



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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Whippy and very rapid...



handsome and muscular!

Charlie Hartridge - Martlet of the Year

This award went to Charlie Hartridge, who joined the Committee in the mid 1980's as Hon. Secretary. The Club was not in as good shape as now. The Committee's main task was to introduce new blood to improve the cricket and Charlie immediately set about improving administrative procedures and communication. He played a huge part in the Club regaining its former reputation, but more importantly he ensured that that remained so throughout his time as Secretary.

His attention to detail, his discipline in ensuring deadlines were met, his excellence in communicating all contributed to giving the membership great confidence and pride that the Club they belonged to was being professionally served. His qualities never wavered – his reliability was rock solid and as a result the Committee had deep trust that jobs would be done with enthusiasm and commitment. He has undoubtedly been one of the most committed servants of the Club for a generation.

In giving the award, whilst this was for Martlet of the Year, in Charlie's case it could easily be said to be Martlet of the past couple of decades!

Stuart Ritchie

I first met Charlie at an Arundel match in the mid 80s. I remember I was posted to first slip as he opened the bowling. I didn't see the first ball, but I did hear it thudding into Geoff Wills' gloves and immediately asked for a transfer to the outfield, from where I enjoyed watching, at a much safer distance, Charlie's whippy action and very rapid missiles destroy the opposition. But not content with taking a "five-for" he then went on the score a handsome and muscular 70 in quick time.

His skills were not unnaturally in heavy demand. Having represented Durham University, Sussex 2's and Lewes Priory, he played much Martlet cricket. His enjoyment of Martlets' tours (West Country in 1998, Australia in 2000 and Jersey in 2002) was not confined to the field. I recall telephoning him, fairly late one evening, during the West Country tour, to find out how things were going. The scrumpy had taken its toll however, and he conversed in a language understood by neither party!

Charlie remains a modest, charming and congenial Club man, a gentleman to the core. We Martlets have been very lucky to have had him in our ranks and thank goodness he retains his links as a Vice President.

Nigel Russell

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2015



the Club.

My first season as Chairman has been rewarding and demanding in equal measure: rewarding in the sense the Club returned to its winning ways and demanding in that I found myself match managing six fixtures, and, as I write, I have received and sent nearly 6,000 emails on behalf of

Looking to 2016, I am hoping the effort put in during the year past will lead to a year where the Club continues to excel on the cricket field and that, in an oft made call to action but one worth repeating, we get better at spreading the workload among an increased group of volunteers off it.

As I reflect on the past year, I have four thoughts to share with you.

First, Sussex Martlets cricket is synonymous with good cricket, friendship and much happiness, as John Barclay wrote in "Summers by the Sea." On being elected Chairman, I was clear at the start of this year that we should make sure our cricket was fun. By fun, rather than implying anything comic, I had intended a state of affairs which was deeply satisfying, and from my experience playing cricket (and also golf) for the Martlets, we have achieved that.

Second, part of the fun, but not all of it, is in winning. I am pleased to report that in 2015 we won as many games as we lost, with a particularly strong showing from June onwards, when the Club won twice as many games as it lost. Furthermore, we have had a record number of centurions this year, particularly with Sam Cooper and his double century against the OHJs. I believe that only two other double centuries have been scored by a Sussex Martlet in the entire history of the Club – a claim likely to result in my being proved mistaken – and those were KRB Fry with 330* against Cuckfield in 1907 and D Watson with 216 against the Butterflies in 1919.

Third, more importantly for me, we have been able to put out sides for all our fixtures except one, and part of the reason for this is the Club has recruited some 25 new playing members in the past year, both from candidates and graduating Junior Martlets. In the past there have been many individuals wanting to join the Sussex Martlets and we now have a system in place to make certain they are properly inducted into membership on a timely basis.

Lastly, in order to keep matters on a proper financial footing, if you want to be a Sussex Martlet, you have to pay your subscription, so that the Club can afford to provide the standard of cricket to which many aspire within the Club. In the first year I had sight of the Club's accounts, annual subscriptions were c. £7,000. This year, annual subscriptions including joining fees should be over £10,000.

There are of course headwinds. Not all wandering cricket clubs seem to be doing as well as us and we witnessed this with a couple of late cancellations from our peers. Also, we greatly value our relationship with Arundel, but country house cricket is an expensive pastime and we need to sustain our finances to make cricket affordable for our membership when playing at Arundel and elsewhere.

In short, my view is the Sussex Martlets is in good health and consequently I have good reason to believe the Club is well regarded both at Arundel Castle, our spiritual home, and also by Sussex CCC, who want to strengthen their links with the Club and the recreational cricket we play.

There are also reasons to be proud of the wider influence of the Sussex Martlets. In particular, I am mindful of John Bettridge's excellent work looking after the Junior Martlets, and how many of the young men under his charge have flourished over the season. This is exemplified by Joe Ludlow, who as captain of the Hurstpierpoint College 1st XI led his school to become T20 National Schools winners, and George Garton, who has joined the Sussex squad.

In closing, I want to pay tribute to a number who have helped me greatly in this first year as Chairman: John Ashworth, my predecessor, who laid the ground for the work I am now continuing; Chris Snell, our amazing President, who is a brilliant sounding board for me; Mike Charman for stepping up to become Treasurer; and to the newer members of our Committee (Tim Dodd, Josh Burrows and Craig Talbot), all of whom are all making a positive difference to the organisation of our cricket.

I look forward to seeing you on a cricket field (or a golf course) in Sussex in 2016.

