



# THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

Issue Number 17

March 2014



## *Martlets Tour to Dublin.*

Following months of planning, Nigel Russell and Adrian White assembled a motley crew of some 28 cricketers, golfers and supporters at Gatwick to undertake the Martlet Tour to Dublin. That Aer Lingus did not bump any off the flight was surprising, to say the least.

Under the captaincy of Michael Murray, the squad of cricketers included Anthony Alexander, Frankie Ashworth, John Ashworth, Marcus Campopiano, Henry Cope, Luke Hansford, Darren MacDonald, Adam Scott, Nick Seager and Mark Trubshaw. Ron Pateman umpired and John Betts scored.

Adrian White mustered a talented group of golfers in the form of Willie Bicket, Mark Bowden, Ben Burrows, Chris Gray, Ian Lock, David Morgan and Ham Whitty. Their number was supplemented Paul Lack and Stuart Ritchie, who masqueraded as cricketers or golfers as the mood took them.

Senior figures were also enlisted to add a little tone to proceedings: Brian and Kathleen O'Gorman, Nuala Pateman, Nigel Russell and our President, Chris Snell.

A fine time was had by all and the Martlets' contribution to the recovery of the Irish economy can be measured by the fact that shortly afterwards it was announced that Ireland was able to exit the "bail-out" stage of their recovery.

Think of Dublin, and you may well think of James Joyce. But Sussex cricketers' Joyce of choice is of course Merrion C.C.'s Ed. We are most grateful for both his and his formidable mother's support in getting this tour off the ground.

And lastly our thanks go to Mark Jeffries, who guided us to a number of locations – some more suitable than others!

**Desmond Devitt**



*If this picture of a young Ed Joyce is a touch fuzzy, it reflects perfectly Martlet memories of a week in Dublin*

*Given our tour to Dublin and the fact that the new captain of Sussex is himself Irish, it seemed appropriate for the Editor to approach Ed Joyce for his thoughts on the season.*

**DD:** How do you feel your first season as captain of Sussex has gone?

**EJ:** I have to admit I'm more than a little relieved that my first full season at the helm of Sussex CCC is over! Following on from the hugely successful captaincy years of Mike Yardy, and Chris Adams before him, was a daunting task and I can admit now that while I was very excited about taking on the job, I was also extremely nervous about the season ahead. But all in all, I'm pretty satisfied with the performance of the team. I think 3rd place in the championship was a very good achievement, considering the upheaval surrounding Monty Panesar's departure in mid-season. He has undoubtedly been our most valuable bowler in the longer format in the last couple of seasons, and I think it's a credit to the team and coaching staff that his leaving didn't affect our performance as much as it might have done.

**DD:** Are you feeling confident you can improve on the rankings next season?

**EJ:** Our seam bowling attack of Magoffin, Jordan and Anyon proved to be a very potent one and if we can get a few more runs from the top six, we should be challenging again next year. 5th in 2011, 4th in 2012, 3rd in 2013...let's hope that we can jump two spots next season and make it a fourth championship victory in just over a decade.

**DD:** Do you have any comment on Sussex's form in the shorter forms of the game?

**EJ:** All I'll say about our 1-day and 20/20 performances is that we must do better. I really do feel that 2013 was just a blip on what has generally been our strength at Sussex over the years since I've been at the club. Look out for the Sharks again next season!

**DD:** As you know, the Martlets had a tour to Dublin this year. Clearly Irish cricket is flourishing at club and national level.

**EJ:** It has also been a massive year for Irish cricket. We qualified very comfortably for the 50 over World Cup in 2015 and also won the World Cricket League. With a bit of luck, we can also add the 20/20 Qualifying Event and Intercontinental Cup to the trophy cabinet in November and December.

**DD:** Just after we left Dublin, England were due to come over to play Ireland. How did it go?

**EJ:** It was a magnificent day at Malahide in North Dublin, where for the first time 10,000 people came out to watch a game of cricket in Ireland. Although we lost and yours truly made a fool of himself by standing on his stumps, it was an unmitigated success. I'm so proud to be a part of Irish cricket at the moment and while there are undoubtedly challenges ahead, mainly to do with obtaining fixtures and expanding the game beyond its traditional strongholds, the future looks incredibly bright.

**DD:** We could have done with you in the Martlets XI (both on and off the pitch!) We enjoyed our time in Dublin and hopefully we didn't disgrace ourselves.

**EJ:** I had hoped to join the tour for a couple of days and hopefully play a game, but that unfortunately proved impossible. No tour to Dublin is complete without a game against my old team, Merrion. I knew that the mighty Merrion men would of course gain the victory, but I'm lead to believe (from my mother!) that it was in the balance at one stage.

I'm absolutely chuffed that the tour seemed to pass of without a hitch and having spoken to some of the great and the good of Dublin cricket in the last few weeks, all the cricket clubs (and bars!) would be more than happy to see the Martlets again at the earliest possible opportunity.

**DD:** Well, that's good to hear. Maybe we did help stimulate the ailing Irish economy a bit. How do you think we can do a bit better next time?

**EJ:** In my opinion, as long as the cricket is competitive, which it was by all accounts, a successful club cricket tour is judged by how much fun has been had on and off the pitch and the friends that have been made, and not at all on the results achieved...which is just as well I guess! Winning a few more games would be nice though, so maybe a minimum amount of sleep per night should be enforced – five hours should do the trick...and preferably in one's own bed!

**DD:** Thanks Ed.

*Trubby please note the above – 5 hours per night, not over the whole week!*



## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013



My impression of the Martlets when I played my first game (in 1998) was that it was simply a club of like-minded cricketers, who enjoyed traditional, occasional and competitive cricket, and for which it was a great privilege to be selected. These values are timeless, and were as fully embraced by the founding fathers as they are now and will be in the future.

There's a bit more to it than that, however. The world is changing around us, and so is cricket. There's less time for it for a start. Fewer players want to play cricket twice at the weekend, and league players seem increasingly ground down by the treadmill of winning draws and bonus points. There's more and more timed cricket and correspondingly less and less declaration cricket. People get bored more easily and want variety. This all presents a paradox in that the apparently traditional values that the Martlets stood for then, and stand for today, are more in demand than ever. Increasingly, people just want to have fun, albeit competitive, structured and traditional fun.

I hold that for a sporting club to be sustainable and relevant, it must offer its members two linked characteristics. Firstly, it should offer accessibility and excellence. As long as a minimum level of competence is presented, anyone is welcome to come and play. The extremely talented are welcome and greatly encouraged, too. Secondly, every member should have the opportunity to play into a higher standard. Whether or not they want to take that opportunity is up to them, but it keeps things fresh to enable people to learn and develop – at whatever age – if they want to.

We exhibit both these characteristics really well. Our match managers can draw upon a broad range of cricketers, the best of whom are bordering on professional (or could have chosen a professional career). We offer a wide range of fixtures, the best of which take place at Arundel against sides approaching County 2nd XI standard.

