch, Austria. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh Medical School and also practical botany at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. After graduating with Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery (M.B. C.M.) degrees from the University of Edinburgh in 1881, he was ship's surgeon on the SS Mayumba during the voyage to the West African coast

He completed his Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree in 1885 and started in medical practice in Plymouth. In 1892 he set up his General Practice at 1 Bush Villas in Elm Grove, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. The practice was not successful and while waiting for patients Doyle returned to writing fiction

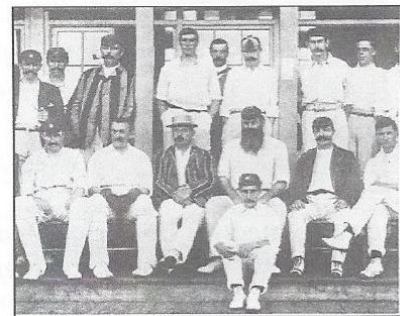


Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Arthur Conan Doyle was a good all-round sportsman. While living in Southsea, he played football in goal for Portsmouth F.C., an amateur side, under the pseudonym A.C. Smith. He was also a keen cricketer and between 1900 and 1907 he played ten first class matches for MCC. His highest score, in 1902 against London County Cricket Club at the Crystal Palace, was 43. The players in the match are pictured here.

Conan Doyle also played for a number of amateur cricket teams, such as the Allahakbarries and the Authors XI alongside fellow writers J.M. Barrie, P.G. Wodehouse and A.A. Milne, as well as for Sussex Martlets.

With his second wife, Jean, Conan Doyle moved from Blackheath to Crowborough where they lived from 1907 until his death in July 1930. Sir Arthur was also a keen golfer and was elected captain of Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in 1910.



Conan Doyle died of a heart attack in 1930 the age of 71 and it is said he died sitting in his favourite chair in his bedroom overlooking his beloved view across Crowborough Beacon golf course.

With thanks to Crowborough Beacon Golf Club for the loan of "Crowborough Beacon Golf Club Then And Now" - celebrating the 125th anniversary of the club in 2020

The Sundius-Smith Family

The family was prominent in both golf and cricket. There were DF, DG, DW, BL, RJ and WF. The last sometimes appeared in cricket scorecards as WFS Smith.

Spring Meeting May 5th 1911.

"Maxwell Davis" Cup.

36 Hole Electic.

<i>J. E. Dell.</i>	<i>71.</i>	<i>Sc.</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>W. Reules.</i>	<i>83- 5.</i>	<i>77½</i>
<i>C. A. Pettifer</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>J. L. Darrell</i>	<i>84 6½</i>	<i>77½</i>
<i>A. E. M. Webster</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>1½</i>	<i>72½</i>	<i>S. H. S. Smith</i>	<i>83 5.</i>	<i>78.</i>
<i>A. Brown</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>Sc.</i>	<i>73.</i>	<i>J. A. Amtee</i>	<i>86 .8.</i>	<i>78.</i>
<i>W. C. Hopkins</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>73.</i>	<i>W. J. Wooden</i>	<i>84 5</i>	<i>79.</i>
<i>C. O. Broome</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>73.</i>	<i>J. K. Rley.</i>	<i>85 5</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>C. White</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>73.</i>	<i>P. C. Lickle</i>	<i>85 6</i>	<i>79.</i>
<i>A. L. Lambert</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>74.</i>	<i>L. E. Edlin</i>	<i>86 4</i>	<i>79.</i>
<i>P. C. Hill</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>75.</i>	<i>A. Moore</i>	<i>85 5½</i>	<i>79½</i>
<i>J. W. Gaskill</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>B. C. Greening.</i>	<i>87 4</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>W. D. Mellersh</i>	<i>78.</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>75.</i>	<i>J. Petrie</i>	<i>88 4½</i>	<i>80½</i>
<i>M. O. Nixon</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>1½</i>	<i>75½</i>	<i>A. G. White</i>	<i>83 2</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>J. D. Thoroughgood</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>1½</i>	<i>74½.</i>	<i>A. Moore.</i>	<i>86 5</i>	<i>81.</i>
<i>J. W. Edlin</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>W. J. Edlin</i>	<i>90 9</i>	<i>81.</i>
<i>C. Burt-Brill</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>5½</i>	<i>76½</i>			
<i>R. A. Russell</i>	<i>85.</i>	<i>8.</i>	<i>77.</i>			
<i>D. F. S. Smith</i>	<i>70 + 7½</i>		<i>77½</i>			