Stuart Ritchie

AMONGST THE GOOD AND GREAT AT LORD'S.



I became a Martlet in the mid-1980s after a relatively few trial games – one in fact – which seemed enough to convince the Committee that I could be relied on to arrive at the ground on time and run the club colours up the flagpole. I also played for Mayfield at the time, in the days when the village eschewed

league cricket for the more romantic, friendlier form of the game – which suited me perfectly since, while my bowling was reasonably decent, my batting was less consistent and if it fell to me to try to save a game, I could never resist an improbable run-chase: code for yet another shockingly awful dismissal.

I became an MCC member in 1997. It had taken me five years to acquire the four requisite signatures – it seemed I didn't know many members – so I carried

the application form in my coffin for several seasons, proffering the increasingly tattered piece of paper in the bar to any MCC member I might have played against that afternoon. I was elected to the Club's Membership & General Purposes Committee (specialism: Tavern Bar beer prices) and served on that until 2014. At this point, it was suggested I might like to run for the Club Committee. I had not considered this possibility until then – seeing it as a body dominated by ex-England players, QCs and City big-wigs. What it probably didn't need – so I thought – was a political lobbyist (my chosen career). However, in last year's ballot 3663 MCC members thought otherwise. I am standing them all drinks, obviously, but Martlet/MCC members please note if you're awaiting a call from me: this will take some time!

By nature, I am a hero-worshipper and fantasist, so finding myself in my first Committee meeting sitting alongside three former England captains and five other first class cricketers did nothing to mitigate my various psychological delusions. However, everyone was extremely friendly and after a few drinks in the Bowlers' Bar when the meeting ended, I felt I could hold my own on some of the issues affecting the future of the Club. And this is, of course, why the Committee exists: to manage the Club and help it navigate some pretty treacherous waters, under which lie hidden issues such as a possible reduction in Test cricket matches in England and how to capitalise financially on 20:20 without jeopardising longer forms of our game. MCC has a key role to play.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve MCC on the Committee and I am looking forward very much to the next three years.

Chris Guyver

REVIEW OF THE SEASON

Won 12, Lost 12, Drew 2, Cancelled/Abandoned 10



The 35 scheduled matches for the Martlets 2015 season resulted in 12 wins, 12 losses, 2 draws, and 10 matches cancelled or lost to the weather. In addition, the Martlets retained the Sandy Ross Trophy, emerging victorious from the T20 day. On an individual level, Toby Pullan was the recipient of the batting award,

while Derek Horsham took the bowling honours.

The season started unsuccessfully for the Martlets, with no victories in the first six matches. During that period, the Martlets were well-beaten by Eastbourne, Seaford and Hurstpierpoint Colleges and the MCC. In the sixth fixture, we looked to be well on our way to our first victory of the season before we squandered a 150-run opening partnership between Phil Roper and Michael Murray and lost by 11 runs to Downside Wanderers.

Just as it looked as if May would come & go without a victory, John Ashworth engineered a fine win at

Goodwood when it looked like we'd be lucky to get any cricket in at all. A highlight of this win was Ashers' crowd-pleasing double hit reverse sweep! With the proverbial monkey removed from our back, successive wins immediately followed against Newick (at their picturesque Temple Grove ground), Christ's Hospital (thanks to Charles Davies' 5 wicket burst) and a Western Sussex XI at Arundel Castle. The match at Lancing College was rained off, and we were put to the sword by an impressive St George's Weybridge team.

After many years of dominating the fixture, there was a close finish at West Chiltington for the second year in succession and this time it was West Chiltington who came out on top. Hector Loughton (87), Jens Richardson (62), James Waylett (54) and Steve Eke (50*) all batted beautifully to put the Martlets in a strong position at 288-3 declared. Derek Horsham (4-51) and Paul Lack (3-90) then combined to push home the advantage and at 203-7, with 10 overs remaining, there seemed only one likely winner. However, some lusty hitting from the West Chiltington lower order saw them home with an over and 2 wickets to spare.

A resounding victory against the Bradman Foundation XI at Arundel was due in no small part to an astounding 45-ball century from Joe Ludlow, which allowed us to chase down a tricky target of 227 with 15 overs to spare.

Another win followed against Lancing Rovers, for whom Hector Loughton scored an unbeaten 105. Sam Carter and Jens Richardson responded with 90s to see the Martlets home by 9 wickets.

Toby Pullan's run-laden summer continued with 74 in a losing effort against Brighton Brunswick, and three days later his splendid knock of 136 propelled us to a 20-run win at Tonbridge against the Yellowhammers.

The first draw of the season wasn't until the end of July, when an impressively athletic Martlets side were frustrated by a young, but stubborn, St James's XI on a flat wicket, after the Martlets had sportingly declared after just 30 overs at 264-4.

The following week at the same venue, it was the Martlets turn to play spoiler, as a strong EICA team containing Brisbane Heat player Ryan Duffield posted 338 for 4 from 48 overs. Thanks to an innings of 105* from Adam Davies on his home ground, the Martlets held on at 223 for 7.

We returned to winning ways against Old Hurstjohnnians, the highlight of the game (and possibly the season) being Sam Cooper's unbeaten double-hundred.

The match against the Hampshire Hogs was memorable for the wrong reasons. The Martlets had bowled well and limited Hogs to 206 all out, with Craig Talbot and Adam Cooper taking 3 wickets each. Hector Loughton then made the outcome look like a formality with a sumptuous century. Such was the

Martlets' dominance, Hector felt able to retire after reaching his century, with just 42 runs required for victory and 7 wickets in hand. A collapse of epic proportions then ensued, with Hector watching aghast from the sidelines, and the match manager (Stuart Ritchie) turning an ever-deepening shade of puce out in the middle as wickets tumbled around him. There were not many Martlets returning Stuart's stern gaze following the fall of the final wicket at just 189!