Inherent in our mission, then, is that we provide a platform for both accessibility and excellence. To encourage the accessibility, we maintain a wide membership and enrich it with a strong social agenda and a brilliant golf section. To encourage the excellence, we draw from the County in that many of our members play league cricket on Saturday, and we borrow from the league clubs overseas players whose presence inspires us for our mid-week and Sunday games.

In return, we give a platform to those league players to try things out in a competitive

environment where mistakes don't really matter. Funky fields, reverse sweeps, daring captaincy – give it a go, we cry! We identify talented players at the schools we play against and suggest them to the County Academy, and we provide an additional platform for Academy and regional development players to compete against talented cricketers.

I don't value tradition for nostalgia's sake, I value it for the relevant contribution it makes to the future. In my vision for the Martlets, I see us as an informal, unappointed custodian of traditional values in Sussex recreational cricket, as a Club that plays a useful and relevant role in providing our members with a platform for competitive cricket, that gives them the opportunity to play into a higher standard, that values both accessibility and involvement, and that helps the County and its wider community to develop its own cricketing objectives.

Many of you know this already but it helps to write things down. Above all we should be about playing cricket with people whose company we look forward to and do so with a smile on our face. Even when the off-stump is cartwheeling towards the keeper.

**John Ashworth**

## REVIEW OF THE SEASON

By universal acclaim, 2013 was a tremendous season for the Martlets. To start with, we played most of our scheduled games, in stark contrast to the depletion by rain in 2012 of half the fixture list.

The records show that we won 15 games, lost 15, tied 1, drew 1, and cancelled or aborted 7. 171 Players turned out in Martlet colours in 2013.

Significant batting performers were:

M. Campopiano	8	1	134	388	55.43
N. Seager	6	-	92	269	44.83
P. Walker	5	2	58*	87	29.00
W. Rydon	7	2	80*	133	26.60
A. Alexander	8	-	67	207	25.88

With centuries from:

A. Turner 165 v Brighton College, 122\* v Eastbourne College, 103 v Hurstpierpoint College;  
M. Campopiano 134\* v Hurstpierpoint College;  
A. Hartridge 121 v West Chiltington & Thakeham;  
G. Mamhiyo 110 v Lancing College.

With a huge sense of irony, Ashton Turner failed to qualify for the averages having played only 4 games, despite his aggregate runs topping everyone else in the Club!

Significant bowling performers were:

M. Murray	58.6	5	250	20	12.50
H. Cope	39.0	3	155	8	19.38
M. Trubshaw	69.5	9	339	16	21.19
A. Scott	26.0	1	108	5	21.60
P. Walker	39.0	2	200	8	25.00

With 'fifers' from:

M. Murray	6 for 13 v Lady Mary Mumford's X1
A. Berendt	5 for 22 v Rottingdean
D. Horsham	5 for 59 v Downside Wanderers
B. Mordt	5 for 61 v Band of Brothers

The season opened at Eastbourne College with a side that for the first of many times in 2013 included all three executive officers of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The College fielded a strong side, led by Harry Finch, who went on claim England U-19 honours and a Sussex contract. Our trump card however was Aussie academy and Chichester Priory overseas player Ashton Turner, whose remarkably fast hands and strong hitting exploited the sea breeze blowing to the north of the ground. The game finished 45 minutes early in our favour.

Mike Harrison's MCC game at Arundel was a triumph. The captains went to toss up under clear blue skies, but furiously determined to shorten the game to 35-overs, since an eagle-eyed Sam Carter had spotted the weather forecast predicting heavy rain mid-afternoon. Sure enough, heavy hitting ensured a victory in drizzle. Wonderful captaincy and match management.

The Downside Wanderers game was one that we should have lost, but Willie Bicket's inspiring captaincy turned it into a victory. On a difficult wicket Martlets wickets fell early and quickly (35 - 5). A mid order stand between Paul Walker and Will Rydon shored up the innings, but 142 all out seemed a bit weak. The Martlets then bowled tidily and, remarkably, had Downside Wanderers all out for 137. A tight opening spell from Mark Chapple, 3 - 43 for Dan Smith and an outstanding spell of 5 - 59 from 15 overs from Derek Horsham saw the Martlets through to a narrow and exciting victory.

Goodwood saw the return to Martlet colours of Chichester cricket and hockey stalwart Andy Barnes. His brisk 75 against a much-strengthened Goodwood side was a master class and we welcome him back to the fold.

Christ's Hospital was a game in which we came a well-deserved second. Despite the presence of Three Bridges overseas all-rounder Vic Davies (bowling a good county length), we were put to the sword by youngster Luke Hansford who was in the process of breaking all sorts of school batting records under the eager tutelage of Howard Holdsworth. We were delighted to take Luke with us to Dublin later in the season and welcome Howard as a guest at our VPs day.

Brighton College came to Arundel a good hour and a half early so they could intimidate us with their fielding drills. It paid off! An excellent game of cricket on a belter of an Arundel wicket saw Brighton College scamper 2 runs from the last scheduled ball of the match for a famous victory. Earlier, with the Martlets having rejigged their order to accommodate a few late arrivals, Ashton Turner and Rohit Jagota treated the crowd to a fine

exhibition of batting that allowed the Martlets to declare before halfway, setting a challenging target of 286 for victory. Turner in particular was severe on all the bowlers, and his brilliant innings of 165 came from just 132 balls and contained 16 fours and five sixes.

Despite losing both their openers cheaply to some impressive new-ball bowling from Matt Stone, Brighton College took up the challenge, and a magnificent 3rd wicket partnership of 206 between Sam Grant & Tom Prideaux De Lacy put them in the driving seat, before Trubshaw managed to pick up a wicket and give the Martlets an opening. Two further wickets in an over threatened to derail the run-chase, but, crucially, Grant remained at the crease as the last over of the final hour began with 8 runs required. Some good running saw the boys home and left the Martlets to retire to 'The Black Rabbit' to lick their wounds. The game was cruel on the executive officers, all of whom, again, were in the side. Mark Trubshaw's pride was severely injured, John Ashworth had a nasty dose of pad-rash having had to sit through Turner and Jagota's epic innings, but the most severe casualty was surely Stuart Ritchie who (opening in place of the absentees) wore one on the elbow from Grant and spent the evening helping A&E at St Richards with their enquiries.

At Arundel we were also delighted to welcome Singapore CC. Amazingly, they brought two touring sides, a senior (in strength, not age) and a village side. We entertained the stronger side which featured a number of Aussies and UK ex-pats, as well as a vibrant youth section of Asian talent. We drew a fiercely contested game that could have seen any result in the last few overs.

The VPs Day, which coincides with the Senior v Junior Martlets game was a triumph of perseverance over the weather. That we had an uninterrupted day's play was entirely due to the fact that both the umpires and Junior Martlets were prepared to be out in the field whilst there was, at times, a fairly steady if light drizzle.