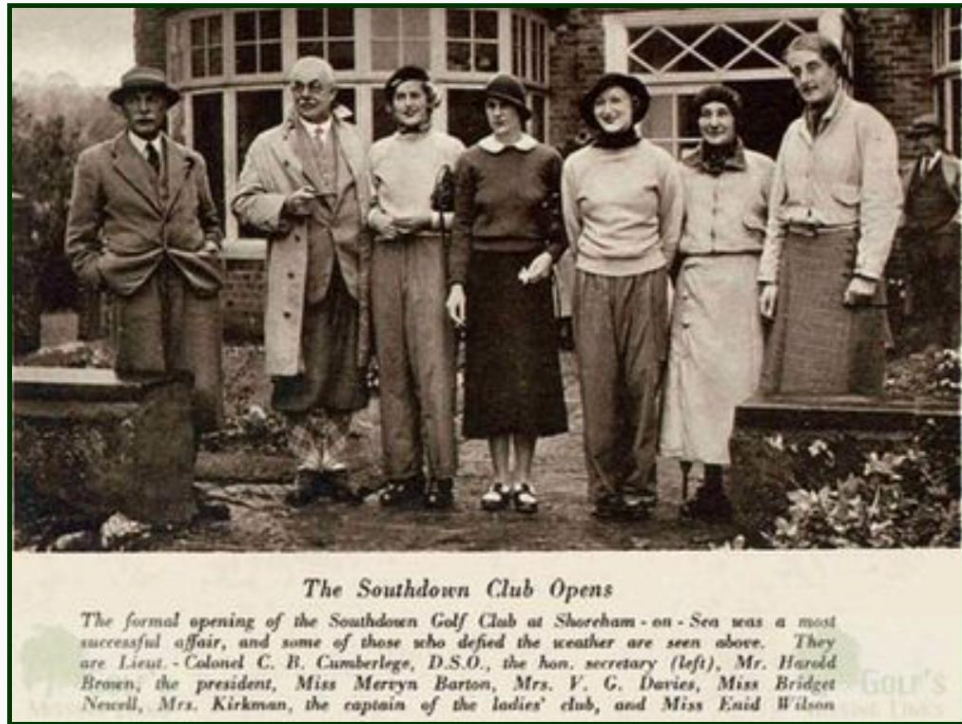
Six unreturned cards.

J. E. Dell won tie. and wins cup outright

This is a photograph of a page from the 1914 competition records of Southdown Golf Club where it mentions D.F. Sundius Smith having recorded a Gross score of 70 in the Maxwell Davies Cup.

Lieutenant Colonel C. B. Cumberledge D.S.O.

Was a member of Southdown Golf Club (Shoreham), first played for the Sussex Martlets against Goodwood on 13th November 1932. Cumberledge went on to become Secretary of the Southdown Golf Club whom the Martlets played back in 1910.



Cumberledge can be seen (left) here in 1935 with Mr Harold Brown the President of Southdown Golf Club, Miss Mervyn Barton, Mrs V.G. Davies, Mrs Bridgit Newell, Mrs Kirkham and Miss Enid Wilson. Wilson (15 March 1910 – 14 January 1996) was regarded to be the best lady golfer in the British Isles in the 1930's after Joyce Wetherhead, who played in the inaugural match to open the West Sussex Golf Club in 1930/31.

A.E.R. Gilligan (23/12/1894 – 5/9/1976)



The Picture of Arthur Gilligan displayed in the West Sussex Club House Lounge

Arthur Gilligan lived at Marehill in Pulborough, near his home golf club the West Sussex. He was captain in 1949 and 1950, then President.

Arthur and his brother Harold both captained England at cricket. Arthur Gilligan had a golf handicap of 14 during the 1920s, which he had managed to get down to 4 twenty-five years later. This has been verified in the West Sussex Golf Club archive.



When his cricket career ended, Gilligan maintained his connection with Sussex, later becoming an Honorary Life Member. He served as chairman, patron and president of the county and assisted many local clubs in the area. He gained a reputation as a speaker and lecturer, and developed his interest in golf. He was president of the English Golf Union in 1959, captain of the Sussex County Golf Union between 1952 and 1971, captain of the County Cricketers' Golfing Society in 1952, and president of the latter organisation until his death. A stand at the County Cricket Ground at Hove was named after him. It was demolished in 2010.



Alongside The Arthur Gilligan Putter (see above) is this short bio of Gilligan explaining the significance of the Putter.

]

THE ARTHUR GILLIGAN PUTTER

A.E.R. GILLIGAN

1894 – 1976

Arthur Gilligan played cricket for Sussex from 1920 to 1932, being Captain from 1922 to 1929. He played for England from 1922 to 1925, and was Captain in Australia in 1924 – 25. A blow over the heart when batting in 1924 ultimately shortened his playing career. He was President of MCC in 1967 – 68, and President of Sussex CCC in 1974.

In golf, he was Sussex County Captain from 1952 to 1971 and President from 1971 to 1976, and was President of the English Golf Union in 1959.

He was a member of this Club for some 40 years, Captain in 1949 and 1950, and President in 1975 – 76. He was also a founder member, Captain, and great supporter of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society.

This putter, which is named after Arthur Gilligan to celebrate the long standing bond between the Club and the Martlets, was presented by the Club to the Martlets in their Centenary Year 2005, as a trophy for their annual match, which was first played in the 1930s.

Cricket and Golf Article by Henry Longhurst

The article below by Henry Longhurst makes mention of our founding Father A.E. R. Gilligan

CRICKET AND GOLF by HENRY LONGHURST

IT was no small pleasure the other day to find myself matched in a foursome against those two more-than-notable cricketers, Ted Dexter and Sir Leonard Hutton. The former, so my friends in Sussex assure me, had revitalised our team and lures even me to the county ground from time to time in case he knocks three running out of the ground for six.

Given a couple more years of golf after he captained Cambridge, Dexter must surely have found his way into a Walker Cup team. In the meantime cricket has gained what golf may yet in due course regain. Sir Leonard, on the other hand, after taking up golf at the age of 18, seems always to have managed to combine the two, and continues to play to five—as safe and cast iron at golf as he was at cricket.