Rain caused the abandonment of much of the Martlets programme in late August and early September, but it relented in time for us to retain the Sandy Ross Trophy. The trophy reverted to a T20 day, with the Martlets beating a hastily convened Sandy Ross XI by 107 runs in the semi-final and then overcoming a spirited Cryptics XI in the final.

The season drew to a close with a fine win at Sheffield Park against Armadillos – Mark Trubshaw to the fore with a brutal 52 from 27 balls.

Michael Murray

THE ANNUAL AWARDS

These were announced at the Annual Dinner held in the Long Room of the Hove County Cricket Ground. Wandering cricket sides place much importance in match management and Stuart Ritchie was therefore pleased to make two champagne awards:

Best Match Report

Stuart noted that "Not many wandering cricket sides ask match managers to write up their games after the event. The Sussex Martlets is different and some match managers take the task to heart, producing some amazing accounts of their games". This year Stuart wished to single out Darryl Rebbets. They had both played in an astounding game at Hurst against the OHJs. Sam Cooper scored 203 not out before the Martlets bowled out the OHJs, to win the match. Darryl's report captured the very essence of an exciting day's cricket.

Best Organisation

This award went to Michael Murray, who put the Sandy Ross T20 competition back on the map, bringing back together the Cryptics, the Free Foresters and the Haileybury Hermits. When the Free Foresters had to withdraw at the last moment, he was

able to put together a Sandy Ross XI in 48 hours to keep the tournament to its intended format.

Stuart then made the Annual Awards:

Best Batter

The best batter award usually goes to the Martlet who has scored the most runs or has the best average. This year's recipient achieved both. It was of course Toby Pullan.

Best Bowler

This year the best bowler award goes to a gentleman who is renowned for his chat and his ability to get wickets. He also managed to appear in the latest Bond film "Spectre." More importantly, he took 9 wickets this year at an average of 34. The award went to Derek Horsham.

Best Junior Martlet

The Best Junior Award went to Joe Ludlow, who had just completed his final season playing for the Juniors having been a regular since the age of 14. Apart from playing for the Juniors, he has been involved in the Sussex Junior set up and has been a regular member of the Hurstpierpoint College 1st XI since his second year there, which was when he scored his first of several centuries against the Martlets in the regular school fixture!

Joe has captained the Juniors for the last two seasons and he has displayed a mature understanding of the game and of the people he has had playing for him. He has totally embraced the Martlet ethic and played for the senior team on a number of occasions when time has allowed in his A level year. He is a loyal member of the Club. His high speed hundred against the Bradman Foundation XI this year underlines his undoubted talent.

Postscript:

Derek Horsham's award was presented at the Martlets' Committee Christmas Supper held at the Sussex Cricket Museum, where Derek and Mike Harrison were the invited guests. As Mike had recently completed long service on the committee (2006-13), he was also presented with a Martlets Tankard with the grateful thanks of the Committee for his service to the Club.

Toby and Joe were at university at the time of the Annual Dinner. Also 2014 Awards had yet to be presented to Adam and Charles Davies.

Arrangements were made for these four young men to meet up with the President Chris Snell and Chairman Stuart Ritchie, who with their own Martlets Tankards were able to celebrate the achievements of these four award winners with a jug of Harvey's Best Sussex Ale at the Griffin just before Christmas.

Stuart Ritchie



Toby Pullan



Derek Horsham



Joe Ludlow

MARTIN BODENHAM



Martin Bodenham retired as a football referee in 1998 after a career during which he officiated in the 1997 League Cup final, two FA Cup semi-finals and four international matches. After 20 years in football he transferred his officiating skills to cricket and was promoted to the first-class list in 2008 – becoming the first man to take charge of matches at

the highest level in both sports. He was retired from professional umpiring at the end of last season, but has promised to officiate in Martlets matches in 2016.

Why were you retired?

It wasn't that I decided to call it a day; I reached 65 and at that age it is compulsory to retire. There is a part of me that would have liked to carry on, but once you reach a certain age you're not as quick, mentally and physically, as you were 15 or 20 years ago. Concentration and physical alertness dovetail when you have to stand out there for six hours staying focussed. The older you get, the harder the job gets. That's just realistic.

Did you ever fear for your safety when umpiring during Twenty20s?

To some extent, yes. There are moves afoot to make sure umpires are wearing protective clothing. I think the danger was always there, but we've probably become more aware of it in the past couple of seasons. Take it from me, the ball is hit extremely hard by first-class players. I thought it was hit pretty hard by players in the Sussex League, but it is a real step up to second XI cricket and then a step up again to first-class cricket.

My reactions are pretty good, but if you're standing up to the stumps for an off-spinner, the batsman might be five or six feet down the wicket before the ball is even bowled and then if they drill it straight back at you...well, I wouldn't be able to get out of the way and nor would somebody younger.

Will you continue to umpire at recreational level?

Yes. I'll do some MCC fixtures this year and Mike Charman has asked me to do some Martlets matches. I won't do too many though, because I want to explore some of the avenues that I've not been able to while working weekends. I've got five veteran cars and they don't look after themselves!