As Martlets skipper Johnny Wills said at the end, the margin of our win (by 95 runs) did not do justice to the efforts of the Juniors. They certainly got the worst of the conditions and that the Senior team never felt able to take their foot off the accelerator was a tribute to their competitiveness.

Indeed, John Bettridge has had a remarkable year with the Juniors. His highlights include 5 wins out of 6 games, the one-run victory over the Babes of Kent (never in doubt!), two young leg break bowlers working in tandem v The Hoggetts (Jack Troak & Will Collard), Brad Gayler's wicket keeping, Toby Pullan's 100 v Brighton & Hove, Dominic Keats trapping the Chairman LBW at the Castle (Dominic will face sterner opponents - JA), Marcus Campopiano's undefeated 100 v The Babes of Kent. Above all, John achieved an astonishing

conversion rate of Juniors to Seniors, helping secure the critical development of the Club's future.

Then followed our tour to Dublin, which is described elsewhere in these pages. Suffice it to say that Nigel Russell and Adrian White did an amazing job pulling the whole tour together. Its players and supporters will carry many happy memories and friendships into the future.

Part of the accessibility I spoke of earlier is age related, and we are grateful to Adrian Ford and Nigel Russell for kick-starting a series of games for more senior players, whose batting, spin bowling and dobbly seam bowling is as acute as ever, but whose ground fielding deserves, well, um, ah, to be matched with that of their opponents. The game against Cuckfield captured all the elements of this spirit.

As part of a trial season, some of the more experienced Martlets took on the Cuckfield Seniors on 18th September at their lovely ground, which produced a good game of cricket in very social surroundings. The Martlets' side was: John Ashworth, Adrian Berendt, Willie Boone (wkt), Mark Bowden, Adrian Ford, Derek Horsham, Paul Lack, Colin Oliver-Redgate, Nigel Russell (capt), Derek Semmence and Rob Walker. We had first go on the artificial wicket with Ford and Berendt rolling back the years producing an opening stand of 62. Adrian Berendt went on to score 46 but sadly no-one else, apart from Willie Boone who made a powerful 42, made significant headway. However with a high extras score we boosted our total to 185 – 9 in our allotted 40 overs. In reply our attack was generally tidy with Derek Horsham, Paul Lack and John Ashworth bowling particularly well, but we lacked real penetration against a side who are used to playing every week. In the end, their experienced batting line up saw them over the line for the loss of 5 wickets and with just over 2 overs spare.

Undeterred by this loss, but enlivened by the enthusiasm, we will arrange more fixtures for senior players in the future. The experiment was a success.

As noted throughout, we really enjoyed the services of, and playing with, some of the league overseas players in 2013. Notable were Ashton Turner (Australia), Vic Davies (New Zealand) and Tony Alexander (West Indies). Their skills and enthusiasm were inspiring for those with whom they played and we will monitor their progress with interest and welcome them back unreservedly into Martlet colours. Ashton, in particular, has gone from strength to strength, securing a berth in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield side and, more significantly for students of the Big Bash League, he became a prominent middle-order enforcer in the Perth Scorchers line-up.

So, all in all, a diverse, enjoyable and successful season. I must place on record my continued appreciation of the efforts and enthusiasm of all

committee members, our collective appreciation and thanks to all the Match Managers without whom we simply don't get to play cricket, and all our umpires and scorers so brilliantly organised by Mike Charman.

The social agenda for the Club began with a fantastic dinner organised by Chris Gray at the County Ground. A healthy mix of juniors, players, and VPs filled the Long Room and we were greatly entertained by the lugubrious charm of Chris Saunders. We were able to make a special presentation to Nigel Russell for his extraordinary service as Chairman.

The perception and relevance of the Martlets was beautifully underlined in the new publication *Gentlemen, Gypsies and Jesters*, a treatise on Wandering Cricket. Each chapter describes one of the many famous (and sadly some departed) itinerant clubs. Anthony Gibson's piece on us began 'Of all England's wandering cricket clubs, and for all the affection which they command among their devotees, I doubt if any can have inspired quite so many golden memories as the Sussex Martlets.' So there!

We enjoyed two very special days at Hove, to celebrate an evening 20/20 fixture as well as a day to witness the touring Australians. The weather, bonhomie and general quaffing outdid the cricket which had sidled (perhaps Siddled?) towards an inevitable draw, but the social elements were magnificent.

We had tremendous support for, and from, our Vice Presidents at Arundel for the Junior v Martlets Day. We were delighted to welcome a number of guests including Sussex Chairman Jim May and SCCT President David Bowden, respecting and underlining the significance of our connections with the County. We continue to support the vital work of the SCCT by contributing as a Vice President ourselves, and this is greatly appreciated by those striving to offer cricket to the physically and economically disadvantaged in Sussex.

We were also able to express our great appreciation to Lady Mary Mumford, whose support of the Martlets is unfailing. We treasure our connection with Arundel. Whenever anyone describes the Martlets, the second sentence is always along the lines of 'and we play eight fixtures at Arundel Castle.' We continue to regard this as a privilege, and not a right, and we continue to respect this arrangement as grateful tenants. At the lunch we thanked Joe Hudson, so long a servant of the Friends, Foundation and Members at Arundel. We wish him well in his retirement, and we welcome James Rufey as the incoming Executive Secretary.

In 2013 two significant members of our committee stood down, having done more than their fair share of work for the Club. Richard Moore, our Treasurer for more than 30 years, handed the ledgers to

Stuart Ritchie. We were delighted to present Richard with an award at Arundel for all his sterling service.

Rob Walker, for so long the chair of our cricket sub-committee, also steps down with our immense appreciation, but the valet is not so strong because we fully expect to see at least as much of Rob on the cricket field in seasons to come.

Finally, I'd like, again, to thank all members of the committee, and especially Nigel Russell, for making my first year as Chairman so enjoyable and rewarding.

### **2014 in Prospect**

A considerable amount of work has gone on behind the scenes this winter to understand and consolidate the financial position, to get club administration even tighter, and to secure commitment to re-design our website, not least to enable us to harness social media to assist with communication and player applications.

We will make better use of the local press to inform the county about our successes, which in turn will help us attract an even broader range of playing members, and at the time of writing we are close to appointing an eager manager of match-managers to help them in this critical task.

On the field, we have trimmed the fixture list slightly to avoid term-time mid-week clustering, but the quality of fixtures remains high and we're particularly delighted to welcome back the Free Foresters and the Eton Ramblers at Arundel to maintain the tradition of excellence.

I wish you all a tremendous season in 2014 and look forward to seeing you all on and off the field.

*John Ashworth*

## **THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2013**

Although it was one of the best summers for years, the Society sadly lost two matches due to bad weather. We won 3 matches, and lost 4 this year. Of our 54 members, 31 played at least once during the year.

### **v Littlehampton, March 9th**

Our opening fixture, played on a fine day (the warmest place in the country on the day!). Fielding a side of sixteen, we recorded a fourballs match win by 4<sup>1/2</sup> - 3<sup>1/2</sup>.