* * *

I SHOULD have liked to see more of them, but it was not to be. At the short fourth on the East course at Wentworth the fog closed down on us, so that we could only ascertain that the green was clear by shouting, and at the fifth it was decided that it was no longer safe, in view of his so-called quick hook at the second which went approximately 287 yards, to allow Dexter to fire into the unknown.

We returned reluctantly to the clubhouse, where, not unnaturally, the talk turned to a combination of golf and cricket. I was interested to hear Sir Leonard say that he had always found that his cricket interfered more with his golf than vice

versa, for I should have thought that a model golf swing at once became a "cow shot" at cricket.

For myself, I have always sought to make golf easier for the beginner by saying that it is simply a question of hitting a half-volley straight back to the bowler *without giving a catch*.

I suppose the commonest fault of all handicap golfers is their failure to realise that their job is to hit the ball forwards—along the ground, as it were, without giving a catch—and the job of the club to send it upwards.

Professionals with imagination put their long-handicap pupils in front of a bunker and invite them to hit the ball over it. It goes in. They then invite them to hit it all along the ground into the bunker, when of course it goes inevitably over. A fair comparison is flipping a stationary ping-pong ball over the net for your opponent to serve with. The worst golfer in the world will instinctively lay the bat back with the loft of a niblick, and then slide it forwards along the table.

* * *

A GOOD cricketer, if he cares, can hardly fail to become a good golfer, though I know of no case of the reverse coming to pass. Many cases come to my own mind, the first being A. E. R. Gilligan, a boyhood hero of preparatory school days, when from time to time one would take a run of about 20 yards and invite everyone to stand well back as there was an "express Gilligan" coming up.

As I happen to know that he is at present on a cruise to Australia, I am perhaps safe in saying that Arthur Gilligan never quite reached the same heights as a golfer. On the other hand, he

has only just relinquished a term as President of the English Golf Union, a distinction certainly unique for one who has captained a team in Australia.

Tom Graveney, I am told, once tossed to decide whether he would become a cricket pro or a golf pro. If that is so, I wonder whether he now thinks he made the right decision. If it is not, well, it is anyway an engaging thought.

Ernest Smith, of Rye fame, played for Yorkshire, and in the President's Putter. Col. A. A. Duncan, winner of the latter and of many Welsh championships, is a member of the County Cricketers' Association.

* * *

MY colleague, Leonard Crawley, who gravitated from the highest class of county cricket to winning the English golf championship and playing in several Walker Cup matches, probably has the lowest combined cricket-and-golf handicap of the lot, while a fellow stalwart of the Harrovian Halford Hewitt team, Cyril Gray, played cricket for Middlesex in the summer and scratch golf in the winter.

Gray is another, incidentally, who found with Sir Leonard that it was the cricket that got in the way of the golf, though he observes that every good cricketer, probably on account of the weight of his summer implement, turns naturally, by virtue of the strength in his hands, into a good iron player.

For myself, I can only say that I seem always to have been destined to get it the wrong way round. My cricket (compulsory) always looked like my golf. Now the wheel has turned full cycle, and my golf looks like what I can remember of my cricket.

Jack Langmead

Jack Langmead set a record when he represented Sussex in five different sports. One was golf. Although a good cricketer, he didn't play cricket for Sussex. Other sports he was known to be good at were football, tennis, squash and chess (if counted as a sport). He was also a good shot and an accomplished skier.

Pat Matthews

One of several accomplished all-round sportsmen from the Mathews family, Pat gained a Cambridge Blue at both golf and hockey, and represented Sussex at cricket and golf. He was captain of the County Cricketers' Golfing Society in 1971 and Secretary of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club between 1984 and 1992.

Pat Mathews scored two centuries for the Martlets in 1950 and 1954. In between he studied at Yale University in America. Perhaps his finest innings was 189 for Sussex Second XI against Middlesex at Hove in the Minor Counties Championship in 1949. John Warr opened the bowling for Middlesex and would subsequently make his England debut. Fred Titmus was also in the opposition but did not bowl. During the war Pat Mathews captained Felsted School First XI. He became a distinguished gardener, specialising in camellias, and opened his garden to the public on occasions for charitable causes. He lived until the age of 98.

Sussex Martlets Golf Secretaries

J.K. (Ken) Mathews 1926 to 1953

Ken Mathews played cricket for the club during its first season of 1905. His last game for the Martlets was in 1954 at the age of seventy. Mathews represented Sussex at cricket and golf, and England at hockey. He was known as Gunner Mathews following service with the Honorary Artillery Company during World War One.

He did not take part in Sussex Martlets golf before the First World War but was instrumental, with Arthur Gilligan, in setting it up again in 1926, taking on the role of Secretary. At this time he was very active at the Worthing club. See below.

WORTHING COMPETITORS AT RYE.			
Worthing sent two teams to compete for the Team Challenge Prize at the annual meeting of the Sussex County Golf Union at Rye on Monday. Cooden Beach retained the trophy with a score of 314, and one of the Worthing teams tied with Brighton and Hove for the third place with a total of 328. This was made up of the following scores:			
J. K. Mathews	...	...	79
H. Mathews	...	...	82
D. D. Grant White	...	...	79
L. Strong	...	...	88
Total	...	...	328
The second Worthing team returned a score of 352 made up as follows:—			
L. P. H. Gray	...	...	87
R. L. Rowe	...	...	83
S. S. Nicholson	...	...	87
Major Gilman	...	...	95
Total	...	...	352
The scores of 79 by J. K. Mathews and D. D. Grant White gave these two players a very good position in the competition for the County Challenge Cup.			