I'll umpire a bit in the Sussex League too because you shouldn't forget your roots. And I will still be heavily involved in professional football. I'm what the FA call an assessor reviewer. Every game in the top four tiers of the football league has a referee assessor and I have to observe those assessors. I'm one of five or six

men who make sure the assessors are observing and reporting to a standard.

Are umpires assessed in a similar way?

At the top level in domestic cricket, video footage of every decision is scrutinised by the ECB. At my end-of-season review last year, of the 15 County Championship matches I umpired there were about 265 appeals for leg-before and according to the footage I got four or five wrong. The ECB aren't really worried about the borderline decisions though; it is the howlers that they look at.

Which of your officiating careers did you enjoy more?

If I had 20 years on the first-class list, to go with 20 years of refereeing at the top level, I might be able to give a better answer. I thoroughly enjoy both football and cricket and I've been privileged to be involved with the top players in both. The key is managing men, managing games and earning the respect of the players. Players accept that referees and umpires are human and will make errors. What they won't accept are the howlers. That's fair enough.

What differences have you noticed in the sports since you started?

In football particularly, the game has got bigger and quicker. When I first started there was one camera in the ground. Now there are 18 cameras at every Premier League game. You can't get away with anything. Cricket is not dissimilar. The game has become more professional and there is more money involved. The players bowl and field a lot better. Going back a few years, when did you ever see a fast bowler dive on the boundary? The Bob Willis of this world would just let it go. The game has improved in quality drastically.

What advice do you give to amateur umpires?

If you're officiating in any sport, you have to enjoy what you're doing. But my principle is that the game is about the players. An official should only get involved when it is absolutely appropriate. The officious officials are not usually working at the top level of the game, because they would have been found out much earlier in their careers.

Umpires must not get unnecessarily involved where they may add to a problem or create one. You'll get far more respect by letting the players play. And by doing that you can concentrate on getting decisions right, rather than on trivial matters that have nothing to do with the end result.

People used to ask me, 'What was the game like?' And I'd say, 'I haven't got a clue.' I was focused on the job that I was paid to do. I could probably tell you that a certain player played well but I was always concentrating on officiating so I couldn't tell you what the game was like as a spectacle.

Josh Burrows



2015 Centurions

2015 was a notable season for the Sussex Martlets as a double century and ten centuries were scored. The record books say that you have to look back to the 1960s to find a similar tally of run scoring, but the Club then played over 100 games a year!

Our leading batsmen have put pen to paper to describe their achievements, with one of our younger Martlets being interviewed by his mother for this article, all of which have been brought together in this curated article by Martlets Chairman Stuart Ritchie.

Sam Cooper – v Old Hurstjohnnians at Hurst

(as kindly interviewed by his mum Jane and with some ad-lib on curation):

"Sam remembers a hot, sunny day at Hurst and that the batting track was good – indeed rock hard. He knew he could trust the bounce and play shots.

He opened the batting and played carefully up to 50 as he remembers facing some decent bowling. He felt in good nick, was seeing the ball well and the outfield was fast. With Raj Chaudhuri batting well at the other end, Sam reached his 100 before lunch, enjoyed some fish and chips then carried on. Once he had made 150 (for the first time in his career) he started to swing and remembers having a bit of luck when he was dropped on 180ish by Martlet William Wild, fielding for the opposition on the boundary. Sam feels it was a shame that he reached 200 with a nick through third man for 4 rather than a stylish drive through the covers, but it was still a good feeling.

He remembers seizing up the following morning and having to get up and play a league match with his body complaining. Martlets Cricket Sub-Committee Chairman Michael Murray was heard saying 'if only Sam could bat like that for St James!'"

Michael Loveday – v Ditchling CC at Arundel



"My maiden century for the Martlets came about with all the stars aligning ... I was unable to play in my usual Christ's Hospital fixture due to work commitments but Stuart very kindly asked me if I would like to play in the Ditchling fixture at Arundel instead! Well "Yes" was the

answer. My last outing opening the batting at Arundel was against a rapid Ardingly College attack, where I managed to survive the new ball before the weather curtailed our day and so I felt I had some unfinished business.

Martlets Chairman, Stuart Ritchie, skipper for the day, very kindly asked me to open with Jeremy Bushell and so we began. Ditchling stuck to their business with some tight bowling, I gave away a sharp chance to slip early on, but decided to bide my time with a cumulative approach. Jeremy at the other end started to let the handbrake off and arrived at his fifty far quicker than me.

The skipper (strangely umpiring for Ditching – they were a bit disorganised!) reminded me that this was only an afternoon game and that he was hoping to declare before 5pm!

I noticed the wonderful sight of a Spitfire circling the ground – presumably from nearby 'Glorious Goodwood' and that must have inspired me, as things started to click as I reached my fifty. I don't know how many balls my second fifty took, but I think I caught up with Jeremy in the last 10 overs and we both reached our centuries in fairly close succession, thus enabling the skipper to declare after 37 overs, which I believe was the same number of overs we delivered to Ditchling.

It is always special to play for the Martlets and particularly at Arundel and to make a Martlets maiden century was the highlight of my season!"

Steven Rae v Western Sussex XI at Arundel.



"The Martlets had contained a Western Sussex XI well on a very flat Arundel wicket for 30 odd overs. However, a strong finish saw the scoreboard tick over to 250-5 from 45 overs before the declaration. Playing "time cricket" has been a strange format for me, as I have grown up playing

mostly 50 over cricket in New Zealand. Chasing was tricky, not knowing the exact number of overs left. Losing two early wickets put us on the back foot. A number of good partnerships kept us in the game. For me, I knew if I could just bat through to the end, we would get close. Luckily, David Twine came in at the end and was able to provide the boost that got us across the line with a few minutes to spare. For me personally, scoring a 100 and helping win a game at Arundel is something I will always remember."