### **v Crowborough, March 24th**

Unfortunately the match was snowed off. Hope for better luck next year.

### **v West Sussex, April 7th**

Again a full sixteen a side match. We played two rounds of foursomes either side of an excellent lunch. The match was even in the morning 4 - 4, but the Martlets lunched badly (or perhaps too well)

losing 6 - 2 in the afternoon, only David Tod and Simon Baillie Hamilton managing a win. A loss of 10 - 6 overall.

### **v Royal Ashdown, April 21st**

On the popular Old Course, we acquitted ourselves well, winning 4 - 3 in the morning, but going down 2 - 4 in the afternoon round (no halves) to lose narrowly overall 7 - 6.

### **v Littlestone, April 28th**

A beautiful day for our first fixture at Littlestone and a very successful day all round. Our thanks to Peter Ross for arranging the match. We won well in the morning 3<sup>1/2</sup> - 1<sup>1/2</sup>. After an excellent lunch we halved the afternoon round 2<sup>1/2</sup> - 2<sup>1/2</sup> to win 6 - 4 overall.

### **v The Purchasers GS at Piltdown, August 2nd**

A new fixture for the Martlets, managed by Peter G Ross, and played against an old established charitable organisation and some familiar faces. A very enjoyable morning round followed by lunch. We recorded a resounding win by 4 - 0 and a repeat match has been arranged at Piltdown next year in July.

## **Autumn Series**

### **v Piltdown, September 8th**

Our thanks to Chris Bidwell for stepping in at the last minute (while having breakfast, and to the injured member for getting a replacement!). We were again up against a strong young side, losing the morning round 4<sup>1/2</sup> - 1/2 but coming back after lunch to halve 2<sup>1/2</sup> - 2<sup>1/2</sup>, but losing 7 - 3 overall.

### **v Cooden Beach, October 6th**

Always a popular fixture, with two rounds of foursomes either side of an excellent lunch. Played on a lovely calm autumn day, we got off to a bad start losing the morning rounds 4<sup>1/2</sup> - 1<sup>1/2</sup> with Roberts, Reed and Forster the only winners. After lunch we lost narrowly 3<sup>1/2</sup> - 2<sup>1/2</sup> with an 8 - 4 loss overall.

### **v Rye, October 13th**

Sadly it poured all day. The match was abandoned after an hour's play – enough to get thoroughly soaked. On the bright side, Rye kindly brought the lunch forward to midday! Many thanks to Warwick Sabey, who has managed the Rye match for many years, but feels it is time for a younger man to take over. Inexplicably therefore, John Nixon has kindly agreed to take on the role next year.

### **The Sussex Martlets Golf Day, September 29th**

The annual Golf Day was held this year at Seaford Golf Club on a lovely day. We played one round of Stableford golf followed by lunch. The winner of the SMGS Shield was Andy Morgan with 35 points, with Ian Lock runner up.

We are very pleased to be invited to return to Seaford for our Golf Day next year.

*Adrian White*



## *Martlets Tour to Ireland*

The planning, information provided and sense of expectation had been much in our minds and we soon found ourselves assembled at Gatwick for the flight to Dublin.

The Martlets had been to Ireland (Ulster) before, in 1961, but this was the Club's first venture to the Republic and Dublin was a good choice with its theatres, cultural and historical aspects. And the Tour party was a most pleasing blend of age — groups led by our President, Chris Snell, our Chairman, John Ashworth — impeccably organised by Nigel Russell and in addition to the Cricketers we had Golfers, under the benign leadership of Adrian White.

Arriving on the Monday, we had time to get settled into the most comfortable Bewley's Hotel and make a first tentative venture to the City, finding that the bus services were admirable and reliable to ease getting around.

The first match was against Phoenix, the oldest Club in Ireland, well set and fenced in, in the Park where, characteristically, our welcome was of the warmest. The atmosphere was of the keenest and the non-playing members, as at all the venues, were imbued with a sense of the History and on-going progress of their Club. Photos and memorabilia were given striking prominence. At Phoenix we noticed tributes to Irish players in the Pavilion named after the great Irish Bowler, who frequently topped the First Class Averages, Jimmy Boucher and also of E. L. Kidd of Middlesex. Most pleasingly, there was a photo of Robin Waters, a Sussex player and a very considerable figure in Martlet Cricket in the early Sixties, opening the innings for Ireland on the occasion of Ireland's sensational victory over the West Indies in 1969.

In a wider context and another photo, it was a surprise for any familiar with Yeats's poem "The Irish Airman" that not only was the pilot Lady Gregory's son, as generally known, but that, playing for Ireland vs Scotland in 1913, he had taken 8 wickets for 80 runs — a notable

performance. I had not seen any reference to this aspect before and it deserves notice.

Moving on to Merrion, an enclosed ground near the hotel, there was increased awareness that the Cricket was demanding. The pitches, while true, had a characteristic lowness, and the obliging bounce so appreciated by the players in Southern Counties was not a feature. Runs had always to be earned, and the bowling was uniformly accurate and varied. With all played over 40 overs, the batsman had little time for settling.

Merrion made a fast start and their early flurry of runs proved advantageous in the final outcome. This is another flourishing Club and now recovered from the river flood which covered the ground and environs a few years back.

Next day to YMCA, a veritable hub of the Irish Game, with a vibrant youth policy and a flourishing family atmosphere. As our match proceeded, Junior Coaching was proceeding continuously and the young players were prominent and obviously motivated at all levels. There was much anticipation of the forthcoming Ireland against England match at Malahide, not least as the Captain of the Irish team belongs to YMCA.

A most agreeable Tour Dinner followed, graced by the presence of personalities from Irish Cricket.

So on the final day, a hasty visit to the City and an early evening flight for home, with our memories and souvenirs, and a thankful feeling of being spared the Tour Shirt!

Warmest thanks are due to Mike Murray, our Captain, to Ron Pateman and John Betts for umpiring and scoring.

These aspects are so often taken for granted but are absolutely vital to smooth running and efficiency.

We look forward to the Clubs visiting Sussex and, indeed to another tour.

**Brian O'Gorman**

## FRANKIE GOES TO ... DUBLIN?

### **Monday 19th August**

The hotel bar packed with sandwiches was the venue for our first group gathering. The chicken mayo with extra salad really set the tour off on a good note. Oh, and a pint of Guinness helped as well.

But that wasn't the only sign that suggested this would be a good week; the resident chief of fines Mark Trubshaw set out his plan to keep tabs on all members of the tour party culminating in, unsurprisingly, fines at the tour dinner later on.

Luke Hansford put himself top of the table in the race for the tour's 'space cadet' trophy, seeing off odds-on favourite Adam Scott, by leaving his luggage in Devon or some such place. Although he showed great vigour and determination to retrieve his kit, there was no argument from anyone in him receiving The Tour Shirt.

There was time to kill after the gathering, so an eager group set off to visit the Aviva Stadium.