Club teammate Donald Grant-White was another prominent Martlet golfer who later became Secretary at Seaford Blatchington and Royal Ashdown. Ken Mathews remained as Sussex Martlets Golfing Society secretary until 1953, handing over to his son Dan. The Mathews family have been pivotal figures in Sussex and Martlets golf. Ken's three sons all followed him in representing the county. Ken played for his old school Felsted in the Halford Hewett Public Schools knockout tournament at Royal Cinque Ports G.C. from 1934 to 1939 and again in 1948 and 1949. So later did Dan.

Dan Matthews 1953 to 1998

Following his father's 27-year stint as Secretary, interrupted by war, Dan Mathews held the position for another 45 years. Like his father and two brothers he was also a Sussex amateur golfer. He did not emulate Ken and Pat in representing the county at cricket but was still good enough to score quick hundreds at club level. He captained the prestigious Hurlingham cricket club for many years, initiating the annual fixture with the Martlets.

During the war Dan Mathews served in the RAF. Shot down over Germany, he was taken prisoner and interrogated by a German who had lived in Brighton. Dan informed him that the bomb dropped on the county ground at Hove had failed to explode. He was a prisoner of war for three long years.

Dan Mathews was a man of impeccable manners and firm principles, one of which was that the Martlets golfers should never play a four ball. He possessed an encyclopaedic memory for names and places and was a witty raconteur. In 1956 he was elected Master of the Tylers and Bricklayers.



Dan being presented with his retirement gift at West Sussex Golf Club in 1998 by Ted Morgan

Ham Whitty 1998 to 2011

Ham first played golf for the Army when he joined at Sandhurst in 1958. He played for his Regiment, the Royal West Kents, throughout the 13 years he served. He married his wife Mary in 1970 when was a member of Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club (RAFGC), playing off a 6 handicap.



On moving to Piltdown, he changed allegiance to Piltdown Golf Club. With his partner Harvey Lineham, Ham won the Prince Cup at Piltdown on a record four occasions. In 2011 he was captain of the Elders Golfing Society. Ham was also a member of Rye G.C. from 2000 to 2017 where he served on the committee. He also played golf in the Halford Hewitt for his old school Clifton.

Ham was known for his warmth and charming wit for which he will be forever remembered, and not least for his undoubted competitive spirit on the links.



Ham pictured above in the middle in a sleeveless red pullover on the 2013 Martlets Cricket and Golf tour to Dublin. Left to right are David Morgan, Adrian White, Ian Lock, Chris Gray, Ham Whitty, Ben Burrows Mark Bowden, and Willie Bicket.

Adrian White 2011 to 2020

Having played cricket for two years for Brighton College First XI, Adrian was invited to play for the Junior Martlets in 1965, before graduating to the senior team. He was also a playing member of The Jesters.

Adrian played for his local cricket club, Scaynes Hill, from the age of 15 until he was in his fifties, mainly as a batsman. With his father and three brothers, he formed the nucleus of their Sunday side for many years. Opponents included Sussex Martlets, Free Foresters and MCC.

Adrian learned how to play golf, age 12, at the Haywards Heath club. He became a member of his current club, West Sussex, GC in 1985, where he has won various trophies, including the Spring and Autumn medals and the Easter Kaye Cup.



He started playing Martlets golf in 1999 and became Honorary Secretary in 2011. During his tenure, he arranged for the West Sussex GC to be accepted as the Martlets' home club. One of the first ever matches at the club in the early 1930s had been against Sussex Martlets.

During his time as Secretary several changes took place. Some clubs preferred a single round of golf, followed by lunch, rather than the long-established custom of two rounds of foursomes. It was also now possible to arrange an annual Reciprocals Day where two representatives from all our host clubs were invited to West Sussex GC for lunch and a round of golf, at a members' guest rate, in recognition of their hospitality.

Robert Forster 2020 to 2026

Robert's contribution to cricket in Sussex was to help restart Junior cricket at Rudgwick cricket club in 2015 when his son William also a Martlet decided he wanted to take up cricket. Faced with no equipment and no Junior coach, Robert took on the role of Treasurer of the club and quickly raised £5,000 from local benefactors one of which was Christopher Martin Jenkins, also a resident in the parish of Rudgwick. A level 2 coach (Nigel Hulme of Horsham C.C.) was asked to support a few willing club members to run the junior section, and soon after 50 to 60 juniors were playing Cricket on the King George Recreation Ground in the village.



Enthused by William's cricket progress Robert found a bat and some pads and played in a few matches keeping wicket, reliving old school memories as keeper. However his early years of playing rugby for Crawley, Uckfield and Bournemouth at Scrum Half had taken their toll on his knees and two more knee operations ended his return to cricket in his 40's.

Robert's main passion has been golf since the age of 10, having been a member at Ifield G.C. Isle of Purbeck G.C., The Richmond GC in Surrey and at West Sussex since 1998; where he held a handicap of 4.0 and currently holds a handicap of 9.2.

Robert served on the Green Committee of West Sussex Golf Club for seven years, three as Chairman and then on the Board for two years, the last as Chair of the Board.