Joe Ludlow v Bradman XI at Arundel .



"I have played Junior Sussex Martlets under John Bettridge since I was fourteen and have captained them for the past two years. This summer I had the opportunity to play for the men's team six times. During the match against the Bradman XI, I scored 128 helping the Martlets to defeat

them. The highlight of my innings was being able to raise my bat having got a century at Arundel Castle. I feel very honoured to be one of eleven centurions and am very much looking forward to representing the Sussex Martlets next summer and hopefully being part of the centurion club again!"

Toby Pullan v Yellowhammers CC at The Head, Tonbridge.

"This summer I made a century for the Martlets against the Yellowhammers. We were playing at Tonbridge School on The Head, a fantastic place to



play, and the wicket was made for batting. I brought up the century with probably the best shot I'd played all day and as I was raising my bat to my team mates I felt an enormous sense of pride; particularly as it was my first hundred for the Martlets, as opposed to the Junior Martlets.

This personal success was made all the more sweet as we managed to steal a victory in an exciting finish."

Jeremy Bushell – v Ditchling CC at Arundel.



"This was my first year as a Sussex Martlet and it was one that I thoroughly enjoyed, with the highlight being an opening partnership with Michael Loveday at Arundel against Ditchling CC, where we both managed to scribble a century next to our names. I'm very proud to have

been the first member of my family to score runs at Arundel, despite my father and grandfather having 60 years of cricket at Arundel between them. I imagine they both think I'm rather jammy. They're probably correct. More importantly we won the game, something I hope to repeat many times with the Martlets in the future."

Hector Loughton – v Hampshire Hogs at Warnford.



"The very picturesque ground of Warnford, nesting in the heart of the Hampshire countryside, was the location for my very first Martlets century. On a very good batting track against the Hampshire Hogs, the first fixture in ten years, I was fortunate enough only to be facing a 10-man opposition, meaning a

couple of extra gaps in the field. I was also very lucky that the Hogs' bowling was somewhat wayward at the beginning against me, allowing me to get off to a quick start, whilst Hassan Chaabane, playing his first game in several weeks, was attracting the best from the opening bowlers. A small leg-side boundary also played its part, as well as the reprieve I received in the forties. A collapse of biblical proportions ensured we snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, but it was a fantastic moment nonetheless to record my first Martlets century."

Centuries were also scored by Mark Trubshaw, Adam Davies, Marcus Campopiano and Marno Pretorius.

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2015

Played 3 Won 2 Lost 0 Abandoned as a draw 1.

The Juniors had a successful but frustrating season. The standard was certainly high in the games that were played, with substantial contributions with bat or ball from Toby Pullan, Joe Ludlow, Jack Troak, Harry Rollings, Jack Fletcher-Price and Adam Cooper. Good wins very recorded over St James and Brighton & Hove City Clubs. The Martlets, however, escaped at Arundel largely due to Michael Murray's week-long rain dance! (He must have been exhausted!)

The frustrations this season came in the shape of the cancellation by the Babes of Kent of their game and the late change of the club U.16 T20 league games from term time to the holidays, thus clashing with two of our U.16 games. Alternative dates were offered for one of these games, but there was no response.

As predicted, having the Martlets and Juniors games against St James on the same day also created the problems that both managers foresaw.

The loss of the three fixtures was a great shame, but on the plus side it is clear that there is a great loyalty to the Martlets from the junior players.

I would say that mid-July fixtures do restrict availability to a huge extent, as many independent school families are on holiday and the state schools are yet to break up. As a consequence the 2016 season will move more towards the late July to mid-August period. It will include a potentially exciting innovation: a T20 tournament between the junior sides of the Sussex Martlets, Band of Brothers and Hampshire Hogs.

Junior Martlets v St. James Montefiore.

Junior Martlets 246-8 (40 overs). St James Montefiore 111-9 innings closed. Won by 135 runs

Both teams had encountered problems raising an XI and the Juniors were grateful to St James' for the efforts that they made. The Juniors batted first and captain, Toby Pullan, demonstrating the form that has produced for him so many runs in recent times, stormed towards a chanceless 100 (at which point he retired) in rapid time, producing an array of superb shots. He was backed up by Albert Burgess (29) as his anchor man. We then suffered a minor collapse before Jack Fletcher-Price stabilised the ship with a fine 61* to see us through to an excellent final total.

The Juniors' attack proved too much for a young St James' side, particularly the pace of George Ainsley (2-29), who removed their opener with the first ball of the innings. Ben Cooke's leg breaks (2-37) were too tempting on occasions, as were those of 13 year old Toby Shepperson (2-11), who made his debut for the Juniors. Useful fielding and fine keeping by Alastair Orr made for an overall commanding performance.

Junior Martlets v Brighton and Hove City Clubs XI (Hurstpierpoint College). Junior Martlets 239-6 (40 overs). Brighton & Hove City Clubs XI 216 all out (38.1 overs). Won by 23 runs.

This is an excellent fixture for the Juniors and it has produced some well fought and close games over the years it has been played and I am very grateful to

David Bowden and Matt Parsons for the way they have established it.

