



The Martlet

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Sussex Martlets win Sandy Ross Cup

Team: Mike Harrison, Daniel Smith, Zubin Bhattay, Richard Seager, Tim Yeong, Ed McGregor, Tom Harrison, Lawrence Wisdom, Nick Seager (capt), Michael Murray, Andrew Hartridge. And in the distance, the modest Stuart Ritchie(!)

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the 2010 season was the Twenty20 tournament arranged by Chris Gray for the Sandy Ross Cup, featuring teams closely involved in Sandy's cricketing life.

The weather across Sussex that day was uniformly bad and many a player must have approached this corner of Sussex through the rain with the sinking feeling that their journey would be in vain.

Maybe Hurstpierpoint has its own special microclimate, or maybe Sandy arranged some sort of special dispensation with the umpire upstairs that allowed us a day's cricket, who knows.

Suffice it to say that the day was just as he would have liked: good competitive cricket between teams who knew how to enjoy the day whether they won or lost.

David Gibbs' research into Sandy's meticulously kept records, revealed that Sandy played some 2,467 matches stretching over 45 years and no fewer than 606 of them were representing the Sussex Martlets.

To see Di Ross presenting the Cup to Martlet captain Nick Seager brought smiles to the faces of all present and we all disappeared knowing that this was a day that has to be repeated.



Desmond Devitt

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2010

Santa has been particularly kind this year. Together with the usual and of course much appreciated supply of socks and various under garments, he has seen fit to grant England's cricket lovers over this holiday period thumping wins at both the MCG and SCG. To retain the Ashes on Australian soil is one thing, but to win the series so comprehensively and with such devastating effect on the host's morale is quite another altogether. It has been a great cricketing start to 2011, a year that could see England vie to become the leading Test nation. I have spent my whole cricketing life, it seems, dreaming more in hope than anticipation about this mouth-watering prospect! Well done the lads!

Meanwhile back to reality, I can report to you that our beloved Club is in good shape. We have had better seasons than 2010 in terms of results, but many of our losses were close run and the statistics belie some good cricket played overall. We have always aspired to play in the right spirit and that must remain at our core, but it would be good to see more matches showing "Won" in the results column. Winning sides demonstrate a Club with strength and purpose, qualities that will attract and recruit good cricketers from across the County; this is essential for our future wellbeing.

Three matches last season were cancelled because the opposition were unable to raise sides. This is a worrying trend but, with just a hint of smugness, I am delighted to say that our own Match Managers had no such problems and we owe them all a huge debt of thanks for their tireless work and determination in raising sides. Looking forward to this coming season we have some exciting fixtures in store, including another tour to Jersey over the August Bank Holiday weekend and Arundel fixtures for both Horsham and Three Bridges to continue our efforts in building positive relationships with the Sussex Premier League sides.

A number of members (and indeed not all of them ancient!) have remarked with sadness that our sides seem less inclined to wear the Club's colours on the field these days. We will be asking Match Managers to help reverse this trend by reminding their teams that under the Club's rules all players are strongly encouraged to wear some item identifying them as Martlets. As a reminder to players, Nick Wisdom, based in Haywards Heath, stocks all Martlets' items and your committee would be very grateful for your support in openly expressing some Club pride in this way.

The Club's major initiative last year was to become a Vice President of the Sussex Cricket in the Community Trust (SCCT). Their Secretary, Hugh Griffiths, has kindly written the piece that follows, explaining the Trust's function and history, so let me concentrate now on the Club's decision to follow this course of action. Primarily this was for two reasons. First, it was felt unanimously at our AGM that having

had a strong association with the County for over 100 years we should be putting something back into its foundations by investing in Sussex's youth teams. Secondly we saw an opportunity to raise our own profile and to advertise widely within the County our value to recreational Cricket. At the end of our first year (of three) as a Vice President, your committee feels that both aims have been successfully achieved. James Chadburn and Nick Creed represented the Martlets at the Sussex Cricket Forum, open to all clubs in the County, and in September they delivered a Club presentation. Chris Snell and I were invited to Blackstone, the County's youth ground near Henfield, to watch both the U13's and the U18's in action against Kent and Essex respectively, and to see at first hand this excellent stable developing the potential of future County players. During the Northants game at Hove, the County and the Trust organised a hospitality day for wandering clubs and nine of us gathered to form a Martlets' table for a thoroughly enjoyable day. There is a new atmosphere at the County Ground that is inclusive by nature; we have been made to feel not only very welcome, but also that our contribution to SCCT has been thoroughly appreciated.

I know a number of you were rightly disappointed that we had to cancel the Annual Dinner last year. In short, the economic climate, the location and possibly the style of our Dinner conspired to turn the membership away. Under Chris Gray's direction, we formed a working party to investigate this failure and to propose a social programme to suit all tastes. The Working Party has produced what we hope to be more appealing and practical suggestions which will include our Annual Dinner on 8th April 2011 at Hove Rugby Club, possibly a Club day at the County Ground during an appropriate match and the continuation of the highly successful Vice Presidents' day at Arundel. Of course it hardly needs saying that the success of each event is entirely dependent upon your support, so please do look out for the invitations on the website.



Ham Whitty

Every year I make mention of all those who give up their time in supporting the Committee so strongly, and this year is no exception. Two stalwarts are stepping down from their roles on the Committee. Ham Whitty has been an enthusiastic and inspiring Secretary of the Golfing Society for more than 11 years. He has ensured that

Martlets' standards have been rigorously maintained on the golf course and I know that all those who have played for the Society under his management will miss him enormously, as indeed will we on the Committee, for he has been both an unfailingly wise and at times moderating voice on all Club matters. In his place we are delighted to welcome Adrian White.