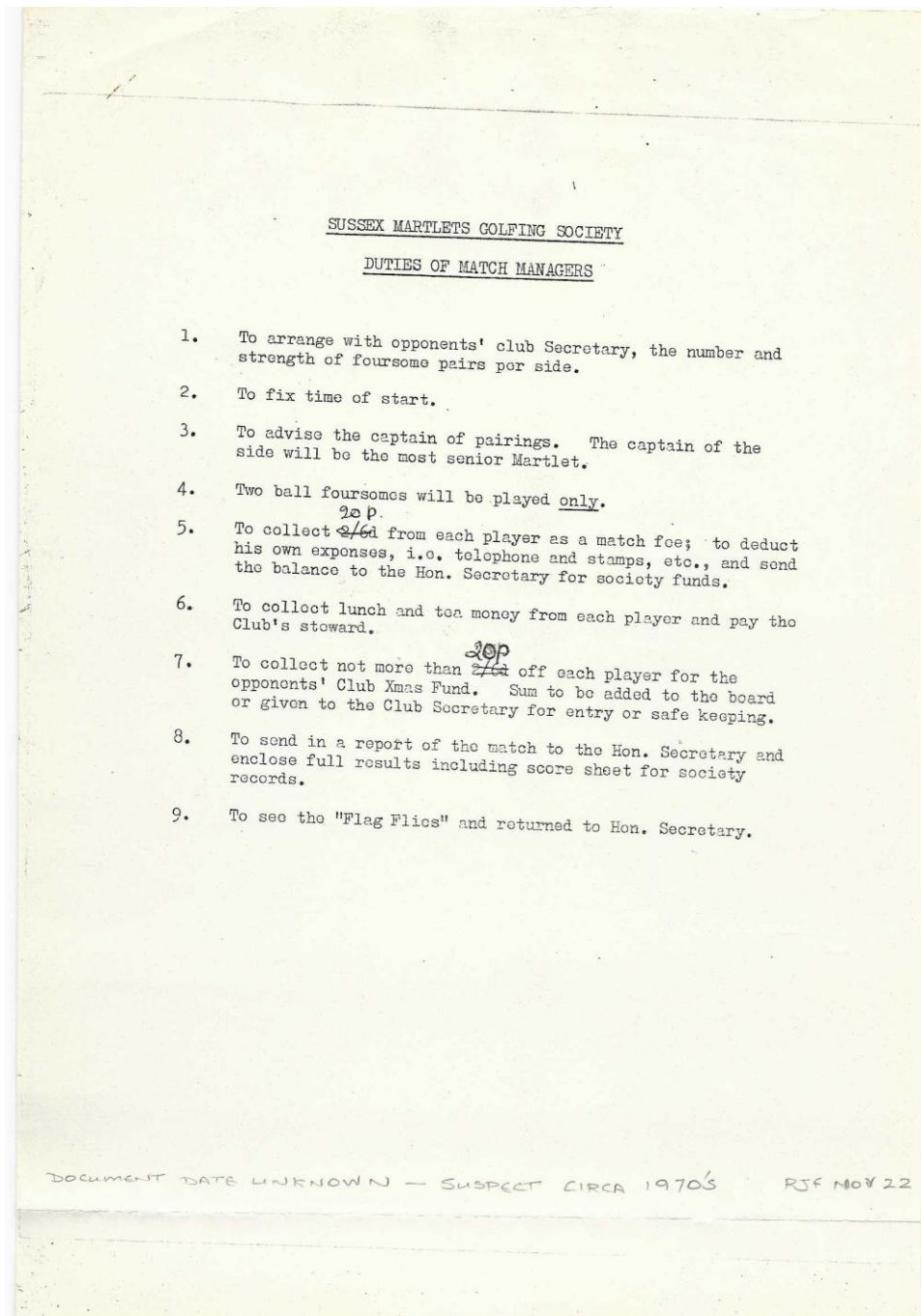
In 2020 Robert accepted the invitation to take over from Adrian White as Hon Sec of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society. During this time new fixtures with like-minded nomadic golf societies linked to cricket have been baked into the Martlets fixture list with the Hampshire Hogs hosting the Martlets at Hayling G.C. every other year and The Band of Brothers of Kent at Royal St George's.

In 2026 Robert passes the Hon Sec baton to the safe hands of Greg West, a Martlets opening bat and wicket keeper with five centuries to his name. Greg is a member of Goodwood G.C.

MATCH MANAGERS – DUTIES

Below is a scan of a type written document outlining the duties of Match Managers. The exact date this document was created is unknown; however, it is suspected to be originally created pre 1971 (note the handwritten annotation referring to decimal currency) and updated post 1971.

It is interesting to note that the emphasis was put on the strength of foursomes, note, point 4
“Two ball foursomes will be played only.”



The Senior Martlet

The “Senior Martlet” as “captain of the day” has long since gone. However, In the early days of the Golfing Society there was a culture where the Senior Martlet was the individual who had the longest history of playing for the society, and who presided over the proceedings of Martlet matches.

Today proceedings are taken care of by the match managers whose duties have been documented over time (see above) taking care of the toast to our hosts on the day. The role of the Senior Martlet in the 21st-century is occasionally ceremonial, wherein a Martlet tie is to be presented to new Martlets after they have played in a few matches and demonstrated they understand the form of the society. On these occasions The Senior Martlet is invited by the Match Manager to present the Society tie.

The Martlet Golfing Society Tie is to be worn at all Martlet matches where a host clubs dress code for lunch requires a Jacket and Tie.

Martlets Influence in the founding of the Sussex County Golf Union



The Beginning

In the mid/late 1890s several good friends and more importantly keen and accomplished golfers had been considering the future of their beloved sport in Sussex. All had come from different parts of the country and from different backgrounds, but all wanted to take the next steps from relatively social golf into a more competitive local environment.

