



THE SUSSEX MARTLETS

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Arundel Celebrates 125

The Sussex Martlets first played at the famous Castle in 1912, when they played a 12-a-side match against a J.F. Hope's XII. However, the pivotal date for what has been a 77-year relationship between us, is 1935 when the future Martlets' Secretary & President Eddie Harrison first played for the Club (under J.K. Matthews) against the Duke of Norfolk's X1.

In taking 5-95, he dismissed the Duke's top scorer, Lord Dunglass (better known to us as Sir Alec Douglas-Home) but made the considerable social blunder of then bowling the Duke first ball. J.K. Matthews insisted he apologised to the Duke, which he did, expecting no doubt to be sentenced to having his eyes pecked out by ravens specially dispatched from the Tower of London. Fixed by an icy glare, the Duke told Eddie "You will never play against me on this ground again," before adding, with a twinkle, "in future you will always play for me on this ground." They were to become great friends, cementing the relationship which maintains through to this day.

In 1935, Duke Bernard agreed to become our Patron, which role the family continued to fulfil through to Lady Mary Mumford's death in 2017.

In 2022 we are doing all we can to support the Arundel Castle Cricket's 125th celebrations. Our Committee has chosen Arundel as the venue for the 2022 dinner. We have also taken, and filled, two tables at the special dinner to be held on March 11th, by kind permission of the Duke of Norfolk, at Arundel Castle itself in the Barons' Hall.

Our Committee has also decided that the Club will contribute to the cost of two new hybrid wickets on the cricket square. The Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club are particularly excited by this exciting development. The pitches, whose quality promises to be superior even to the already high quality surfaces at Arundel, will be played on by the Martlets in various matches this summer.

It is hoped that individual members will support the Arundel celebrations as much as possible and Martlets who are not already members of the F.A.C.C.C. and would like to join can sign up via <https://www.cricketatarundelcastle.co.uk/how-to-join/>. We are grateful to Mark Harrison, their treasurer, who has kindly offered to waive the one-off joining fee to Sussex Martlets members joining this coming season.



CELEBRATING
125
YEARS



In 2022 the Friends of Arundel Castle C.C. will be celebrating 125 years since the first match was played at Arundel for which a record has been kept. On 12 June 1897, a Castle Works XI met the West Sussex Gazette XI, which the latter won by one wicket. The rest,

as they say, is history and the first 100 years were so brilliantly captured by Sir Michael Marshall in his book *Cricket at the Castle*. Thanks to Johnny Barclay and David Randall a sequel to this book is being prepared, hopefully to be published later this year.

The Sussex Martlets started playing matches at Arundel in 1934 and so began this wonderful and enduring association which has continued to this day. Indeed, not only have very many Martlets played at Arundel, but many have also been heavily involved on the Management Committee and this continues with your Chairman, Paul Walker, currently sitting on our board.

We are organising a number of events to celebrate this milestone, commencing with the aforementioned black tie dinner on the evening of Friday 11th March 2022, which is being held in the Barons' Hall at Arundel Castle. We very much look forward to welcoming attendees from the Sussex Martlets to this.

Along with our regular fixtures, we have arranged a number of other attractive fixtures including the Oxford v Cambridge varsity matches for both men and women, Actors v Authors and a welcome return to Arundel for the Lord's Taverners. We are also hosting the FairBreak Global Women's XI and a Vintage T20 cricket day, in partnership with the Arundel Festival, where teams representing those who played the first recorded match at Arundel will feature.

While the last two years have been challenging from both a cricketing and financial perspective, we have taken the decision to install two new hybrid pitches on our square before the start of next season. We believe that this investment will be an important aspect for the future of cricket at Arundel.

Robin Marlar once described Arundel as "God's own acres... in this corner of Sussex that is forever England." There is much to celebrate this year at Arundel and we very much look forward to welcoming you all in joining our celebration of 125 years of cricket at Arundel.

Mark Harrison (Hon. Treasurer F.A.C.C.C.)

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2021



television firmly off.

Christmas 2021 was a drab and dank affair in Sussex, at least weather-wise. The sun was shining in Australia, but to have any hope of enjoying the festivities cricket fans had to somehow forget that the Ashes were on and get a decent amount of nocturnal sleep, whilst keeping wireless and

The horrible weather was a good excuse for hibernation and I hope that the Martlet membership was able to have a pleasant and relaxed time. I'm sure many of us spared a thought, especially perhaps during the Queen's speech, for our President, who was spending his first Christmas for many years without his beloved Kathleen.