Monday night was our first opportunity to test Dublin. We headed for Temple Bar – which turned out to be the name of an area as opposed to a bar, despite Scotty's insistence that it was literally a 'temple bar'. Darren, the tour guide, directed the more lively of the cricketing group to some more exotic 'bars', and it happened to be student night. Henry Cope was in his element, whilst Trubs looked old enough to be some of the students' dads ... but that's another story.

### **Tuesday 20th August**

Michael Murray set a 9:00 breakfast roll-call. Everyone made it, but were gloomy-faced, aside from Scotty who was grinning from ear-to-ear and Tony who was far too busy Skyping on the previous night to come out with the rest of the team.

The bus was duly late and took us on a tour of Dublin's north circular equivalent. After what felt like



*Martlets visit Aviva Stadium – Trubby is impressed to hear they can pour a pint in 3 secs there (and a Guinness in 6 secs).*

a 3 day bus journey, we arrived at Phoenix CC — the oldest cricket club in Ireland with a team with an average age of around 12.

Phoenix got off to a flyer but in the end the Martlets proved too strong for the academy team. Batting from Tony stood out as the highlight of the game, as well as a particularly enthusiastic opposition player-coach. The Secretary running out the Chairman was also a sight of hilarity for the on-looking members; cue cruddy jokes about the management of the Martlets falling short.



*B O'G OFF!*

Tuesday night followed the same formula as the previous evening; however young Luke Hansford was able to really let his hair down, and he did. Nick Seagar on the other hand failed to enjoy such a good time.

### **Wednesday 21st August**

The match at Merrion was a sore defeat, the two Ashworths were, as the captain put it, 'unavoidably contained'. Despite the defeat however, the tour party treated Tony to his first taste of beef steak, and later on we were all fortunate to witness Tony's Caribbean dancing flare, which was so exotic, it made Tour Guide's shirt look conventional.

And whilst we are on the subject of Tour Guide, it would be a good time to set the record straight for young Darren, who not only lead the party around Dublin in circles, but resorted to asking the bin-men directions to our destination.





*Irish eyes are smiling... (Ed Joyce's Mum enjoying the Martlet batting collapse). John Betts does his best...*

When we got there, a fantastically named place – Copper Face Jacks – was a sea of Irish craic. No it's not what it sounds; 'craic' apparently is a colloquial word for fun. Who knew? Anyway it provided a few awkward situations but humorous misunderstandings, none of which was greater than Trubs' run in with a travelling American (the worst kind) who was annoying, arrogant and acted, well, like an American.

#### **Thursday 22nd August**

Our final match was against YMCA cricket club, which was just a short walk around the corner from the hotel. Unfortunately the route we took ended up being around a few too many corners. We got lost. When we eventually arrived at the ground, Captain Murray lost the toss and we had to field. This was slightly problematic as our Tour Guide got lost in his home city and was late to the match.

The opposition got off to another flyer, even the Chairman running the length of the pitch to pat Ashworth junior on the back was not enough to quell the free scoring Dubliners. Neither was the triple bouncing first ball that Tour Guide served up.



*The moment Captain Murray incurred a fine from Tour Fines Chairman, Trubby.*

YMCA finished on a respectable but achievable total. Tony decided it was very achievable, starting with a six off the first ball of the Martlets' reply, back over the bowler's head. Despite some more outlandish hitting from our overseas player, it was not enough to reach YMCA's total. No one was to blame. Apart from Adam Scott's running between the wickets. That really could be blamed.

The Tour Dinner was illuminated by many guests from our opponent clubs, including Irish international cricketer and rugby referee Alan Lewis.



*Alan Lewis, 100 caps for Irish Cricket and International Rugby referee, Tony Alexander's examines Martlet tie*

Trub's pronouncements were anxiously awaited and the fines were accepted by all. And the golfers were there ... I think.

All in all, no one can argue that it was a great trip with some great cricket played. Dublin certainly should become a permanent touring destination. Next time let's win a few more games.

**Frankie Ashworth**



*Ron Pateman proudly displaying the Tour Shirt!*

## MARTLET GOLFERS

### Dublin Tour August 2013

A golf tour to Irish courses is always a treat, but very dependent on the fickle weather. They say in Ireland it only rained twice last week, once for three days and once for four!

Fortunately we were blessed with sunny and warm days on the joint cricket and golf tour. Ten members of the Golfing Society played three rounds at superb courses around Dublin.

First we visited Portmarnock Links. An excellent links course, and good preparation for the challenges ahead. Mark Bowden took the money amid the usual queries as to the whereabouts of his poncho!

On Day Two we were very kindly invited to play with some members at Portmarnock Golf Club – ranked 29 in UK and Ireland (Golf Monthly) — “Unarguably one of the toughest links courses in Ireland”. This was a memorable experience on a great golf course in lovely conditions. Our hosts’ generous hospitality made the day very special. For the record the team including Mark Bowden (again) and Ham Whitty won the day.

On Day Three we played at Druid’s Glen.

At no 71 in the Golf Monthly rankings, “It has been labelled the Augusta of Europe and it is easy to see why. One of the most attractive parkland courses you will find anywhere.”

None of us would disagree with that. A very different challenge, but a beautiful and difficult course and a privilege to play.

Once again we were kindly invited by members, this time to play a fourball match against the club. At 2 matches all, we felt we did ourselves justice whilst being diplomatic. Again the members’ hospitality and friendliness made the day a memorable experience.

Our special thanks to Mark Jeffries, our Dublin resident, who made it all possible by arranging our matches, the buses and hotel.

### **Adrian White**

*The Eight who played at Druid’s Glen. L to R: David Morgan, Adrian White, Ian Lock, Chris Gray, Ham Whitty, Ben Burrows, Mark Bowden, Willie Bicket.*



*Stuart Ritchie contemplating a Portmarnock drive.*



*Having secured par at the Island Hole, walking on water was easy...*



## JUNIOR MARTLETS 2013

**Junior Martlets v The Babes of Kent (Nevill Ground, Tunbridge Wells).**

**Junior Martlets 213-6 (40 overs) Babes of Kent 212 all out (in 40th over). Won by 1 run.**

Clearly having watched the finale of the 1st Test the day before, the Martlets decided that a cliff-hanger ending was the way to go! The Babes won the toss and decided that the Martlets should bat on one of the hottest days of the year. Greg Wisdom and Marcus Campopiano made a steady start on a Nevill wicket that kept low and made free stroke play difficult. They put on 94 for the first wicket and in the next 11 overs Campopiano and Sam Cooper took the score to 183, with the former completing the second 50 of his century in 28 balls. The Martlet attack included 5 wrist spinners so George Read, making his debut in Martlet colours, bowling seam up opened, partnered by the leg-breaks of Ed Blake at the other end.... A cunning plan! Read took a wicket in the first over. But the score then moved on to 53 before Jack Troak trapped the Babes captain LBW with his leg breaks. Fortunes ebbed and flowed from then on. With 4 overs to go 19 were required and 2 wickets were in hand. As the final over dawned, 2 were needed and 1 wicket remained. Wisdom played the captain's role bowling 3 dot balls before the number 8 drove the ball to Ben Cooke fielding short on the off side, who scooped up a top class catch. Win!