After 5 years at the helm, Chris Snell has decided to stand down as manager of the Junior Martlets. His



Chris Snell

contribution to the Juniors has been inestimable and his success can be measured by the strength of sides he has developed over the years. We are indeed fortunate to have had such an influential and charismatic leader of Juniors' cricket and to say he will be missed is a severe understatement!

We have been delighted to welcome on to the Committee John Ashworth whose business and experience of governance will be a huge asset, and Mike Murray, who joins the Cricket committee. Mike's reputation as a former captain of Lewes and as a strong supporter of Martlets' cricket will bring youthful and relevant experience to the Club's administration. Finally, I'm sure everyone will want to join me in wishing our Secretary, Patrick Jackson, a safe return in April from Afghanistan, where he has been serving with the TA since September as a Media Operations Officer. We get an occasional report from the front line, normally commenting on Sky cricket coverage interspersed with the sound of gunfire echoing outside his bunker! The ubiquitous and evergreen Charlie Hartridge has of course volunteered to step into the breach in Patrick's absence.

Of Martlet celebrities in the news, we must congratulate John Barclay on having now completed a very successful year as President of the MCC and how astute of Johnny to recommend as his successor another Sussex legend, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, whom we also wish well for his year at HQ. I am thrilled to report to you that James Kirtley has just accepted our invitation to become an Honorary Member of the Sussex Martlets and he joins Robin Martin-Jenkins and Richard Montgomerie, who were also made members recently.

To keep everyone up to speed with the Club's archives, now under the kind and watchful eye of David Gibbs, we are delighted to report that David has negotiated a permanent home for them at the County Ground's new Library, due to open later this year. This is an exciting development as it allows both a home for our records and accessibility, not just for our own members but for all Sussex cricket supporters.

Finally, good luck to everyone for the forthcoming season and I hope to see many of you round the boundary!

Nigel Russell

SUSSEX CRICKET IN THE COMMUNITY TRUST (formerly Sussex Young Cricketers Educational Trust).

The SCCT /SYCET charity was formed 25 years ago with the broad purpose to create opportunities and facilities for young people in Sussex to experience the pleasures and social benefits of playing cricket. The original Trustees included Chris Snell, who 25 years later is still one of the five appointed Trustees as well as being one of the select group of "SYC Vice Presidents". The Vice Presidents' initiative has created a group of about 35 individuals and organisations to which the name of SUSSEX MARTLETS CC has recently been added.

Vice Presidents' donations, along with income generated by thousands of "Friends of SYCs", form the base for annual income exceeding £50,000 p.a. That money is spent on a range of activities which include support for grassroots community cricket in deprived areas of Sussex, assistance to the Sussex Visually Impaired cricket team, and funding to cover the cost of running the Sussex Cricket Academy ground at Blackstone. The charity is also particularly mindful of the need to develop girls' and women's cricket, an area in which Sussex has become a particularly successful county in recent years.

The Blackstone facility near Henfield is the base for all Sussex Youth Age Group teams and over the past 25 years a number of high profile Sussex players have emerged from the ranks of the junior squads. Some of those players are also representing England in Australia this winter. The Ashes squad, the Twenty20 and ODI squads, and the England Women all have at least one 'home grown' Sussex cricketer playing for them.

To further develop the Blackstone Academy, 2011 sees SCCT launching the "SYC Silver Anniversary Appeal" with the objective to raise an additional £50,000 to upgrade the facilities for both the senior and junior grounds.

Full details of this and other initiatives, activities and news can be found in the SCCT Newsletter, and those wishing to receive a copy should email me (SCCT Secretary) at hugh.griffiths@sussexcricket.co.uk Alternatively you may contact me by post, care of the County Ground. I am also available to answer any other queries and can be contacted by phone on 07768 552682 (mobile) or 01983 875646 (home).

Hugh Griffiths

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee is delighted to announce the election of the following new members of the Club:

Ollie Bell, Sam Chettleburgh, Chris Guyver, Brandon Hanley, George Holman, Julian Hunt, Simon May, Daniel Smith, Angus Edgell, Greg Haines, Ed Lamb, Matthew Silk, Ian Hartland, Matthew Stone, Rob Potter, Freddy Whitehead, Dave Brooks (Sussex CCC Chief Executive), Zubin Bhattay (non playing), Midge Martin (non playing). In addition, five Junior Martlets: Matt Sewell (Captain), Adam & Charles Davies, Bradley James and Darryl Rebbetts.

THE 2010 SEASON

2010 was another year of enjoyable cricket. 37 fixtures were scheduled, resulting in 8 wins, 14 losses, 10 draws and 5 cancelled – very similar to 2009. As ever, due to the nature of wandering cricket, results vary, year by year, against the same opposition, depending on the Match Manager's ability to raise a side. This is particularly true in mid week games at the start of the season, due to students and schoolmasters being unavailable. There were many great moments during the season with some great wins, hard fought draws and losses of varying magnitudes. A few, but not all the highlights of the summer are outlined below.

The normal season opener against Brighton College had to be cancelled due to the Brighton Marathon closing the roads to the school. Instead this honour fell to St. George's, Weybridge. The Martlets, having been completely outplayed in 2009, were keen to make amends and had the better of a high scoring draw. Patrick Goodwin was the pick of the bowlers with 4-40 and guest Tom Harris made 100 off 112 balls.

St.Bede's was another venue where the Martlets needed to restore some pride having been comprehensively beaten last year. Sensibly the school fielded a composite side and with the Martlets scoring 189-9 the game went to the penultimate over, when the school won by 6 wickets.