This year Brian steps down after four years as President. He has always been a wonderful Martlet but more recently has provided great assistance, first to Stuart Ritchie and then to me. Brian has been a tremendous President, attending very many matches and Committee meetings, unfailingly warm and welcoming, to young and old Martlets alike.

Nigel Russell, the legendary "Vicar", has been nominated by your Committee to step into Brian's shoes. I'm sure that you will support this proposal at the A.G.M. on 14th March 2022 (please note the date in your diaries without delay).

It will be a real pleasure to work with Nigel on some important and exciting projects this year and in the foreseeable future.

I've known Nigel since my early days as a Martlet candidate in the early noughties. He has infectious good humour, a wonderful way with words and of course a fundamental love of cricket and the Martlets.

Nigel and I both share the view that sport can and does enrich very many lives. His work with the Sussex Foundation helps spread that experience of sport to many in society who lack the opportunities that lots of us often take for granted.

We will, with your support, make sure the Martlets are increasingly open and inclusive to players, spectators and officials, whatever their gender, race or social background. Cricket has had a particularly bad press in 2021, much of it (in my view) deservedly so. We need to (and will, in this club at any rate) bounce back with positivity and open minds in 2022.

It's because cricket and sport "isn't important" that make it so important to us. When we are swept away (as I was when listening to Bairstow make his hundred in Sydney and then as we clung on for the draw) nothing else matters. The stresses and strains that we all — increasingly it seems — have to juggle with, melt away when we engage in sport, whether watching, playing or during the Ashes, listening on the school run. That escape has to be (and has been scientifically proven to be) good for our mental health.

And on a freezing, wet, dark, January morning, dreaming of Arundel in mid-August is good for the soul. Those dreams should never be the preserve of a privileged elite. This is, rightly or wrongly, how the Martlets are sometimes perceived.

Our Club Dinner and Awards Night will take place on Friday 25th March 2022, in the Arundel pavilion. Ebony Rainford-Brent has been invited, to talk about the work of the Afro-Caribbean Engagement cricketing charity. The A.C.E. programme aims to get more young black youngsters playing and enjoying cricket. You may have seen them on Sky Sports during the summer Test series or read about them in the press. Last season they played their first match at Arundel. I am hoping they will play future fixtures against both the Junior and Senior Martlets.

We are blessed to count Arundel as our spiritual home and 2022 is a significant year for the F.A.C.C.C. Many of you will, like me, be members of both clubs. The Martlets and Arundel are inseparably bound by many years of cricketing characters and happy memories at this sacred ground.

As mentioned in the leading article, we are contributing to the installation of two hybrid pitches and should you wish to contribute towards this gesture personally, please feel free to contact me to discuss. Any contributions would be gratefully appreciated by the F.A.C.C.C. and a combined Martlet gift would further cement our ongoing relationship.

Plans are crystallising for a Martlets' tour to Trinidad and Tobago in February 2023. A friend of mine in Tobago is helping lay the foundations for this exciting adventure. It helps that (unbeknown to me until recently) he is a good friend of the Murray family. Tobagan cricket has had a particularly tough time due to Covid. Their coffers are empty. The one request from our future hosts is that the Martlets bring with us a bowling machine. I'm confident this can be accomplished. Again, if you would like to contribute or pledge a donation to the Tobagan bowling machine, please get in touch.

It's a privilege as Chairman of the Martlets to be in a position to help enable as many cricketers as possible to keep enjoying our type of cricket. By that I mean

cricket played competitively and well, but in the correct spirit. We aim to put out our very best teams in matches played at Arundel. These are often well attended by F.A.C.C.C. members (as well as Martlet members) and we have a duty to provide a high-level standard of cricket. This means selecting younger players who are often least able to pay the higher subs that we have to charge to play at a First Class venue.

The Committee has wrestled with this issue over many years. We are reluctant to increase playing fees for Arundel matches and risk pricing our younger players, many of whom who are at college or undertaking apprenticeships, out of playing. However, we must make ends meet.

A way in which you can assist the Club in this regard is by sponsoring a match or matches at Arundel. If you feel able (and willing) to do this, please contact me or any Committee member to discuss.