**Junior Martlets (U.16) v Hampshire Hoggetts (Warnford).**

**Junior Martlets 169-9 (40 overs) Hampshire Hoggetts 86 all out (34.3 overs). Won by 83 runs.**

Although this was an U.16 game, most players on both sides fell into the under 14 or 15 age groups. A fair number made their first appearance under the Martlet banner and did themselves and the Club proud. Jack Troak won the toss and elected to bat. Ed Fairfax and George Read made a solid start, despite the fact that the recent weather seemed to have made wickets difficult for batsmen to score easily. A mature approach particularly by the former and Jo Gilligan moved the score on until we faltered in the middle. Ollie Bradley and Joe Seaton put on over 50 for the 9th wicket, which changed the complexion of the innings.

The tight fielding and bowling was really the difference between the two sides and Jack Troak's handling of the field and his bowlers excited considerable positive comment from senior Hogs. Joe Seaton made the initial break-through in his opening spell. This was followed by some lively left arm medium pace from Ollie Bradley. Leg spinners Jack Troak and Will Collard bowled superbly in tandem and lured the middle order into errors, while George Read and Alex Brazier tidied up at the end. Overall this was an impressive and disciplined performance.

**Junior Martlets v St James Montefiore (Keymer).**

**St James Montefiore 132 all out (39.4 overs) Junior Martlets 133-2. Won by 8 wickets.**

Henry Cope won the toss and elected to field, an informed and wise decision. The Martlet opening bowling of George Read and Edward Firth tied the opposition down in the early stages. An outstanding slip catch by the captain in the first over gave the Martlets the psychological advantage that remained throughout the innings. Henry Cope's wrist spin came into play after the opening overs and was backed up by Tom Fairfax. Another bit of top class slip catching by George Read off George Axton removed the top scorer and the tight bowling and fielding retained the grip until the end.

Matt Sawyer and Toby Pullan made an electric start pushing the score to 56 in seven and a half overs before the first wicket fell. Toby Pullan pushed on to his 50, ably supported by Alex Cooke who ended on 47, and the Martlets completed the task losing only two wickets in 24 overs.

**Junior Martlets (U.16) v Brighton & Hove CC (U.16.)**

**Junior Martlets 222-9 (40 overs) Brighton & Hove C.C 218-7. Won by 4 runs.**

Toby Pullan won the toss and elected to bat. An initial wobble left the Martlets at 13 for 2, but the situation was turned round by a mature batting display by Toby Pullan and Alex Cooke, who took the score to 109. Support came from Will Jeffries and George Axton as the scoring rate was accelerated in the later stages of the innings. Toby Pullan's century was an excellent performance.

Brighton & Hove made a steady start putting on 76 for the first wicket, when Will Wycherley made the break-through in the 17th over. Good fielding had kept the scoring rate down, which was to put pressure on the remaining batsmen. Further pressure was applied by the spin attack, particularly leg spinners George Axton and Will Collard. 13 year old Will Collard impressed with his ability to bowl a very consistent length and impart real spin. George Axton's 5 wicket haul was a tremendous performance. Some good hitting towards the end brought the batting side near the target, but the bowling performance kept it just out of reach.

**Junior Martlets v Brighton & Hove City Clubs Combined XI (Hurstpierpoint College).**

**Junior Martlets 221-4 (40 overs). Brighton & Hove City Clubs 192 all out (35.5 overs). Won by 29 runs.**

Batting first, the Martlets found scoring hard against an accurate bowling attack that was backed up by fine fielding. After a sound start, Michael Harris had to watch a bail totter before it eventually fell to earth. Brad Gayler joined Greg Wisdom and the pair put on 91 with both reaching half centuries. This gave the remaining batsmen a base from which to attack in the final overs. Matt Sawyer followed instructions and played his natural game

to increase the scoring rate. He was followed by an excellent final flourish from Alex Cooke and Jonny Newland.

The City Clubs set off with a will and although the opening partnership was broken by an excellent catch by Ben Meyer-Atkin, too many loose balls allowed the batsmen to remain in the ascendancy. The seamers of Joe White and leg spin of Sebastian Marlow tightened the screw and suddenly life became more difficult for the batting side. Matt Sawyer joined the attack and continued to pin down the batsmen. An outstanding display of wicket keeping by Brad Gayler with 3 stumpings standing up to Matt Sawyer, and the pace of Jamie Hutchings sealed the fate of the batting side. It was truly a masterclass in the keeper's art. This was a fine win played against the strongest opposition that the Junior Martlets met all season.

**Junior Martlets v Sussex Martlets (Arundel Castle)**

**Sussex Martlets 212-7 dec. Junior Martlets 117 all out. Lost by 95 runs.**

The Junior Martlets faced a strong senior side for the annual encounter, that in recent years has marked the end of their season. A passing cold front made conditions unusual for a hot, dry August. The openers found it hard to score off Jamie Hutchings but the break-through was made by George Read with the score on 40. Dominic Keats trapped the Chairman LBW! Nick Seager and Michael Murray forced the pace until the rain

brought a slightly early lunch. Henry Cope's left arm wrist spin turned affairs when play resumed and the declaration came after 43 overs.

It looked a reachable target but the bowling was tight and only Brad Gayler, Greg Wisdom and Dom Keats looked comfortable. Sadly, apart from the top scorer, there was no sustained innings to bring the score close to what was required.

Despite the loss, this was still a great occasion and a real privilege for the boys to play at Arundel. It also rounded off what has been a successful and enjoyable season.

**John Bettridge**

The Club is delighted to welcome the following members from the ranks of the Junior Martlets:

- Frankie Ashworth (Eton College, Chichester CC)
- Ed Blake (Hurstpierpoint College, St James Montefiore CC)
- Marcus Campopiano (Hurstpierpoint College, Cuckfield CC)
- Henry Cope (Tonbridge School, Fletching CC)
- Tom Fairfax (Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks CC)
- Brad Gayler (Hurstpierpoint College, Three Bridges CC), Surrey Academy, Loughborough MCCU)
- Jamie Hutchings (Hurstpierpoint College, Cuckfield CC)
- Ben Pullan (Worth School, Fletching CC)
- Brandon Troak (Hurstpierpoint College, St. James Montefiore CC)
- Greg Wisdom (Hurstpierpoint College, Cuckfield CC)

Junior Martlet XI at Arundel



George Read, Dominic Keats, Jamie Hutchings, Sebastian Marlow, Frankie Ashworth, Rob Cope  
Henry Cope, Marcus Campopiano, Greg Wisdom (Capt.), Brad Gayler, Jonny Newland

## WANDERING CRICKET



*Josh Burrows works on the sports desk at 'The Times'. He contributes regularly to 'The Cricketer' magazine, where he formerly edited the 'Club' section. He plays for Acton CC in the Middlesex County Cricket league and of course bowls fast and furiously for the Sussex Martlets.*

*Following the publication of 'Gentlemen, Gypsies and Jesters', Josh Burrows looks to the future of wandering cricket.*

HERE ARE three immutable truths about any recreational sport: 1) The standard of sport was better in my day; 2) The sport is in a current state of crisis; and 3) Despite 1) and 2) the sport ploughs cheerfully onwards.