The match against the MCC was without doubt one of the more extraordinary fixtures of the season. Mike Harrison, the match manager, won the toss and batted with only ten players, due to a last minute injury. There was a strong St George's contingent playing in the game, but at 15 for 3 from 6 overs all was not looking good for a full day's play! Archie Leon, a last minute replacement, came to the crease and played with fluency and ably assisted by the manager put on 153 for the fifth wicket, with Archie scoring a superb 123 and the manager 62. The Martlets were able to declare at half time on 296-7 – quite a recovery, from just 46 overs!

The batting line up for the MCC was as good as has been seen in many years. A couple of Irish internationals, an ex first class cricketer plus others who had played county 2nd XI cricket, meant Mike and his team were going to be up against it. However, what transpired was one of the more bizarre two hours of cricket. At 37 for 3 off 13 overs at tea all was certainly not lost for the MCC with their line up, but the Martlets had done well to get a good start. It did help that the Martlet fielding was superb. Nick Kent (St George's 1st XI opening bowler) found the hard edge of the number three bat and it flew as fast as any shot all day through the gully region only to be taken in the most spectacular fashion by Philip Ellwood! Just after this though, was the incredible 6 over spell that Ben Scott bowled. He returned with figures of 6-3-11-5. Four wickets were bowled and the fifth an LBW any umpire could have given,

helping bowl out the MCC for just 69, a winning margin of 227 runs. With only ten men – extraordinary!

Seaford was another good win, most notably for Daniel Smith's 7-26. The game against Caterham School, arranged in honour of Sandy Ross, was an extremely enjoyable day played in glorious sunshine and ending in an honourable draw. The Caterham Headmaster's XI made 243-6, with Paul Lack taking 4-31. Batting second the Sussex Martlets made 176-9, with Michael Roper making 51.

The picturesque West Chiltington cricket ground provided a lovely setting for this inaugural fixture with the West Chiltington & Thakeham CC. The Sussex Martlets made 289-2: Andrew Hartridge (119), Nick Seager (102), Mike Murray (47*). In reply West Chiltington & Thakeham made 256-9 with Paul Lack taking an excellent 6-75.

The match against the Arabs was another fantastic game, resulting in another very good win for the Martlets. Having won the toss and electing to field first each of the five bowlers used took a wicket, with the Arabs making 304-5. Matt Banes hit a superb 88 ball 151 to set up the win. Mike Harrison (57) and Mike Murray (36*) then steered us over the line with two balls to spare.

Against Brighton Brunswick the Martlets bowled and fielded superbly; Hartland and Harrison soon reduced BB to 34-3 and Lack and Allum bowled splendidly, taking full advantage of a dusty, turning Hove wicket to bowl the opposition out for 174. In reply, guests Steve Murdoch (80) and Chris Morgans (32) saw off a hostile opening spell to ease the Martlets to 122-1 and the middle order reached the total with some 16 overs to spare.

The Seniors vs Juniors was a high scoring draw with 490 runs in the day. The Sussex Martlets scored 265, Mike Chapman (109) and Sam Carter (55) with Tom Chamberlain taking 5-50. In reply the Junior Martlets scored 226-6, Jay Barclay (79), James Chapman (62) and Darryl Rebbetts (52*).

As ever, none of these games could take place without the selfless support of all our Match Managers, Umpires and Scorers and a big thank you to you all.

Rob Walker

(Those interested in the averages should note that they are to be found in the 2011 fixtures booklet. Ed)

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2010

14th July v. Babes of Kent at Ardingly (40 over game). Junior Martlets 295 for 6, Babes of Kent 104. Won by 191 runs

The Junior Martlets battled very well to reach a total of 295. Jay Barclay made an excellent 120 (retired) and figured in an opening partnership of 119 with Jamie Betts (55). Matt Sewell then scored 32 of 11 balls, and Chris Parsons 37* off 16 balls, both of them striking the ball superbly. The Babes of Kent, started well and made 48 before losing their first wicket, but wickets fell at regular intervals thereafter and none of their batsman were able to cope with the spin of Jason Hong, who took 4-13 off 8 overs. Altogether a very convincing win for the Junior Martlets in their opening game.

23rd July v. St James Montefiore at Keymer (40 over game). Junior Martlets 119, St James 122 for 5. Lost by 5 wickets.

The Junior Martlets had a strong batting side on paper, but unfortunately managed to lose wickets due to poor shot selection and some good bowling by the St James' captain Charles Davies (a Junior Martlets himself!). The Junior Martlets were all out for 119 in the 33rd over. Brad Gayler batted very resolutely and carried his bat (34*) - a splendid effort. St James' opening batsman departed first ball of their innings but they reached their victory target with 5 wickets in hand off 26 overs. Jethro Menzies bowled very well taking 2-13 off 5 overs, but the Junior Martlets were handicapped by their other opening bowler failing to arrive.

27th July v. Brighton & Hove U16 at Nevill Ground, Hove. Junior Martlets 176 for 8, Brighton & Hove 177 for 4. Lost by 6 wickets.

This game was good experience for the younger players. The Junior Martlets batted first and Greg Wisdom and Michael Askew put on a admirable 123 for the opening partnership. Both made fifties and then retired. The innings fell away after that and only William Saywer with 24 scored double figures. Brighton & Hove's top three batsman all made scores of over 30 and they won the match by 6 wickets. Henry Cope bowled his left arm chinamen well and took 2-1 off his 8 overs.

28th July v. Preston Nomads at Fulking (40 over game). Junior Martlets 226 for 6, Preston Nomads 194 for 6. Won by 32 runs.

A very good game of under 17 cricket on a lovely ground. The Junior Martlets batted first and there were 3 splendid innings by Greg Wisdom (54 retired), Michael Askew (55 retired) and captain Tom Chamberlain (48), which helped us to reach a good total of 226.

Preston Nomads started slowly and after 10 overs they were 23 for 1, Tom Chamberlain's first four

overs all being maidens. They then increased the run rate and a third wicket partnership of 53 off 8 overs gave them hope. However all the Junior Martlet bowlers performed well and we won the match by 32 runs.