There you go – three requests for donations! But all three, I hope you agree, are for wholly worthwhile and decent causes. Please consider them carefully; your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

I'm enormously grateful to those of you who work tirelessly for the Club: match managers, officials and especially the Committee, without whom there would be no Sussex Martlets.

Have a very Happy New Year – and please note that our Club Day at Arundel this year is on 26th August. I hope to see as many members there as possible for what is always a great day of Martlet cricket and bonhomie.

Paul Walker

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE



Cricket always presents the challenges inherent in the game to character and skill. Its intricacies are immensely fascinating and all clubs are indebted to those who keep the wheels turning. We are more than fortunate to have a dedicated team of officials led by Paul Walker (Chairman), Alan Newman (Secretary) and Mike Charman (Treasurer), who put in such a vast amount of work on behalf of members of the Club. The Committee is a very active one, as witnessed by our splendid website. They are to be warmly thanked and they should know that their efforts are greatly appreciated. I thank them warmly, as I do all those who umpire, score, prepare grounds and pitches and arrange our catering.

The Junior Martlets' programme is a major feature of our set-up, as it has been for very many years, latterly organised with such care by John Bettridge and now by Jimmy Anyon and all are grateful to them, with so many new and vital young players introduced to the Club.

Like others, we have been on the back foot with the Covid epidemic, which caused matches to be cancelled, including those against Lancing College and Christ's Hospital at short notice, but we have come through and done well.

The later matches stick in the memory and two were remarkable. A stirring win against the odds, chasing down 282 against the Brunswick at Arundel (the final run off the last ball with 9 down) and Toby Pullan's 188* at Hurlingham were both highlights to gladden the heart and they provided a fitting finale to the season.

My time as President comes to an end in March and it has been my pleasure to serve and assist in the Club's development. Naturally I hope to continue being present and offering my support.

I am grateful for all the help which has been generously given to me during my term of office.

Brian O'Gorman

NIGEL RUSSELL



With Brian O'Gorman's term coming to an end, the Committee are delighted to recommend Nigel Russell as his successor and will propose him at the forthcoming A.G.M. on March 14th 2022.

A Sussex man through and through, Nigel was raised in Burgess Hill, schooled at Bradfield (past president Chris Saunders taught him some geography, allegedly, and was his cricket master). Having played in the Bradfield XI, he became a Sussex Young Cricketer in 1965 and 1966. He also played for the Southdown Rams and, of course, the Junior Martlets.

Joining the Army, he was commissioned into the Queen's Regiment (formerly the Royal Sussex), served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Belize, Brunei, New York (where his cricket was confined to day-and-night corridor cricket!) and the U.K. Nigel played Army cricket and can claim international caps for Brunei and El Salvador!

Remaining a Martlets' member throughout his globe-trotting days, once back in U.K. he joined the

Committee in the mid 80s, revitalising Martlets' fortunes at the time. He went on notable tours with the Martlets to Berlin (1988) and Dordogne (2005) before becoming the Martlets' chairman (2006-12), his mantra being to help keep the club relevant and sustainable.

An off-spinner and mid-order batter, he appeared on the list of highest wicket-takers four times in 90s, but very sadly was never on the batting list despite (so he says) "some innings of immeasurable quality"!

On leaving the Army he became a school bursar in mid 90s and, for one of the shortest periods in Sussex's history, became S.C.C.C's C.E.O. in 2002/3. However, he can take credit for persuading Peter Moores to sign Mushtaq Ahmed!

He was invited to join Sussex Cricket in the Community Trust in 2011 and, on the County Club's reorganisation in 2015, became a trustee and secretary of the newly formed Sussex Cricket Foundation.

Nigel comments, "I have been a proud Martlet for over 56 years, played at some wonderful grounds around the county and have made lifelong friends through the Club. My favourite ground has to be Arundel, where I first played as an 18-year-old under Eddie Harrison."

TREASURER'S REPORT – looking ahead!



No sooner does it seem that we are getting to grips with the Covid situation than another variant appears; it is two steps forward, one step back on the return to normality – whatever that is.

However, the 2021 season was played under near normal conditions and a full programme of both cricket and golf was possible, although the weather intervened to cause the cancellation of a number of matches for the cricketing fraternity. Therefore, we incurred a more usual level of both income and expenditure, but the latter as always exceeds the former. It is true to say that a treasurer's dream is a season when all subscriptions are paid in April, at the full amount, and then all fixtures are cancelled so expenditure is minimal, resulting in our reserves receiving a tremendous boost! However, I fear our membership would probably be decimated for the following season!