George Peacock, Horace Hutchinson, Eric Hambro and Sydney Fry were aware that Hampshire and Yorkshire had both formed unions of the golf clubs to promote golf as a sport and encourage competition amongst the clubs.

In this respect, this was essentially what all four friends were seeking and the notion that Sussex clubs should form a union along the same lines as Hampshire and Yorkshire was generated.

Inauguration

The Sussex County Golf Union was inaugurated at an informal meeting held at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club on May 19th, 1899. Attending the meeting were 13 of the 20 clubs existing at that time including: Battle, founded in 1893, Bexhill, founded 1890, but no longer in existence, Brighton and Hove, 1887, Chichester, 1892, **Crowborough Beacon, 1895**, Hastings, 1893, Kemp Town, now known as **East Brighton, 1893**, **Lewes, 1896**, **Littlehampton, 1889**, Newhaven, 1894, Royal Eastbourne, 1887, **Seaford, 1887** and **Willingdon, founded 1898**.

The absentee clubs being: **Royal Ashdown Forest, founded in 1888**, Bognor Regis, founded 1892, Holtye, founded in 1893 as the Liliput Golf Club, **Rye, founded 1894**, Pyecombe, founded 1894 and Handcross, founded 1896

At this initial/informal meeting the die was cast to form a County Union and at the first formal meeting thereafter W J Hughes was elected as County Secretary and the Duke of Devonshire became the first Sussex County Union president. It is worth recalling that the Duke of Devonshire, on whose land the original Eastbourne course was laid out permitted golf to be played without payment, spent £500 on the first clubhouse and based the rent on 5% of that outlay per year. From these humble beginnings the Eastbourne club went from strength to strength boasting several prominent members including the great Horace Hutchinson and AJ Balfour, a member for 25 years, Club captain in 1897, not to mention Prime Minister from 1902 – 1905.

Golf Clubs

Sussex County has a wide range of landscape features: Hills, meadows, forests, parkland, the downs and a long coastline. This variety of features provides for a comprehensive range of golf course types and conditions for the player. Of the other nineteen clubs they are situated across the county and with a variety of characteristics. Some are situated on the coast and are typical links courses, often with excellent views along the coastline, Clubs such as **Cooden Beach, East Brighton, Littlehampton, Rye** and Seaford Head located close to the sea while others located inland on heathland or parkland such as **Royal Ashdown Forest, Crowborough Beacon** and Holtye providing the golfer with many varied conditions.

From those early days of 20 clubs the Union had grown to 66 clubs at the time of its centenary and now has 59 clubs affiliated plus 4 artisan clubs.

Included in these later additions are several clubs worthy of special mention.

West Sussex, founded in 1931, was designed by three outstanding golf architects, Hutchison, Campbell and Hotchkin, situated in the extreme west of the county, is a beautiful heathland course and a great test of golf.

Worthing was founded in 1905, with two courses and is situated on downland in **West Sussex**. Other clubs situated on the downs include Dyke, **East Brighton**, Hill Barn, Hollingbury, **Lewes**, Pyecombe, Seaford Head, West Hove and Willingdon to name just a few. All these clubs offer challenging conditions throughout the year, mostly dry under foot, but often with wind and elevation to test the player.

There are also clubs situated near the coast which offer another set of challenges. Clubs such as: Bognor Regis, **Cooden Beach**, Peacehaven and Selsey all present different types of challenges depending on the season and the weather.

The final type of club in Sussex is the woodland courses such as previously mentioned **Royal Ashdown Forest** and Tilgate Forest. Very tree lined and requiring accuracy rather than distance.

*Clubs in bold are or have been Martlet fixtures.

Notable Martlets in Sussex County Golf

George Peacock, Royal Eastbourne, is notable mainly as the father of the Sussex County Golf Union. It was he, along with Hutchinson, Hambro and Fry, that started it all.

Donald Grant-White, Worthing, Seaford and Royal Ashdown Forest, was County Secretary 1957-1961 along with Jack Langmead started the Sussex Open Championship

Jack Langmead SCGU Captain in 1948 was also instrumental in Individual Membership scheme, His place on the EGU was taken over by Arthur Gilligan in 1952.

Notable Sussex Players to Hold EGU/EG Positions

R H de Montmorency of Crowborough Beacon became EGU president in 1935. Whilst EGU president de Montmorency presented a cup to be played for in a foursomes competition at Sunningdale by members of the EGU Council. In 1983 Sussex members won for the first time, Richard Palmer and

Dick George. This was the last time it was played for in this format as the EGU decided to transfer the trophy to a new tournament, the English Champion Club Tournament.

Squadron Leader **Arthur Gilligan**, former England cricket captain was co-opted onto the SCGU committee in 1938. He became County captain in 1952 and remained Captain until 1971 and president in 1971 – 1976. In 1959 he became president of the EGU and after his death in 1981 he was given a fitting tribute for being both president of the EGU and the MCC.

Source SCGU Archive

Sussex County Cricketers Golf Society

England cricket captain Hon. Freddie Calthorpe was a notable Martlets cricketer and golfer, and a founder member of the County Cricketers' Golfing Society in 1935 shortly before his death. The first committee members of the organisation also included George Brann and Harold Gilligan. Seven Martlets have been captain of this Society: Calthorpe, both Gilligans, Billy Griffith, Pat Mathews, Geoff Seaton and Tony Pigott.