20th August v. Sussex Martlets at Arundel Castle Sussex Martlets 265, Junior Martlets 236 for 6 Match Drawn

Our final game of the season against the Seniors on the beautiful ground at Arundel Castle ended in a draw. The Sussex Martlets batted first and were soon 17 for 2, but a splendid innings by Michael Chapman who made 100 before lunch, ably supported by Sam Carter (55) – a partnership of 156 for the third wicket–enabled the Sussex Martlets to reach 265.

The Junior Martlets made an excellent start putting on 147 for the first wicket. Jay Barclay (79) and James Chapman (62) batted splendidly, but once they were both out it was a struggle for the batsman who followed to keep up with the run rate. Darryl Rebbetts made 52* off 50 balls but we fell 29 runs short and the match was drawn. A very good game of cricket enjoyed by everyone.

Finally many congratulations are due to Matt Sewell who deservedly won the Junior Martlet player of the year award.

Chris Snell

A YEAR AT LORD'S

John Barclay reveals the highlights of his year as President of M.C.C.

I was astonished when Derek Underwood asked me to succeed him as President of M.C.C. Our friendship began poorly back in 1973 when at Hastings he dismissed me on a wet wicket for a pair. It was a humbling experience and one which has scarred me ever since. Matters were made worse in 1984 when Derek came in to bat for Kent as night-watchman, again at Hastings, and he made his one and only century in 1st class cricket. I dropped a tough catch at slip when he had 92, but otherwise it was chanceless. When Derek subsequently announced his successor as President I knew it was more out of sympathy than any positive merit.

Be that as it may, it was a wonderful and fulfilling year both for me and my wife, Renira. I visited Dubai for M.C.C.'s World Cricket Committee and Mumbai for the opening ceremony and match of the 20/ Twenty I.P.L. Together we toured South Africa, Cape Town and Johannesburg, where I made any number of speeches and even assisted with the opening of a new cricket ground to serve the needs of schools and communities in a neglected area of Johannesburg. My winter's expeditions came to a conclusion with a visit to Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The passion for cricket in the city is enormous; cricket being played

REMEMBERING SANDY ROSS

A collection of articles and tributes to Sandy was assembled into a 30 page booklet which has kindly been reviewed by Christopher Martin-Jenkins below. In addition two cricket matches were held in memory of Sandy. The first was held at Caterham, where he worked for many years, and the second was the Twenty/20 day held at Hurstpierpoint.

SANDY ROSS – a tribute

Soon after I joined the committee of MCC there was a debate, in reaction to a critical piece in *The Times* about The Spirit of Cricket. Could it be better defined? Yes, it now occurs to me, in two words: Sandy Ross.

Of all his clubs the Martlets was probably his most treasured, so it is good that Desmond Devitt should have put together a collection of reminiscences about a man so affectionately remembered by so many. I have tried to think of any other special publication commemorating a mere club cricketer but to no avail. In this respect as in several others Sandy Ross was unique.

Throughout last season I found myself thinking of him at different times, picturing him at Lord's or Hove or Horsham. As this booklet illustrates in so many ways through several different voices, his life demonstrated perfectly that a man reaps what he sows. Sandy 'cast his bread upon the water' and made everyone around him as happy as he was.

Of all the affectionate tributes in the memoir the ones that moved me most – apart from the photograph on the cover which captures Sandy exactly as I remember him in many an MCC match – are those remembering his jigs of delight after taking the last of his all ten wickets for East Grinstead, and when he helped the Haileybury Hermits to win their Cricketer Cup semi-final. Read them and savour again this unbeatified cricketing saint.

Christopher Martin-Jenkins
President, M.C.C.

(Copies of this booklet are still available. My contact details are on page 12. Ed)

MARTLETS v CATERHAM

On a glorious morning Julian Thomas and Paul Lack tossed the coin with the Headmaster's team deciding to bat. The ground and wicket looked excellent and after a good start Ashfield removed Smith for 16.

Raja and McKinley then plundered 118 runs before Thacker had Raja LBW for a superb 83. Green, Goodwin & Oliver-Redgate toiled well in the warm sun before the spinners Allum and Lack got to work. McKinley fell to Lack for 68, well stumped by Roper but Andy Meads (36*) kept the score ticking over before we faced the

challenge of dismissing the Headmaster, Julian Thomas, after he had struck his first boundary. Lack and Goodwin, the only Martlets with daughters at Caterham School, combined not only to end the Headmaster's innings, but any possible future Scholarship prospects!

An excellent lunch was provided with both Captains paying tribute to Sandy and his longstanding connection with Caterham School and the Martlets.

At 243-6 a very sporting declaration was made, with the best of the bowlers having been Ashfield (1-36), Thacker (1-17) and Lack (4-31).

Roper (51) and Lawrence put on a solid 52 for the first wicket before Barnard removed Lawrence (23) and Ben Green (14). Unfortunately Derek Semmence was run out, but Will Ross (31) put on an excellent partnership with Patrick Goodwin (33) to get to 169 for 5 before Wilson (4-47) took quick wickets to leave Lack and Ashfield to hold out for the draw on 176-9.

At tea Will Ross gave a short speech to thank everyone on behalf of Diana and the Ross family for what had been a memorable day, kindly provided by Julian Thomas, David Clark and their team at Caterham School, not forgetting the groundsman who provided such an excellent wicket.

Thanks go to our many other supporters including Chris Snell, Chris Gray, Charlie and John Hartridge for making the day for Sandy so memorable.

Paul Lack





SANDY ROSS 20/20 TOURNAMENT

Sandy's untimely death in 2009 was still very much in the hearts and minds of all who knew him as the new cricket season started in 2010. It was decided by the Committee to invite three other Clubs that he had played for with distinction to contest the inaugural 20/20 tournament that was to bear his name.