Therefore, we will have to continue raising as much income as we can whilst retaining tight control on what we pay out, although in many cases increases are unavoidable. At the time of writing, early

indications are that we will return a small surplus for 2021, helped partly by achieving sponsorship for two of our Arundel matches and we will renew efforts to get all six or seven matches there sponsored for 2022 – contact any of the Committee if you would like further details. We do also benefit from a number of our match officials foregoing part or all of their due expenses, which is much appreciated. However, after many years a modest increase in their expenses is being proposed, which will negate those savings.

Great efforts have been made to get members to pay the correct amount for their membership and in some cases to pay anything at all. It cannot be right that members (including some match managers) can play all season and not pay their dues. What is more frustrating to your Committee is when these individuals do not even have the courtesy to respond to emails, letters etc. A decision on continued membership of the Club for these non-payers will be finalised shortly.

A membership review has taken place and a number of changes have been made. New cricket members will no longer have to serve a period as a candidate but can, subject to Committee approval, be elected as members immediately, although their application will still require proposing and seconding by a current paid-up Martlet. There will also be no need in future to pay a joining fee (the administration of which had proved difficult and outweighed the amounts achieved). Small increases in both playing and non-playing members' subscriptions have been implemented, but these can be cancelled out if payment is made by Direct Debit – a system which is much more easily managed by both the member and those tasked with the Club's administration.

Talking of administration, there has been a change of responsibilities between the Secretary, the Fixtures Secretary and the Treasurer. The Fixtures Secretary will now also be responsible for the appointment of match officials, which dovetails well with fixture-arranging. The Treasurer will now administer all new member applications, as well as the payment of annual subscriptions – also a more obvious fit than the current arrangements. All membership queries should now be directed to treasurer@sussexmartlets.co.uk.

Mike Charman

REVIEW OF THE SEASON



The 2021 season, despite being heavily curtailed by rain, continued the Martlets' mission of social, but competitive recreational cricket. After the you-know-what induced hiatus of 2020, we all (mostly double

jabbed) just wanted to get on with a full season. On the field, the protocol of hand-sanitisation became less of a chore and more of a useful break for the bowlers. Off the field and in the pavilion, the traditional teas started to re-appear as a welcome replacement for last year's petrol station style meal-deals.

The records show that of the senior squad's 37 scheduled games, 14 were won, 2 drawn, 12 lost and 9 cancelled (mainly for rain). As ever, the Committee at large and Alan Newman in particular, are to be congratulated for staging a wide range of fixtures customarily falling into three broad categories, which serve as the structure for this past year's review.

The Schools (10 games, W4, D1, L2, C3)

A vital part of the Martlets' tradition is to send a cohort of middle-aged athletes (as the pupils don't always see us) to schools so we can bamboozle them with declaration cricket, military-medium filth, twirly off-spin, and funky field positions. It's all part of their education. In return, the Martlets get a ringside view of future talent and, in some cases, a glimpse of what might have been. The games are played in a charming spirit, often in front of 'ambitious' parents. Sledging rarely gets beyond "How's the A-Level revision going?"

The season opened (as the previous one had closed) with a solid win at Worth. Old-boy Toby Pullan delivered an 86-run victory after the late-order's 66 helped us recover from 82-5. Campopiano and Ashworth had opened scratchily, giving little indication that between them they'd rattle up 1610 runs in the season ahead! The Martlets' 195-9 was always going to be a stretch with Murray (miserly) and Davies (3-38) opening the attack. Any optimism this brought was soon deflated in the next game against Eastbourne College, which saw a 111-run loss at Arundel. Inevitably the visitors 'upped their game' on the hallowed turf, and despite Trubshaw's 5-46, they found batting pretty easy under the tutelage of ex-pro Rob Ferley and our own Mike Harrison. Smith (79) and Carter (59) delivered some respectability.

Thence to Seaford and a powerful team coached by Sussex legend Chris Adams in the shadow of the South Downs. Old-boy Hugo Gillespie (108) supported by Henry Rydon (39*) helped the Martlets to 244-5, but it wasn't enough against a side which included Charlie Tear, selected for the Sussex Academy later in the season. There followed a game at Ardingly with all four results possible in the final over (it was drawn), then three consecutive victories against an uncharacteristically weak Brighton College team (and a trenchant match report by Josh Burrows), St. George's College and Hurstpierpoint College. Sadly, the games against Aldridge Academy, Christ's Hospital and Lancing were all lost to rain.