Joe Ludlow, having won the toss, opened with Harry Rollings and they made a sound start. Scoring was not easy at the start and the outfield was slow. They negotiated the opening attack until Joe tickled one down the leg side. Jack Troak (65) joined Harry (23) and his sensible and positive batting brought its rewards. Ludo Milne, making his Junior Martlet debut, looked very promising until he was well caught in the deep. Joe Gilligan was clearly a man with a mission and proceeded to give a fine display of attacking batting. He and Jack put on nearly 100 together with both passing the 50 mark. Joe's 77 included one six and twelve fours. The final score of 239-6.

A last minute selection issue left the Juniors a bit short on their seam attack, but the wide array of spinners did the job. The Clubs side got off to a rapid start. The odd catch did not quite go to hand, but eventually the spin department began to make in-roads, with Ben Heber bowling tidy off spin to back up the left-armers from Adam O'Brien (2-33). Adam Cooper (2-32) joined the party and the score fell behind the rate required. Wickets began to fall and Jack Troak arrived to polish up at the end, taking 3-5 in 7 balls. It was a calm and efficient performance by all.

Junior Martlets v Sussex Martlets (Arundel Castle).

Junior Martlets 97-0. Match abandoned (rain)

An interesting game was in prospect. Sadly the weather was the deciding factor, but not before a strong Junior Martlet side had made an excellent start, having been put in to bat. The openers scored 97 off 18.2 overs with Harry Rollings batting beautifully with 12 fours in his undefeated 54. Toby Pullan supported him well with 31 runs to his name when the rain stopped play.

I am most grateful to all the players for the effort they made to be there and particularly to Ross Whyte, who had journeyed over from the Isle of Wight for the day.

John Bettridge

A.G.M – MARCH 7th 2016

Stuart Ritchie was confirmed as Chairman and Mike Charman as Treasurer, both for three year terms. John Goodacre and Paul Walker join the Committee as Martlets Seniors co-ordinator and Social Events co-ordinator respectively.

Regrettably, the position of Secretary remains vacant, as Mark Trubshaw has completed his three year term and there were no candidates for this role. If you are interested in this position, please contact Stuart Ritchie.

Adrian Ford, Chris Gray and Nigel Russell retired from the Committee with more than our grateful thanks. A proper tribute to their long commitment to the Club will appear in next year's magazine.

To general acclaim, Jonathan Wills was elected a Vice President, reflecting his contribution playing, touring, match managing and as a member of the Committee. In addition, Mike Yardy, former Sussex CCC and England player, and Martin Bodenham, former first class cricket umpire, were elected Honorary Members.

A SUSSEX SUCCESS STORY



The winning Hurstpierpoint College squad at Arundel:
Phil Hudson, Nick Creed (coaches). Ross Whyte, Jack Troak, Rob Cope, Dan Doram, Ben Candfield, Joe White, Ed Firth
Front row: George Garton, Dominic Keats, Joe Ludlow, Tom Haines, Joe Gilligan, Ben Cooke

A Friday in early July saw a notable Sussex triumph at Arundel when the Hurstpierpoint College 1st XI became the first Sussex side to win the National Schools' T20 Cup.

Played initially on a regional basis, the competition involved 180 schools. The four semi-finalists, Hurstpierpoint, Wellington, Sedbergh and Malvern then came together for the last two stages in a one day feast of cricket. The Martlet interest in this was huge as 11 of the Hurst squad of 13 pictured above have all, over the last 4 years, played Junior Martlet cricket.

Prior to Arundel, a 10 wicket victory over Tonbridge, perhaps, underlined the class of this side, who have another prominent Martlet, Nick Creed, as master in charge.

Their semi-final clash was against Wellington, a team that included Sam Curran (who after the game left the ground to play a T20 game for Surrey!) He was instrumental in Wellington's flying start, but lost his wicket in the 5th over after they had sped to 63. The Hurst grip then tightened with two match changing spells by Jack Troak (3-21) and Tom Haines (3-24), so that Wellington ended at 166-8. Dom Keats (55) and George Garton (41) whisked the score into the nineties in 7 overs and from that hastily erected platform Hurst went on to win by 5 wickets, with more than an over to spare.

By comparison the final was a more sedate affair. Malvern, who had beaten Sedbergh in the other semi-final, batted first but the Hurst bowling dominated with tight spells from George Garton (3-14), Dan Doram (3-17) and Tom Haines (3-30) restricting them to 134-9. The Hurst batsmen carried on from where the bowlers had left off with fine displays from Joe Ludlow (67*) and Dom Keats (42) to win by 8 wickets.

Perhaps the overlying feature of the Hurst team on that day, and to be fair throughout their season, was that they never gave way to panic at difficult moments.

They are a group of players with considerable cricketing maturity; something from which the Martlets have already gained some benefit and will hopefully continue to do so.

John Bettridge



Presentation of the National T20 Trophy to Joe Ludlow, by John Barclay, former Sussex captain and Martlet Vice President.

MY MARTLETS JOURNEY



My first Sussex Martlets experience occurred in 1993 when I was invited to join the Martlets umpires panel. I stood in my first Martlets (v Buccaneers) match at Arundel with the late Ron Hounsell and with the late Sid Farrendon as the Martlets scorer. Being the only survivor of that trio gives a clue to my advancing years!! At

the time I was Assistant Secretary of Sussex CCC, having completed 27 years Army service some 4 years previously. In 1995 I moved to Arundel Castle CC as the Secretary and in 1999 I received a letter from Charlie Hartridge inviting me to both become an Honorary Martlet and to join the Millenium tour to Australia as the tour umpire – both invitations which I was honoured and delighted to accept.