Hurstpierpoint College was the chosen venue and four teams, the Cryptics, the Free Foresters, the Haileybury Hermits and the Sussex Martlets assembled early on a damp Sunday morning to do battle. Heavy overnight rain had threatened the event and the forecast was gloomy. The opening games started in drizzle and it says much of the players that they were determined to play cricket whatever the weather had in store. In the event we need not have worried and the script for the day's play and its outcome could not have been more appropriate.

The two semi-finals were played on adjacent wickets on the main square. In game A the Haileybury Hermits posted a very useful 175 against the Cryptics, who somewhat self-destructed and were bowled out for only 70 in 15.4 overs. Game B, the other encounter between the Free Foresters and the Sussex Martlets, could not have been closer. The Martlets batted first and scored a competitive 156-6 with 42 from Daniel Smith and 33 each from Ed McGregor and Tom Harrison. The Foresters made a steady reply and 42 from Mark Symonds and 52* from George Adolphus looked to have seen them home. However, smart fielding from the Martlets resulted in three run outs and the scores were famously tied at the end of the 20 overs. It was decided to resolve who went forward to the final with a 'golden over' per side. The Martlets managed 15 to the Foresters' 11 and the former progressed.

The players and officials were then treated to a spectacular lunch through the kind offices of Neil Bushell and his team and for many, rousing themselves for the afternoon games was a distinct effort.

The third/fourth place game saw the Cryptics, stung by their indifferent showing against the Hermits, belt 191-7 off their allotted 20 overs, with three of their number scoring 30+. It was a tall order for the Foresters, so nearly themselves finalists, and they made a gallant chase, only to fall ten short on 181. And so we had the 'dream final' between Sandy's alma mater and the Martlets. The Hermits batted first making 164-8, with Tom Stewart making the day's top score (83), ably supported by Ed Wright with 34. Bethay and Smith grabbed two wickets each for the Martlets. Stuart Ritchie, opening, hit a belligerent 44 with eight fours and one six, setting up the run chase. However, it was left to two of the younger members of the Martlets, Nick Seager and Andrew Hartridge, to see them home with three balls to spare. If there was such a thing as a perfect result, then this was it.

Chris Gray

Scores

Haileybury Hermits 175 (P.Reid 50, T.Stewart 39) beat the Cryptics 70 (P.Reid 3-11, J.Higgs 2-3). Sussex Martlets 156-6 (D.Smith 43, E.McGregor 33, T.Harrison 33, R.Proctor 2-27) beat the Free Foresters 156-6 (G.Adolphus 52*, M.Symonds 42).

Third / Fourth places:

Cryptics 191-7 (G.Williamson 43, J.Coburn 37, T.Davy 2-37) beat the Free Foresters 181 (T.Davy 59, M.Symonds 41).

Final

Haileybury Hermits 164-8 (T.Stewart 83, E.Wright 34, Z.Bhettay 2-21) lost to the Sussex Martlets 165-5 (S.Ritchie 44, A.Hartridge 31*).

on every street, but the crowds at the ground were small – prices too high and no time for spectators to leave their work. I believe that they are saving up for the World Cup, which opens in Dhaka in February. It was though a great thrill to welcome Bangladesh to Lord's in May, and how well they performed too in conditions that hardly made them feel at home. All the same, we witnessed the special talent of Tamim Iqbal who opened the batting with gusto, treated some of the bowling with scorn and reached a memorable hundred. The Bangladeshi community attended in force and was given much to cheer about in a match that was expected to be one-sided. In the event, it went into the last day with honour maintained by both sides.

Which was more than could be said when Pakistan visited Lord's to play England in August. This match should always have been remembered for Trott's and Broad's remarkable partnership but, instead, the game slid ignominiously into one of ill-repute with allegations of 'spot fixing' blurring anything about the game that was good. England beat Pakistan comfortably enough and the post-match ceremony was staged in the Long Room, as a 'security precaution'. It was a cheerless affair, which summed up the moods of both teams. No smiles and little applause. Cricket was never supposed to be like that.

May I conclude by saying how much we look forward to Martlet cricket at Arundel this year. We welcome you very warmly and trust that there will be much sunshine and good cricket to enjoy.

John Barclay

*Director of Cricket and Coaching,
Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation*

INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

Patrick Jackson, our man-of-action Secretary, reports in from Afghanistan. You are warned that on return he expects to find that ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS HAVE BEEN PAID. Remember he does have your address...

On a patrol a few days ago, as I trudged down a dusty road in Nad e Ali in Helmand, I was brought sharply to my senses by the actions of a group of youths a few hundred yards away. Having been in a tight bunch they had spread out and suddenly something caused them to start running in what appeared to be different directions. This was not necessarily a good sign – I looked more carefully and noticed two of the youths were running toward each other, each carrying something in their hands, two others seemed to be chasing one another and the remainder of the group were hurriedly moving a few paces here and there.

It dawned on me that far from being the first moves in a potential attack there was something oddly familiar and unthreatening about their movements,

that seemed at odds with the environment. The boys who were chasing each other now stopped, with the leader of the two turning and throwing something to the centre of the group. As we raised our weapon sights to get a closer look, relief and some surprise spread over me as one of the Rangers of the Royal Irish Regiment crouching next to me spoke for us all, "I say, Sir – Gosh! They're playing cricket!" or words to that effect!



This is the only time I've seen cricket being played in Helmand. I have seen boys playing the game on the streets in Kabul and soldiers playing it in bases throughout the province but not local boys and certainly not through a rifle sight.