Our chairman, John Ashworth, has outlined his vision for the Martlets elsewhere in this issue. And although wandering clubs tend to prefer tradition to innovation, it seems that Ashworth's progressive attitude puts him in good company.

Stephen Chalke, the cricket historian and author, has recently completed *Gentlemen, Gypsies and Jesters*, the first survey of wandering cricket. Among his most interesting observations is that the modus operandi of wandering clubs — plenty of midweek fixtures, minimal subscription fees, players who come and go — should dovetail better than ever with people's increasingly busy lives.

"The cricket is the best type of cricket — played to a good standard in very attractive settings," he says. "There are a lot of people out there who would enjoy it if they experienced it and it really falls to wandering clubs to sell themselves a bit harder."

That sentiment is echoed by Andrew Lewis, president of The Cryptics — a wandering club of similar size and age to the Martlets.

"In a way we kind of cling on to the values that we've had for many years without trying to be stuffy and old-fashioned," he says. "I'm surprised that it's not easier to recruit players. There are good players out there for whom if they think they can manage to play ten games a season and aren't able to make a commitment to a club, wandering cricket is the perfect thing."

Down the road at the Hampshire Hogs — a county — based club like the Martlets (though they own a ground) — Rob White, the secretary, echoes our chairman in saying that the key to the survival of wandering cricket is to maintain high standards

where they exist and improve them where they don't.

"There's no doubt that the standard of wandering cricket had dropped," he says. "We are very conscious of the need to attract good cricketers by not only putting out good cricketers on our side but also by playing strong opposition.

Unlike Ashworth and Chalke, however, White is less optimistic about the future. "As far as the next five years is concerned, we just want to ensure our survival," he adds. "If that doesn't work, then come 10 or 15 years time, a club like ours will be winding down."

Martlets may also find it interesting to note that the drive to play a higher standard of cricket, and thus remain relevant in an increasingly professionalised amateur sport, is regarded as vitally important at the Free Foresters — the second biggest wandering club in the country after MCC. The Foresters established an academy in 2008 with the stated aim of attracting younger, better players..

James Dean, the secretary, is adamant that initiatives like this are the way forward. "Over the last five years the Free Foresters has tried to improve the quality and range of cricket on offer, and attract more cricketers to the club," he says. "The aim has been to disprove those who foresee the demise of wandering cricket."

"We thought the club needed invigorating," he adds. "With a lot of clubs, the ethos hasn't changed and that's a problem."

The Martlets, of course, cannot expect to match the achievements of a giant club like the Foresters. It is encouraging, however, to know that the intention to attract more and better players by striving for excellence on the field is shared by one of the giants of wandering cricket.

Big or small, however, clubs are agreed that the spirit of wandering cricket must not trampled. At the Gloucester Gypsies, Chris Coley, the chairman, is pleasantly surprised that his constant searching through the local schools and clubs still uncovers teenage players who buy into the ideals of his club.

"I'd like to think that any decent young cricketer in Gloucestershire is a Gypsy," he says. "For most of these guys, wandering cricket gives them something they've never seen before and they buy into it."

With the Gypsies, probably the best flourishing of the county-based clubs, the result of their growing membership base is a fixture list of up to 60 games a year at wildly varying standards. Coley says that one of the great joys of the club is that even if the cricket is crap, "it'll be a bloody good social."

As Chalke writes: "Cricket below the first-class level is about so much more than fast-tracking the most

talented...It is also about friendship and fun, fresh air and fulfilment.”

Asked if he could draw one moral from his survey of wandering cricket, Clarke is unequivocal.

“More than any other type of cricket, it hinges on having one or two individuals who are passionate about keeping the thing going and looking after it,” he says. “Clubs wither if they don’t have that driving force.”

Make that truth number 4): The best clubs have ambitious people at the helm.

**Josh Burrows**

## A SUMMER OF SPORTS WRITING

Reflections on our ‘normal’ sporting heroes.



*When law school doesn't confine him to the library until the early hours of the morning (or the start of each day's Ashes play more like), Sussex Martlet Alastair Mavor blogs at [www.coverpointsport.com](http://www.coverpointsport.com) ).*

“There’s an unhealthy obsession in this country with people’s private lives. This ‘celebrity culture’ is unnatural and superficial.”

I hear this quite a bit. It is a fairly constant criticism levelled at the media. Obtrusive, intrusive, distasteful, disrespectful, nosy. In fact, it’s a criticism I have raised regularly myself.

Yet, like it or not, we are fascinated by what makes people tick, the lengths people go to improve themselves, the pain and suffering they endure to get there. Team Sky doctor, Steve Peters, believes that it is usually impossible to change permanently one’s behaviour unless the individual experiences some kind of intense suffering along the way. Human nature dictates that. Human nature also dictates that we are fascinated by what that suffering is, especially when it involves those we look up to as our heroes.

I discovered this summer that our heroes are, very often, entirely normal people. One minute they are your average man travelling to work (or training) on the Clapham omnibus, yet the next they are winning the biggest bike race in the world and being flown by helicopter to be knighted at Buckingham Palace!

Having finished my university studies at Nottingham in June, and somehow managing to be shortlisted for the David Welch Student Sportswriter of the year, I was presented with a golden opportunity to spend some time over the summer working for *The Cricket Paper*. With a

weekly readership of tens of thousands, and operating predominantly in a market which is desperate to encourage more, as opposed to less, press, it was fascinating. I spoke to a number of county cricketers, wrote a preview of the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge, had a chat with Damien Martyn (he’s far friendlier to young Englishmen on the phone than he used to be when batting against them) and, amongst other things, I made a lot of tea and coffee!

I learnt all about the do’s and don’ts. Do offer to write anything and everything – going beyond the call of duty is a given, and the most mundane requests on the outset have a habit of breeding the most exciting opportunities. Do write honestly. Do pay incredibly close attention to detail – reading your own work in a national paper is a very exciting moment, spotting a spelling mistake strangely dampens that excitement somewhat! Don’t even think of writing anything potentially libellous (even if you think/know it is true) – especially after the Leveson Enquiry which has meant journalists, particularly without huge financial backing, are having to be more careful than ever. Most of all, don’t rely on the WiFi from a non-league football ground to send your match report in five minutes before the print deadline – a recipe for disaster which resulted in having to go ‘door knocking’ in East London in order to send said report in. I got some very odd looks!