In 2003, by which time I had returned to Sussex CCC in my current scoring role, I was invited to take over the appointment of both umpires and scorers for the Martlets – a task I am happily continuing some 13 years later. Having been convinced on a pretence that I should attend last year's AGM, I was again very pleasantly surprised to learn that I had been elected "Martlet of the Year". I subsequently foolishly informed the Chairman that if he was stuck in his attempts to find a Treasurer I would be willing to help and within hours had been co-opted into my latest role. Having spent since 2003 time chasing the Treasurer to pay the officials their dues, I now had the job of chasing myself, but there are many who would tell you I quite frequently chase my own tail!!

After 23 years of Martlets involvement I am still delighted by the way we play our cricket and by the characters who become Martlets in one form or another and I look forward to continuing my enjoyment of all things Martlets.

Mike Charman

THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2015

Overall we played 8 matches, won 1, lost 5 and halved 2.

v Crowborough Beacon, March 22nd.

A special occasion with huge support from Crowborough Beacon GC. The Golfing Society commissioned The Grant Skinner Memorial Trophy which will be played for each year at the club.

In this inaugural year Crowborough Beacon GC won the match 4½ - 2½.

v West Sussex, March 29th.

West Sussex fielded a strong side in this popular 16 a side foursomes match. The Martlets went into lunch 6-2 down. The home team were treated to kummels at lunchtime, possibly resulting in the halved afternoon score of 4-4. The match was lost 10-6.

v Royal Ashdown, April 19th.

Played on a lovely Spring day, we got off to a good start winning the morning foursomes 3½ - 2½. We lunched perhaps too well, losing the afternoon round 3½ - 2½. The result was a creditable halved match 6-6.

v Littlestone, April 27th.

The Golfing Society made the annual trip down to Kent to play two rounds of foursomes at Littlestone. The course has just been re-rated by Golf World magazine to number 58 in England and it proved a great test on a damp and chilly day. So much so that the locals went into lunch 5-1 up on the Martlets. After lunch the matches were shortened as a result of overcrowding on the course (which the club has promised to rectify next year). The result for the afternoon was an improvement at 3½ - 2½ to Littlestone, giving an overall loss of 8½ - 3½.

v The Purchasers, July 4th.

Our annual match against this charitable organisation, played at Piltdown GC.

A friendly match, we played with a side made up of both Martlets and guests. The Martlets went down



Adrian White presents the trophy to James Goddard

3-2, but all agreed it was a good day and should be repeated next year.

Sussex Martlets Annual Golf Day, September 20th.

On a perfect late summer's day, we enjoyed a marvellous day's golf at Seaford (Blatchington).

The response from members was surprisingly poor, with only 12 players including 2 guests playing for the Martlet Trophy.

The 'Nearest the Pin' prize was won by John Stapleton and the 'Longest Drive' by Mike Stewart. The Trophy was won by James Goddard with Adrian White in second place.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch. It would be good to see more cricketers and members of the Golfing Society next year.

v Piltdown, September 27th.

An excellent 12 a side match played in beautiful late summer weather.

The Martlets were pleased to halve both the morning and afternoon rounds for an overall halved match 5½ - 5½.



The two teams enjoying a break before lunch...

v Rye, October 11th.

The Martlets put out a strong team for this 12 a side match.

The course was in great condition on a breezy day and the Martlets won both the morning and afternoon rounds 4-2, giving an overall win 8-4.

v Cooden Beach, October 18th.

The Martlets went to Cooden Beach for our final fixture. We went down badly in the morning round 5-1, with only Willie Boone and Mark Bowden recording wins.

After lunch we played a shortened round (partly to watch some World Cup rugby in the clubhouse) but fared almost as badly losing 4½ - 1½. Overall the match was lost 9½ - 2½.

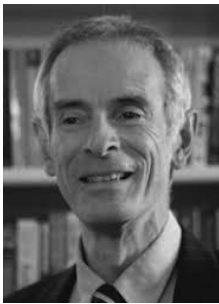
New Members

New members elected this year were Nik Mehta, Patrick Hole, Simon Bulteel and Grant Horscroft. All are warmly welcomed to the Golfing Society.

Adrian White

OBITUARIES

DAVID GIBBS



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of David Gibbs. Pancreatic cancer was diagnosed just before Christmas and he passed away on January 20th.

David was the Club's archivist, author of our centenary history "Summers by the Sea" and a member of over 40 years.

David played regularly for the Sussex Martlets from the mid-1960s through to the 1990s, as a tenacious and solid opening batsman, in addition to being a fine fielder, in keeping with his skills as a top County hockey player.

David scored centuries for the Sussex Martlets in 1968, 1969, 1975, and 1978. He was the leading batsman for three successive years between 1969 to 1971 and second leading batsman for a further three successive years between 1973 and 1975.

He was educated at Normansal Prep School in Seaford, Ardingly College, Durham and Cambridge Universities. He went on to teach at Monkton Combe, St John's College, Johannesburg, Sherborne, Charterhouse and Haileybury. From 1996-2007, David was Headmaster of Chigwell School.

He leaves his wife, Phillippa and two sons, Matthew and Tom.

Stuart Ritchie

ALASTAIR GRIERSON RICKFORD



At Chichester High School for Boys, Alastair was Head Boy and played first team rugby and cricket. It was at cricket that he excelled. He played for: Sussex Schools XI (1965/66), SCCC Young Amateurs (1965), SCCC Young Cricketers and SCCC Club & Ground (1966/67).

From Chichester, Alastair went up to St. Catharine's, Cambridge where in 1971 he graduated with a MA in English & Modern Languages, having played plenty of football, rugby and cricket, where he captained his college side and played for the Crusaders.