Of course nothing can be written about cricket early in 2011 without mentioning the highlight of the Winter and the crushing England Ashes victory in Australia. My own 'Ashes' started during the Second Test in the unlikely surroundings of a small Check Point in Basharan, which served as the base for a platoon of B (Rorke's Drift) Company Royal Welsh. I had stumbled upon a television outside the small Operations room and, courtesy of the British Forces Broadcasting Service, we had live coverage from Sky! Settling down on one of the very uncomfortable old missile cases, which served as benches in the flimsy shelter, I joined the half dozen Welsh soldiers and one lonely English signaller, to watch as England began piling on the runs. Almost immediately a series of explosions and heavy machine gun fire shattered our peace, as some insurgents attacked a Check Point about 800 metres away.

As stray tracers flew over the top of our position and the sounds intensified, we loyally kept one ear on the cricket and with the other we listened to the radio to determine whether the Quick Reaction Force would be called out or whether close support would come from attack helicopters. Fortunately before either was needed the fight died down and we were

able to continue watching as England build a commanding position in the match.

Cricket in Afghanistan has a long way to go in order to achieve the popularity it enjoys in neighbouring Pakistan, but some Martlets may have seen the film 'Out of the Ashes' shown on TV last year. This documentary describes how the Afghan National Team went from playing in the ICC Division 5 to becoming an ODI side in just two years. In February 2010 Afghanistan secured a place in the T20 cricket World Cup in West Indies and faced both India and South Africa. The Afghans played pretty well considering and impressed millions of viewers. They have great ambition and hope that through cricket they can introduce Afghanistan to the world and show their country in a better and more peaceful light.

Even the girls in Afghanistan are playing cricket and a national women's team is heading to Kuwait in February this year to take part in the Asian Women's T20 Championships.

One of the stranger moments of my time out here was when I walked into our office one morning. The hut was empty of people, but there on my desk was THE FA Cup! Stuart Pearce had brought it with him to make a short film to be shown on ITV for the Cup draw the following weekend. We had an amusing and interesting few days during which the Cup travelled from unit to unit and an Irish Guards XI played against an Afghan National Army XI. The match was a draw and both teams shared the Cup.

I aim to finish my tour here in April and look forward to getting into the nets and playing some Martlet cricket. In the meantime I am most grateful to Charlie Hartridge who has been covering the Secretary's job in my absence. I look forward to catching up with everyone and seeing some green grass!

I have been very fortunate during the past months to spend time in very difficult situations with some very impressive men and women. There is nothing particularly remarkable about these young people but what they do is remarkable. Circumstances are often demanding and dangerous, but even in the worst they find the best and in the best they try to find better. So much for the 'playstation' generation – they are as good as any that have gone before and it's been a privilege to be with them.

Patrick Jackson
Helmand, January 2011

THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2010

A good year in all ways was enjoyed by no less than 33 Martlets who played in the nine matches which made up our season. With the exception of a wet and windy Seaford on Ryder Cup Sunday, all matches were played in fine weather and some notable results were achieved.

The first match of the season at West Sussex at the end of March was narrowly lost, as was the Seaford game (3-2), played as a morning fourball as a prelude to a good lunch before settling down to watch the Ryder Cup singles. Littlehampton was similarly a morning/early afternoon fourball played into a strong northerly wind on this lovely seaside course and followed by an even longer lunch. Match drawn 3-3.

The games at Crowborough and Hankley Common in April and Piltdown in September unusually resulted in defeat but, as in all our matches, were fully compensated by the warmth and generosity of the hospitality offered by our hosts afterwards and during lunch.

On the plus side we achieved a notable win at Royal Ashdown 9-5 at the end of April, repeated our defeat of a strong Rye side 8½-3½ on a lovely day in October, having won at Cooden Beach 7½-4½ the previous week. Adrian White is to be congratulated on his record at Cooden.

So not a bad year with 3 wins, 1 half and 5 losses, for which I would like to thank my excellent and long suffering match managers for the hard work they put in to arrange their teams, run the day and establish and strengthen the close relations and friendships which we are so fortunate to continue to enjoy with the members of the Clubs we are privileged to play at each year.

Which brings me to say that, after eleven enjoyable and rewarding years as Hon. Secretary of the Golfing Society I have decided that the time is right, before I find myself outdriven by every Martlet, for me to hand the reins to a younger model. I would not have done so had I not found the right candidate and I am delighted that Adrian White has agreed to be your new Hon Secretary from the beginning of 2011. Adrian was a good Martlet cricketer who, with his father and two brothers ran Scaynes Hill Cricket Club for many years. He is a fine golfer, a member at West Sussex and, as I have already made mention, has managed the Cooden match with skill and much success since Anthony Shuttleworth's sad illness.

There will no doubt be those who will say that after my predecessor's 45 years in the chair, I am not yet run in! But much has happened and there have been many changes in the last decade, brought about by the pressures of work and family and now economics, which have and will continue to exercise the mind of anyone who is running the affairs of a Club, be it golf, cricket or whatever. So I do believe the time is right, and in wishing our great Society all success under Adrian I would remind all golfing members that they are members of a Club and urge them to assist him and his match managers as far as they are able by their own contribution as players and encouragers of the young.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure. Thank you all for friendship and support.

Ham Whitty



Adrian White

Adrian White has been a regular member of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society for 10 years, and manages the fixture against Cooden Beach GC. He is a member of West Sussex Golf club. He is a chartered surveyor, recently retired after a career working in London, and lives in Lindfield.

As a cricketer he divided his time between the Sussex Martlets and Scaynes Hill Cricket Club. The Sussex Martlets played an annual fixture against the club and some older Martlets will recall playing against not only Adrian but also his father and two brothers as well!