Arthur Gilligan was also captain of the Sussex County Golf Union for nineteen years between 1952 and 1971. He succeeded fellow Martlet Jack Langmead in the post. Other Martlets who have represented Sussex at golf include Ken Mathews' other two sons, Dan and Tom (Kenya Amateur Champion 1955), H.J.C. Collett, David Richardson, E.A. Snow, J.O. Lintott and Nigel Philcox.

Philcox gained a Golf Blue at Oxford. Golf Blues were received at Cambridge by Martlets Chris Tod and the South African Test cricketer Tufty Mann. Neil Martin, another fine Martlet golfer, received Oxford Blues for cricket and rugby.

Martlet Secretaries at Sussex Golf Clubs

Four Martlets have acted as secretaries at Sussex golf clubs: Colonel Cumberledge at Southdown; Donald Grant-White at Seaford and Royal Ashdown Forest; and Pat Mathews and David Scrivens, also at Royal Ashdown Forest.

Donald Grant-White, an Old Cranleighan, had pedigree as Sussex amateur champion in 1936 and 1954. He retired in June 1976 for surgery which RAFCG paid for, as well as granting him a lump sum and pension. In his will only two people were allowed to attend his funeral.

Donald's wife Joan Grant-White won the county championship in 1933 and 1955. The Grant-Whites were synonymous with county golf administration, having set up both the Boys and Girls championships, and the Grant-White Challenge Plate for first-round losers in the county championship.



1990s Roger S Whitmore, President 2001,
with Pat Matthews, Secretary 1984-1992



Donald Grant-White

K P A (Pat) Mathews on right



Rye's Centenary Year Match at RAFCG 1994. Jeremy Charlton, Henry Arnell, Peter Hobden, Harold Deane, Roger Whitmore in the centre, Jack Furtado squatting. On the far left is David Scrivens, appointed our Secretary in 1991.

David Scrivens on left.

Sussex Martlets Golfing Opponents

Band of Brothers	Haywards Heath	Rye
Brighton & Hove	Incogniti	Seaford Blatchington
Cooden Beach	J Goddard's Team at Sunningdale	Southdown
Crowborough Beacon	Lewes	West Hove
East Blatchington (Seaford)	Liphook	West Sussex
East Brighton	Littlehampton	Willingdon
Goodwood	Littlestone	Worthing
Ham Manor	Piltdown	XIX
Hampshire Hogs	Pyecombe	
Hankley Common	Royal Ashdown Forest	
Hayling Golf Club	Royal Eastbourne	

Home of The Sussex Martlets Golfing Society



View of the 17th Green at West Sussex with clubhouse and South Downs in the background. Note the heather in bloom.

West Sussex is described by Donald Steel the renowned golf course architect and golf correspondent for the Sunday Telegraph (1960's)

"There are few lovelier places to play than West Sussex".

West Sussex is a traditional members' two-ball golf club, in keeping with the ethos of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society and is a challenging lowland heath course which is widely regarded as amongst the best in the British Isles.

The clubhouse was built in 1930 in mock Tudor style to enable easy conversion into a large country house in case the golf club failed! It has marvellous aspects all round and a particularly fine view of the Downs to the South.

The Golf Club was officially opened in 1931, having been designed by three outstanding golf architects, Hutchison, Campbell & Hotchkin. They are acknowledged to have created one of the most natural and aesthetically pleasing heathland courses in England.

In 2031 the club will celebrate its centenary. Its history has always been associated with Sussex Martlets, thanks largely to Arthur Gilligan.

Captains board at West Sussex showing that Arthur Gilligan was Captain in 1949 and 1950 some 24 years after the first Sussex Martlets Golfing Society fixture was recorded on the 27th of October 1929



Reciprocals Annual Event

At the end of the year an event is held at West Sussex Golf Club to thank the match managers of our host clubs. In Sussex Martlets tradition the event comprises a 18-hole team Stableford in foursomes for First, Second and Third places. This is followed by a sumptuous West Sussex carvery lunch where the Martlets buy the wine. Picture of the 2024 lunch below. Former chairman Stuart Ritchie is sporting the Martlets blazer.



The Bobby Locke Putter – Piltdown Golf Club

The Bobby Locke putter is played for annually between Piltdown G.C. and the Martlets in our annual Autumn fixture.

The putter was originally given to Donald Grant White when he was secretary of Eastbourne Downs golf club in May 1997, by Howard White, the then PGA professional at Croham Hurst G.C. near Croydon. Howard White was presented with the putter about 15 years before when he provided Bobby Locke with a service for which he gave Howard one of his two putters which he had used throughout his wonderful run of championship successes. Not wanting the club to end up in a second-hand shop, Howard thought that Grant White could find a suitable home for the putter.

Therefore, Donald Grant White presented Bobby Locke's putter to Piltdown golf club which today still hangs proudly in the lounge bar at Piltdown G.C.



Below is a letter dated 23rd March 1989 to Dan Matthews from R.E.H. King Hon Sec Piltdown golf Club thanking Dan for presenting the putter.

PILTDOWN GOLF CLUB

Hon. Secretary
Captain R.E.H. KING R.M.
Tel. Newick (082 572) 2033

PILTDOWN,
Nr. UCKFIELD,
EAST SUSSEX.
TN22 3XB

J. B. F. Matthews Esq,

1 Rutland Grove

Hammermith,

23 Mar 89

Dear M^r Matthews,

Sussex Martlets G.S.