Following the revelation that only two of the newly announced Sussex Academy squad attended state schools, there has been much chatter on social media about elitism and closed-shop-ism at Hove. The fact is that the private schools have outstanding facilities and coaches, which benefit the game qualitatively. It is encouraging nonetheless that no one in the Martlets seems to care what school anyone came from, and the Chairman's mission to extend our schools mission into the state sector is to be welcomed.

The Clubs (6 games, W2, L2, C2)

A thrilling game at Arundel saw the M.C.C. reach 220-5 off their 40 overs. The Martlets struggled in their reply. They needed 100 runs off only 11 overs and came close, finishing 19 runs short after impressive contributions from Pullan (56), Shaw (40*) and Read (34). A crushing victory at Eastbourne followed, with centuries for Campopiano and Pullan (now both scoring runs for fun in some halcyon groove) on their way to 376-2 (40 overs, with two retirees). Eastbourne were never in the running and collapsed to 180, despite the presence of Mark Trubshaw, flying under club and not Martlet colours. Nick Beechey opened his captaincy career with a 5-wicket victory at Buxted Park in their cricket week. There followed a tight but losing finish at Horsham with the Martlets just failing to match the host's 243.

The Jazz Hats (21 games, W8, D1, L8, C4)

With the school games adding to a youth development agenda and the club games providing some cement in the league structure, it's the games against the other wandering and old-boy clubs where the spirit of the Martlets is most obviously realised. 'Wandering' is, in many cases, a misnomer since the sides have amazing home facilities, none more so than at the stunning Wormsley ground, where Darryl Rebbetts delivered a 6-wicket victory. Goodwood too is a spectacular

ground, where Johnny Heaven was keen to avenge the previous year's 10-wicket defeat. This he did with a solid 5-wicket victory with the main batting architect being Jordan Shaw (75). The Hogs' rain dance at Warnford defied a 99% precipitation forecast in the area and somehow a full day's play ensued (the only drizzle coming in the tea interval). The host's 246-9 (52 overs – really?!) was almost effortlessly overtaken by Ryan (101), Shaw (98*) and McCarthy (41) on the way to 248-2 in only 30 overs. Mike Murray's birthday was celebrated with Tina's finest chocolate cake – worthy of the Bake-Off-esque marquee, which was our temporary changing and tearoom.

Weather delayed the start at Hurst against the Butterflies, as did a selection nightmare when Ritchie had to withdraw after a positive Covid test that morning. Multiple phone calls (more to hunt down prospective players than offer Stuart sympathy, let alone grocery errands) followed and Jamie O'Meara abandoned his bedside toast and marmalade to fill the gap, travelling while the leaf-blowers were drying the square. Once again, Shaw (106*) led from the front with Waylett (52) in support of an unachievable 245-5 off the re-allotted 40 overs. The Butterflies' wings fell off at 86 with 10 overs to spare.

Sam Carter led a low scoring thriller against Lancing Rovers, where yet more runs from Shaw and Wingfield-Digby provided the platform for the 15-year-old Ben Whelpton to achieve a maiden Martlets 'fifer'.

South Wales Hunts sound more as if they belong in a limerick than on a cricket pitch, but it was no laughing matter as the sun (making its first appearance of the season) beat down on the M1-like surface at Horsham. Both their openers smashed tons on their way to 358-5 off 50 overs. The Martlets again made a decent fist of it with Shaw (100, again!) and Jago-Lewis (100), but could only muster 318.



Goodwood v Martlets under the Cedar of Lebanon

Mike Harrison oversaw a cracking 1-wicket loss against the Yellowhammers at Tonbridge. David Twine starred with both bat and ball as the Martlets first posted 266-8, with Twine (104), Harrison (43) and Carter (41) flourishing. A last over boundary saw the opposition inch past to reach 267-9. What a game.

Further losses mounted against The Flashmen at Culham Court, the Cryptics in a selection-troubled game at East Grinstead, and then a 131-run loss against the Old Hurst Johnians, although the latter game was more notable for the beautiful memorial service for Derek Semmence that preceded it.