OBITUARIES

IVOR BINNEY



The celebration of Ivor's life was held at St. Luke's Church in Chelsea, and afterwards at the Old Town Hall, on October 11th. which would have been his 81st birthday. As a reflection of the man, the church and reception were overflowing with friends and acquaintances wishing to pay their last respects and drink a

toast to his memory. A friend and colleague of some 50 years, Murray Lawrence spoke eloquently of his generosity and honesty as well as his distinguished career as a Lloyd's broker. It was apparent from the moving tributes from members of his family that they mourned the passing of an exceptional man who was much loved.

A first class brain earned him a scholarship to Haberdashers Aske when at Hampstead, followed by a "cushy" number in the Royal Education Corps for his National Service. At a loose end after demob, a chance meeting after a rugby match brought an invitation to "come and see me in my office on Monday." I have often given this as an example of one of the side benefits of playing a sport to my children and grandchildren, for Ivor was taken on by CT Bowring there and then and rapidly climbed the ladder eventually to join the Board, a position he retained after the takeover by Marsh MacLennan, the largest American Insurance Broker. At the same time, his ability was recognised by being elected to the Lloyd's Brokers Committee, becoming Chairman in 1976, which was followed by election to the Council.

A large and imposing man, I first met him when playing for the Martlets at Lindfield, where he was the demon fast bowler, and became good friends. We enjoyed many Martlet matches together where his innate competitiveness was tempered by a great

sense of humour. He also played MCC cricket but his chronic asthma made him look for something less energetic and he expressed a desire to take up golf. I took him to Seaford where we had some hilarious days, commencing with two strokes a hole, gradually reduced by his margin of victory until we were on a par. He later joined Piltdown and was difficult to beat off a 16 handicap. He also played for the Lloyd's Golf Club in their matches and meetings and became their President in 1988. As a reflection no doubt on his teacher, Murray Lawrence described his method as "individualistic" and not to be recommended. However they did manage to take the President's prize at one of the Lloyd's meetings. To be sure, the gene was there and passed on to his daughter Emma's two boys who are both single figure men.

Perhaps his sporting pinnacle was to present the Bowring Bowl to the winner at the annual Varsity Rugby match, but he also, apparently, did a bit of sailing and crewed in the Lloyd's boat in the disastrous, storm wrecked Cross Channel Race in the late 50's. He was lucky to survive when others did not. But golf played a large part in his sporting life, especially latterly when he moved to Spain and built a lovely home in Valderamma where he became involved in the management of the prestigious golf complex.

Personally, I shall always be indebted to his generosity when he decided to regularise my love-life. An avuncular arm went round my shoulder when walking up the Fourth at Seaford. "Peter, you have got to get married, you make the arrangements and tell me when. I'll be your Best Man and Susan and I will organise the reception at my place." By his place he meant the superbly located Southease Place which overlooked the Ouse valley towards the sea. How could I refuse. I look back nearly fifty years later and thank him dearly for stabilising my life.

Peter Ross (Wittersham)

MARK LAWRENCE



Mark was a childhood mate of Neil Fairbrother (Lancs & England) – he bowled, Neil batted, so he was used to chasing leather from an early age. Although Neil became the big star, from 1982-86 Mark played for Oxford University and counted amongst his 42 first-class victims Boycott, Hick, Amiss and Gatting.

He was adept at the 'Oxford dive' – whereby he would make a futile dive towards a ball screaming through the covers well wide of him, but lying prone demanded that one of his teammates had to go and fetch from the boundary.

On arriving in Sussex in the 1980's he played Martlet cricket off and on until 2010. He also found time (he was a left-arm spinner by the way) to take 250

league wickets for Lindfield in nine seasons. In 1993 when Lindfield won their league, he was the leading wicket taker with 45 wickets.

Whoever he played for, you always knew he was there. The chat was pretty constant, and amusing. "Buzzers" were always announced enthusiastically.

That he should have been taken off at the age of only 48 is a cruel blow both to his family and the enormous circle of friends who attended his funeral. I can just hear him politely questioning the umpire's decision in that northern accent: "Umpire, are you sure it's over?"

Desmond Devitt

JIM STALLIBRAS



Jim Stallibrass was a great man of Cricket. He had been a Sussex Martlet and regular player for many years.

It was my good fortune to play a great deal with him – he was always one of the first on any Manager's list. As "stylish" and correct batsman he featured for many Clubs: MCC, Guildford (as captain), Grasshoppers, Free Foresters, Sussex 2nd X1 and

regularly for Devon.

He often recounted a match for Devon against Surrey 2nd X1 at the Oval where he helped them make a commanding total of over 400 on the flawless wicket. Alas for hopes. The newly selected bowlers for Devon could make no impression on the Surrey line up, which easily topped the score needed for first innings' lead, with plenty to spare. (Alan Brazier 216 and Tom Clark 187). Also in the Devon team was Peter Wreford, his great friend.

Jim was a regular player against the Schools and made a point of knowing the boys' names, form and progress. An admirable and welcome contribution. He would make his runs fluently and with no hint of patronisation and a word of encouragement to all – not forgetting the long-suffering master i/c.

He was a fluent runner in the field and on the boundary, as befitted a former Soccer player, until well past the age when others had retired to the comfort of the pavilion deck chair. At Arundel for me one day, when it was necessary to entice the other side to go for the runs, he caught four catches, all different, in the deep, in those far reaches of the ground. This following his own half century.

He was a player of many games – golf, soccer and County table tennis.

He was a regular visitor to Lancing when his sons were in the teams and he made a full day of it in the winter, when he would take a golf lesson at

Worthing, play 18 holes and arrive in time for the kick off.

One memory of playing with him persists – this for Free Foresters – when we batted together and the score keeping and telegraph were both unreliable. Being of similar build, batting left handed and wearing our FF caps seemed to cause some difficulties. However we were both credited with scores of over the half century, but spent the evening (and in meetings later) claiming that the other had been given most of the runs.