I have just received, with thanks, a copy of the Sussex Martlets Fixture List from your Hon. Fixture Secretary; all is well there.

This event reminded me that, while going through our old Minute Books in search of the history of our Artisan section, I had come across a Minute which would have inaugurated our most agreeable fixture with the Martlets. I have pleasure in enclosing a photocopy of this Minute for you. I should think that, going back to 1910, you would be our oldest fixture.

I also enclose copies of correspondence between Harry White, onetime professional at Seaford, and

Donald Grant White, a pillar of Sussex Golf in his day.

You will see that the Bobby Locke putter, which hangs in our lounge, is in fact a trophy to be played for between Pittodrie G.C. and the Sussex Martlets G.S. at the annual match. I apologize if you already know all this, but it was never handed over to me!

Since Pittodrie won in 1987, and last year the match was washed out, the putter is at present in the right place, waiting for you to take in the Autumn assuming you wish and have somewhere to keep it. I can always store it here in your name if you would prefer.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

R.E.H. King

Hon. Secretary.

Timeline

- 1887:** Founding of Sussex Martlets Football Club. First reference to Sussex Martlets in a sporting context.
- 1905:** The Hove Long Vacation Cricket Club forms
- 1907:** Cricket club changes name to Sussex Martlets
- 1908:** First matches of Sussex Martlets golf team against Lewes and Willingdon. Former England Amateur golfer Hon. Osmund Scott represents the Martlets in both matches.
- 1909-1913:** Nine more golf matches played
- 1911:** Captain JS Armstrong wins the Sussex Amateur Championship
- 1913:** GH Peacock is Sussex Amateur Champion for the third time
- 1920:** DF Sundius-Smith wins Sussex Amateur Championship
- 1926:** Martlets golf team reforms after 13 years with two matches at Worthing and Crowborough. Ken Mathews is Secretary.
- 1929:** Sussex Amateur Golfers beat Sussex Professionals for the first time. Seven of the twenty-strong winning team are Martlets golfers.
- 1932:** Darsie Watson is Sussex Amateur Champion
- 1934:** Watson wins the Championship again
- 1935:** Hon. Freddie Cathorpe founds and captains the County Cricketers Golfing Society (CCGS)
- 1936:** Donald Grant-White is Sussex Amateur Champion
- 1938:** Harold Gilligan captain of CCGS. NBF (Tufty) Mann South African Test cricketer, played cricket for the Martlets in 1938 and 1939 taking 50 wickets. Leading wicket-taker in 1938. Won Natal Amateur Golf Championship in 1938 at Umkomaas. Subsequently met Bobby Locke. Cambridge Golf Blue 1939.
- 1949:** Jack Langmead is Sussex Amateur Champion
- 1952:** Arthur Gilligan captain of CCGS
- 1953:** Dan Mathews becomes Martlets Golf Secretary, succeeding his father, Ken.
- 1954:** Grant-White wins the Sussex Amateur Championship again
- 1958:** Sussex Martlets win Royal Wimbledon Putting Tournament. Team: JK (Ken) Mathews, JBF (Dan) Mathews, KPA (Pat) Mathews and JO Lintott.
- 1967:** Billy Griffith captain of CCGS
- 1971:** Pat Mathews captain of CCGS
- 1998:** Inaugural Martlets Golf Day at Ditchling. David Gutteridge wins the Trophy, with his brother Richard finishing second. Dan Matthews steps down as Secretary after 45 years and hands over to Ham Whitty.
- 2000:** Geoff Seaton captain of CCGS
- 2005:** Club centenary celebrated with Golf Day at Ditchling. Christopher Martin-Jenkins presents the prizes.
- 2008:** Tony Pigott captain of CCGS

Timeline (cont)

2010: Golf Day suspended due to lack of support

2011: Golf Day reinstated at Singing Hills, Hassocks. Adrian White takes over as Secretary from Ham Whitty. 37 members play during the year.

2013: Golf tour to Dublin.

2017: Sussex Martlets acquires a "Home Course" for the first time at West Sussex Golf Club, Pulborough, enabling the hosting of matches.

2019: Golf match at West Sussex against the Martlets' cricket section won by the cricketers.

2020: Robert Forster becomes Secretary. Only three matches played due to Covid.

2023: Golfer of the Year award introduced. First winner Robert Reed.

2024: Mark Stevenson awarded Golfer of the Year.

2025: 13 matches arranged, including Golf Day at Mannings Heath.

Credits & References

West Sussex Golf Club Archives – courtesy of Mr John Kilshaw

Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club – Fair Ways in Ashdown Forest the History of an Elite Golf Club playing on common Land For 125 Years - by Colin Strachan

The Life and Times of Crowborough Beacon Golf Club 1895-1995 – by Alistair MacDougall

Crowborough Beacon Golf Club then and now. Celebrating the 125th anniversary of the club in 2020. Archive committee 20201 Roger Bennison, Richard Bennett, Ray Jackson, Phil Parker, Joe Sippetts and Charles Tankard.

The History of Lewes Golf Club 1896-1996 – by Graham White

The British Newspaper Archive

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Apologies if we have omitted to thank anyone who has contributed in any way to this living document. Any errors or omissions are purely unintentional.

Authors: Robert Forster & Peter Hartland

November 2025

END