

THE HISTORY OF THE SUSSEX MARTLETS GOLFING
SOCIETY. 1920 - 1965.

There are no official records of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society (S.M.G.S.), therefore it is almost impossible to say exactly, when, the Society was founded.

Little, or no, Cricket was played on Sundays, just after the First World War, and the gentlemen or amateurs usually played Golf, especially when the County was playing away. The Sundius-Smith family entertained the golfers of the visiting County sides to Hove at the West Hove Golf Club on Sundays and asked their Sussex Martlet Cricket friends to join them.

The idea to start S.M.G.S. came from J.K.Mathews - aided and abetted by A.E.R.Gilligan, who was then the County Cricket Captain - J.K.M. became the first Honorary Secretary. No accounts were ever kept and the subscription was half-a-crown. Matches were arranged with Sussex Clubs, including Worthing, Southdown (Shoreham), Goodwood, Liphook, Seaford, Piltown, Littlehampton and J.Goddard's side from the Sunningdale Golf Club at Sunningdale.

There were no hard and fast rules made, but the Society was to play against strong opposition from the Sussex Clubs - two ball foursomes to be played only and anybody who dared to suggest playing a four ball foursome was considered a complete outcast and appropriately dealt with. It is also an unwritten law that no Martlet would dream of querying the pairings of the team arranged by the Captain - or venture to voice his personal choice of partner.

All matches were to be played in the off-cricket season - from October to the first week in April - there would be no competition days. The Society have never had a home course and have insisted that they are paying guests of their opponents and have always been allowed to have an equal share in the entertainment. Many very amusing stories can be related and they get more and more exaggerated as time goes on.

It was at a S.M.G.S. Match against J. Goddard's side at Sunningdale in 1932 when it was decided to found a County Cricketers' Golfing Society and those Cricketers believed to be present were:-

A.E.R.Gilligan (Sussex & England).
A.H.H.Gilligan (Sussex).
W.G.M.Sarel (Sussex & Kent).
J.K.Mathews (Sussex)
J.S.F.Morrison (Somerset).
G.M.Bennett (Somerset).
C.J.Burnup (Kent).
W.N.Riley (Leicester).

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and the Honourable F.G.S.Calthorpe (Sussex, Warwick & England), who became the C.C.G.S. first Honorary Secretary. The C. C.C. G.S. is now thriving and has an enormous membership of "Cricketers"!

The following Sussex Martlets:-

D.F.Sundius-Smith,	1920.
D.Watson.	1932 & 34.
D.D.Grant-White,	1936 & 54.
J.H.Langmead,	1949.

have all won the Sussex Amateur Golf Championship, and -

H.Mathews,	1921.
G.H.Lintott,	1929.
B.L.Sundius-Smith,	1930.
J.K.Mathews,	1933
K.B.Scott,	1936.
J.H.Langmead,	1950

have been runners-up of the Sussex Amateur Championship.

A.E.R.Gilligan.
H.J.C.Collet.
D.Richardson.
E.A.Snow.
J.O.Lintott.
J.B.F.Mathews.
T.C.H.Mathews.
K.F.A.Mathews.

have represented Sussex on various occasions.

A.E.R.Gilligan is a Past President of the English Golf Union and the present Captain of the Sussex Golf Union.

P.Hunt has been runner-up of the Hampshire Golf Championship and is at present their President.

Since the Second World War, the Society has grown in membership and play many more matches, including some of the Pre-War fixtures. A two day match with The Rye Golf Club has now been going for twelve years. This match is instead of the Kent & Sussex Cricketers Match against the Club, which was always played on the Sunday of the Hastings Cricket Week. The Cricketers found it difficult to raise a side, owing to other commitments such as Charity and Benefit Matches. Other matches have been arranged with Royal Ashdown Forest, Ham Manor, Crowborough, Hayling Island, West Sussex and Incogniti G.S.

In 1953 J.K.Mathews retired as Hon. Secretary and Match Manager of the Society and yours truly either volunteered, or was press-ganged into the job that his father relinquished.

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It was found impossible for the new Hon. Secretary to carry on in the same way as his predecessor, so Match Managers were found, to select the side and get out the "batting order" for the Captain, who is always the Senior Martlet present.

No Match Manager is appointed unless he has been presented with his Golfing Colours, which is a tie - Dark Blue (Oxford), Light Blue (Cambridge or Eton) and Pink (Charterhouse) on a green background. The tie is usually presented by the Captain or a Senior Martlet, appointed to act on his behalf, and is not given unless all Senior Martlets agree that the candidate has played with success in a few matches and knows, which is most important, 'The Form'.