My time at *The Cricket Paper* evolved into a chance to write up an interview piece on my old school friend Fabian Cowdrey for Cricinfo. I then interviewed the Brownlee brothers prior to the Hyde Park triathlon. Speaking to them after having lost their World Title to Javier Gomez was almost more interesting than had they won. Tempering intrusive questioning with sympathy is a difficult balance to strike. Yet given our slightly sadistic fascination with human suffering, those intrusive questions have to be asked. Readers want to know about how our heroes feel after defeat as much as they do after victory. It reflects normal life. In fact, it shows that our sporting heroes are as normal as many of us are.

This ‘celebrity culture’ is perhaps not about ‘celebrity’ at all. It is arguably more about finding the norm in the perceived abnormal. Throughout my experiences this summer, it dawned on me that there is nothing unnatural or superficial about that at all.

**Alastair Mavor**

## RICHARD MOORE



*Richard Moore and Adrian Ford have been fellow Martlets and friends for more years than they care to (or can?) remember. Following Richard's retirement from the post of Honorary Treasurer of the Sussex Martlets after an astonishing 33 years, Adrian met up with him to seek answers to a range of questions intended to give our membership a greater understanding of the man who has given such extraordinary service to our Club.*

Richard's connections with Sussex date back to when his mother bought a holiday house in Colworth near Chichester when he was aged eight. He still owns it to this day.

"Probably the best memories are the people who played. They are such wonderful characters and have such a great love for the game. It was a good contrast to the league cricket, which was not always played with the same spirit. Talking of spirits, I remember too many good sessions in the pub before play, which did not help the focus.

Being an opening batsman, I remember opening with Adrian Ford and apart from some of his terrific innings I remember standing the other end in one match, watching him play and miss, but never get an edge and marvelling at his perfect judgement.

Richard was appointed Treasurer by Eddie Harrison: "Eddie Harrison, who was Sussex Martlet cricket in those days and an extremely commanding character, told me that I was to take over from Brian Figgis as Treasurer. There was not a discussion and I was much too in awe of him to question his orders, so that is how it happened.

Similarly he would put me down to play for some of his other teams, such as the Harrow Wanderers. I would mention that I had not been at Harrow, but got such a withering look that I just did what I was told."

Not surprisingly, Richard has a few stories to tell from 33 years of committee meetings.

"Most of the early meetings were organised by Eddie and the AGMs were not well attended. It was easy to understand why. We were huddled around a very inadequate oil heater in mid-winter in some freezing pavilion trying to go through a not very exciting agenda. It was always a wonder to him why more people were not present. Of course now the committee is much more organised with bacon butties and all sorts of luxuries."

Over the 33 years Richard has worked tirelessly to build on the work of his predecessor.

"Brian Figgis had been Treasurer over 20 years and handed it over to me in impeccable order. However, there was not much in the tin and so I worked on ensuring that over the years we had small surpluses to build up a fighting fund. I felt it important for the future of the club that we had some reserves to deal with emergencies and give us some flexibility. I am glad to say that the club finances are now very healthy and hopefully will help to underpin the future of the club."

Richard has a clear vision of the basis for the success for the Martlets both financially and from a cricketing club perspective.

"The club is all about the people and the cricket. The finances are there to ensure that the club does not have to think or worry about them. People can then concentrate on what they love, which is the cricket. So my view is that the finances should be like a good umpire – good and reliable, but not noticed."

There are a number of wandering cricket clubs around the country experiencing increasing problems to remain solvent and stay in existence.

However, Richard remains confident of the Martlets' future, albeit at a cost.

"We are lucky, in a way, not to have the financial burden of our own ground. However, that means that we use other grounds and can expect the cost of doing so to go up. I think people should be realistic about the cost of playing and be willing to pay a fair share. I do hope that the club does not eat into our reserves, as they will sustain us for the future."

Richard has played Real Tennis at a high level for many years and has held national titles in the sport.

"I love the game and have played twice a week at Lords since my late twenties, which makes Lords my second home. I think my family believe I spend more time there than at home. We have had some fun with MCC tours in America. Last year I was in the GB over 60s team and we won 'down under' in Australia, so can claim to be world team champions. It is always great to beat the Aussies in their own back yard. This year we defended our title successfully in Tuxedo just outside New York.

When I joined the Martlets there was an annual match between the Martlets and Petworth, partly because Eddie was a keen player. However, it disappeared from the fixture list. It would be fun to start it again if there are enough players."

The service Richard Moore has given the Club for 33 years has been outstanding and in terms of time, second only to Eddie Harrison. The Club is hugely indebted and grateful to him.

**Adrian Ford**

## CHRIS SNELL - THE PRESIDENT

*Chris Snell became our President in 2012. Having served Sussex cricket for many years, he has recently been made a Patron of Sussex Young Cricketers in recognition of his "major contribution in the development of youth cricket".*

Chris Snell is a Sussex man root and branch and the Martlets are indeed fortunate to have him as President. He was born in the County, worked here and retired a short distance from his beloved Mowden School. His interest in sport is legendary and he was a member of a fine Winchester cricket eleven that included the late Tiger Pataudi, Captain of India and Richard Jefferson, who gained his County Cap at Surrey.

Chris was a more than competent batsman and a superb fielder who played firstly for the Junior Martlets and then several years for the senior team, as well as many wandering clubs. Match managers always liked Chris in their team and he invariably delivered the "goods."

Modesty would prevent Chris from telling people that he won the prestigious Public Schools' Rackets Competition in partnership with Tiger Pataudi – a superb achievement.

He was a much loved and highly respected Headmaster of Mowden – now Lancing College's Preparatory School. He became Head after the untimely and premature death of his charming father, Edward, who was President of the Martlets from 1970 – 73.

Chris presided over a very happy and thriving prep school for several decades and he was liked and hugely respected by staff, pupils and parents. He believed in leading from the front and he taught classics, coached cricket and soccer elevens and helped prepare the pitches. In short he lived and breathed his job and generations of boys benefitted from his total commitment and interest.

Our President is a modest, kind, decent and intensely loyal man with a lovely sense of humour. His interest in people is immense and he cares passionately about the welfare of the Martlets and has done much to further the standing of our club in recent years, including a most successful period as manager of the Junior Martlets. Over the years he has done significant work with Sussex Youth Cricket and he is a much sought after and highly acclaimed prep school governor.

Above all else Chris is a great family man and a devoted husband, father and grandfather and in all his activities he is wonderfully supported by his delightful wife Judy. He is also an avid fan of "The Seagulls" and a season ticket holder at the Amec Stadium.

The Martlets could not be in better hands and he is already proving to be a fine President. Long may he preside over us with that infectious enthusiasm and unbridled commitment. Thank you Chris.

**Chris Saunders**



***Martlets of a feather, holiday together  
(Chris Saunders & Chris Snell)***

---

As always, ideas and articles for *The Martlet* are gratefully received.  
Please contact: Desmond Devitt ([dpdevitt@btinternet.com](mailto:dpdevitt@btinternet.com)), Flat 3, 15 Rawlinson Rd., Oxford OX2 6UE

---