Jim personified the spirit of Cricket to the full and had an irrepressible sporting joie de vivre. He will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

Brian O'Gorman

I first met Jim in 1952 at Guildford when I was playing for Priory Park. He had a fine head of reddish hair. Some fifteen years later after a net at Lord's when heading for the shower, I was taken aback to be greeted cheerfully by name by a stark naked totally hairless figure. "Put a hat on," I said, for all to be revealed. Over the next forty years or so I enjoyed his company immensely, whether on the cricket field or the golf links. He always lived life to the full and his follicle loss worried him not a jot. At the New Inn in Hurst a slightly inebriated customer addressed him as Kojak. "I broke the nose of the last man who called me that", he said. It took us some time to reassure the offender he wouldn't hurt a fly. A great character who will be sadly missed.

Keith Jenkin

BASIL WOODS



It was always great fun to play cricket with Basil. He brought humour, delight and skill to the matches he played in, both in his batting and particularly with his leg spin and googly bowling.

I played many matches with Bas, admiring his bowling, but the match I particularly remember was when I was playing on the opposite side and had to face him. I thought I knew enough about it to survive. However, his first googly, his fourth ball, went through my defences onto the middle stump without hitting bat or pad. This was also accompanied by Bas' whoop of joy and amusement.

He was born Basil Joseph Pontifex Woods in Cape Province, South Africa, and got a first class degree in Economics at Natal University before going to Pembroke College Cambridge. He played for the University once or twice and claimed the wickets of Halliday and Lester of Yorkshire and Ken Suttle of Sussex.

He joined Guest Keen & Nettlefold. He wanted the opportunity to influence the destiny of a highly

respected and significant company. He was to spend 23 years there.

Basil had three daughters by his first marriage. He later married Debbie and retired to Ross-on-Wye, where she cared for him during his battle with Parkinson's disease.

Peter Collymore

I was fortunate in playing with Basil on numerous occasions for both the Martlets and Duke Bernard's XI. His cricketing skills, mainly in the art of bowling leg breaks imparted with a vicious click of the fingers, were in constant demand, but he could on occasions excel with the bat. There was a famous occasion at the Castle when the match ended with Basil on 99 not out. The Duke sympathised with Basil but consoled him with the statement that he presumed that Basil had scored so many centuries that he would not mind too much. Basil later confessed that up to that time he had not scored a 100!

Geoff Wills

On his day he could be an absolute nightmare for batsman, slips and wicket-keeper (particularly if Piersenne was at the other end.) and a dodgy 'keeper needed as near a long stop as was tactful. Playing at Worthing under David Dickinson, a demander of high standards in the field (and at home according to wife Joy), the fielding had been poor and when Basil set off after a ball heading for the boundary, he was pursued by cries of "faster Basil, faster" and at the last moment, "throw yourself Basil!" At which point he did, and arose covered in dust (the ball went for four).

At Larry O'Callaghan's funeral, after the priest had referred to the sins of the deceased three times (probably with some justification), Debby said she would get up and protest if he said it again, and Basil and I kept a very watchful eye on her in case she did. A splendid friend and a true Martlet.

Keith Jenkin

THE CLUB ARCHIVES

Following the sad and untimely death of Sandy Ross in July 2009, I was asked by the Committee to review the situation of the Club's records. As you can imagine he had kept them meticulously.

Readers of *Summers by the Sea* will remember that on three occasions most of the Club's records escaped this life. In 1915 and 1949 secretaries Hugh Collis and A.C.G. David died suddenly and the Martlets records disappeared when their estates were broken up; and in 1972 a fire at The Tannery, Secretary Eddie Harrison's office, destroyed much of what he had collated. The records of the Club therefore relate mainly to the last 40 years although there are some items which have survived from the earlier years.

I have now rationalised them and added items from Sandy's own Martlets archive. They are all filed and have been placed in two large cardboard boxes. They were on display in the pavilion at Arundel Castle last August for Vice Presidents' Day when the Martlets and the Junior Martlets drew in an excellent day's cricket.

The Sussex County Cricket Club's Library Trust (secretary Rob Boddie) has agreed to incorporate these records as a separate section of its own permanent collection. Currently it is being stored at the East Sussex County Records Office in Lewes, whilst work on the new Library is completed in the new stand at the County Ground. This is due to open in the summer of 2011.

The Club's records are filed as follows:

1. Annual Reports & Fixture Cards, 1951-90
2. Centenary Year 2005: Scrapbook
3. Centenary Year 2005: Photographs from Sandy Ross's private collection.
4. Fixture Cards.
5. Junior Martlets Scorebook, 1982-91.
6. Membership Lists, Scoresheets 1989-96, Annual Reports 1965-88.
7. Minute Book of Committee Meetings and Scrapbook, 1959-90.
8. Miscellaneous Documents: three volumes including scoresheets of the Hove Long Vacation Club, tour programmes, Junior Martlets records 1952-68, and the notes of Sandy Ross on the Club's scorebooks 1926-53 held at the West Sussex County Records Office, Chichester.
9. Miscellaneous Scoresheets, including 1992-98 and 2002-06.
10. Summers by the Sea: Sandy Ross's own researches for the Appendix.
11. Sussex Martlets Golf Day 2005: Photographs.

There is some duplication here and I suspect that an archivist with time could rationalise the scoresheets so that there is a continuous record. The scoresheets of the Hove Long Vacation Club (the forerunner of the Martlets) are remarkable and, I suspect, of some historical value.

I am sure this is the best home for the Club's records. Here they can be well looked after, cherished and importantly accessible for any member to call in and browse through this interesting collection. It is important also that they are sustained with additions each year and I am happy to try and co-ordinate this.

David Gibbs

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