He taught English at Sutton Valence, where he was also Assistant Housemaster and Master i/c Cricket. In 1980 he joined Felsted School, where over 28 years he was Housemaster, Master i/c Cricket, Master i/c Drama, as well as holding other positions including "Master i/c Wednesday Activities"! Felsted School was obviously Alastair's passion, as on retirement he became School Historian, writing "Garde Ta Foy; the Riche Heritage of Felsted School, 1564-2014," which was published in 2014.

Alastair had a lifelong passion for cricket, as a member of the MCC, Band of Brothers, Felsted Robins and, of course, The Sussex Martlets.

Stuart Ritchie

IAN THWAITES



Ian Thwaites passed away on 30th September 2015 at the age of 72, following a brave fight against prostate cancer.

Ian and his lovely wife Linda were devoted to each other and he was a proud father and grandfather. He was, for many years, a much respected GP at the Blackhorse Surgery in Horsham, having qualified at Cambridge University where he also won a Cricket Blue. In the latter part of his career he changed direction and qualified as a musculoskeletal specialist and developed a most successful practice from his home in Southwater.

Ian was a very fine cricketer and long serving member of the Sussex Martlets, whilst playing with great success for many years for Horsham CC. He was a forceful right-hand batsman famed for an amazingly powerful shot off his pads over mid-wicket, which invariably went for six over the Horsham pavilion (and many other grounds around the County). Ian also bowled and his son, Guy, described his style as having a bobbing and optimistic run-up, from which he anticipated a wicket with every ball.

Ian had many interests in his life, among which were a passion for cooking, a keen love of wine and the study of butterflies.

Many Martlets were in attendance at the Thanksgiving Service for Ian held at St Mary's Church in Horsham on 23rd November 2015, where his son, Guy, gave a memorable eulogy in honour of his father.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Linda and all her family for the sad loss of a loving husband, father, grandfather and a true gentleman.

Adrian Ford

HUGH ELPHICK



The property world learned with great sadness of the death of Hugh Elphick following a recent illness.

Hugh was educated at Brighton College and Trinity College, Oxford.

He joined Healey and Baker in May 1972 and spent almost all of his professional life there leaving in December 2004 — some 32 years, following which he joined Sanderson Townend & Gilbert and more recently Catterall and Co.

During his time with Healey and Baker, Hugh became a Partner in the Offices department in 1978 following which he spent 5 years in New York running that office before the merger with Cushman & Wakefield.

Out of the office Hugh loved horse racing and was a regular at many tracks throughout the country and Newbury in particular. Golf was also a passion and he was for many years secretary of the Estates Golfing Society.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues and of course his wife Barbara (who he met in New York) and his daughters, Jane and Annie.

NEW MEMBERS 2015/16

As mentioned in my Chairman's report, one of the priorities has been in ensuring those who want to play wandering cricket are properly inducted into The Sussex Martlets. We now have in place a system to ensure aspiring members are properly inducted into membership. Consequently 2015 has been a bumper year for new members with the following becoming members in the year past:

New playing members:

Joe Akers-Douglas, Ross Antrobus, Rob Bell (Baldock Town/Adastrians), Hassan Chaabane (Chichester), Mark Chapple, Alex Collins (Roffey), James Cruickshank (Lewis Priory), Steve Eke, Guy Hardingham, Rohit Jogata, Jon Lord, David Mann (Ditchling), Alastair Mordaunt, Mat O'Rourke, Chris Pring, Nick Ratcliffe (Newick), Stephen Rae (Acton), Jens Richardson (Limpsfield Chart), Adam Scott (Henfield), Mike Scott, Craig Talbot, David Twine, James Waylett (Newick).

Juniors graduating to playing membership:

Frankie Ashworth, Jeremy Bushell, Ben Cooke, Alex Cooke, Sam Cooper, Rob Cope, William Forster, Dom Keats, Joe Ludlow, Toby Pullan, Tom Stewart-Green, Greg Wisdom, Will Wright.

Non-playing members:

David Bowden (President of Sussex CCC), Jon Filby (Chairman of Sussex Cricket Museum).
Joining Golf Society: Simon Bulteel, Patrick Hole, Grant Horscroft, Nik Mehta (former Junior Martlet), Andy Rogers, Christopher Spink.

Honorary membership:

Martin Bodenham (former 1st class umpire & Martlet), Barry Peay (England Over 70 player and Martlet umpire), Ron Pateman (Martlet umpire), Mike Yardy (former Sussex CCC and England cricketer).

In addition to the names above, there has been a catch up of inducting Juniors graduating from earlier years. The priority now is in completing the induction

for those considering their position and in seeking candidates for the 2016 season.

If you know of an individual who wishes to play cricket for the Sussex Martlets this summer, do please get in touch with me and remember the application form is available from the website of the Club.

Stuart Ritchie

DATES FOR THE 2016 DIARY

Wednesday 1st June – Club Day at Hove, Sussex v Somerset (T20 Blast)

Friday 12th August – Vice President's Day at Arundel. Sussex Martlets v Junior Martlets

Sunday 14th August – Lady Mary's XI v Sussex Martlets at Arundel

Sunday 4 September – Sandy Ross T20 Cup at St James's Montefiore

Friday 14 October – Club Dinner at the Long Room, Hove County Ground

And we are also supporting:

Friday 9 December – FACCC Christmas Lunch at Arundel Castle



Martin Bodenham will be umpiring some Martlet games in 2016 and we trust this will be a regular sight (when the Martlets are batting, of course).

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