Full-service resumption of the Vice-Presidents' Day at Arundel saw the Junior Martlets crush the seniors in this ever-thrilling everyone-wins fixture. The Juniors, under the new leadership of Jimmy Anyon, posted 234-8 with Rogers (54) starring. In reply the seniors could only muster 132, despite a valiant effort from Hunt (57) who provided the only real resistance to Rogers (3-12) and Foreman (3-20). Selection issues and rain troubled the newly arranged fixture against the Old Cranleighans, with the Martlets coming second by 9 wickets at East Grinstead.

After a long night out on tour, the Frogs came to Horsham, where the Martlets won a thriller by 3 wickets. Last minute drop-outs press-ganged family members at short notice to reveal 3 Hunts, 2 Trubshaws and 3 umpires. Shaw called Hove to seek permission to bowl, and duly delivered a cameo spell of 3-3-0-1 as the Frogs croaked along to 4-1 off 6, then 7-3, 53-5 and eventually 174 after some creative match-opening bowling, with Trubshaw J (3-53), Trubshaw M (4-52) and Christmas (1-6) starring. In reply, the Martlets passed the total with ease, thanks to Shaw (47), Hunt S (44) and Hunt J (31).

The game of the season was arguably the visit of Brighton Brunswick to Arundel, who came equipped with a selection of premier league and overseas players. Racing to 164-1 just before lunch after earnest bowling by Murray and Rebbetts, Joe O'Gorman secured a breakthrough which helped 'contain' the visitors to 180-2 at lunch. Sheer hard work by the Martlets' bowlers then restricted Brunswick to 281-5 off 48. A steady reply ensued before Hunt (69) and Rebbetts accelerated the score to 158, but still behind the required rate. Contributions from promising juniors, then Murray, reinforced Rebbetts' determination and, helped by some box-office reverse sweeps, he saw the Martlets home finishing on 83* off 71 with Omkar Khot hitting the last ball off the back foot through the covers for 4. Spectacular – and sadly impossible to repeat, as Rebbetts discovered in a 42-run loss at Marden against the Band of Brothers, who amassed 222 despite Rebbetts taking advantage of a rare fast track (4-53). The Martlets never quite got going, despite Shaw (50) again making run-getting look easy.

The Hurlingham Club came to Arundel where a packed crowd, including President Brian O'Gorman and John Bushell willing on grandsons Joe and Alexander, witnessed a stunning 188* by Toby Pullan who, along with Jordan Shaw, was enjoying a brilliant summer run-fest. The visitors worked hard for a draw and finished on 204-7, after a late cameo from Chairman Walker briefly offered the glimpse of an unlikely victory. Pullan's score was the fifth highest innings for Sussex Martlets. It is also the highest innings for the Club at Arundel Castle (the previous highest being 165 by the Australian Ashton Turner against Brighton College in 2013).

And so, finally to Sheffield Park and the Armadillos. The pitch and outfield still bore the scars of the previous season's badger attack, but that was no excuse for the hosts' collapse to 88 all out after Joe Akers-Douglas' Martlets had posted 194-7. The tea was excellent though, as was the camaraderie amongst friend and foe at a fixture which consistently captures everything that is good about Martlets' cricket. The customary and poignant (for it is the season's last) visit to the Griffin provided opportunities to reflect on the highs and lows and the fervent wish for the calendar to whizz round to April.



*Sussex Martlets v Armadillos
Back (l to r): Jordan Shaw, Mark Trubshaw, Hector Loughton, John Ashworth. Middle: Jeremy Bushell, Joe Akers-Douglas (c), Rob Frean, George Read. Front: Michael Murray, Darryl Rebbetts, Paul Walker*

What do we take from it all? A fantastic blend of excellence and involvement. The development of youth cricket and emergence of talent. Hard fought games where the result doesn't *really* matter. Old fashioned tradition with modern relevance. Roll on 2022!

John Ashworth

BATTING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 4 innings)

	Innings	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
T. Pullan	4	1	188*	432	144.00
J. Shaw	15	4	106*	804	73.09
D. Rebbetts	4	2	83	140	70.00
M. Campopiano	3	3	1??	192	64.00
S. Carter	10	0	59	168	16.08

Centurions: Toby Pullan (188*), Toby Pullan (123), Jordan Shaw (106*), Jordan Shaw (105), Rohan Ryan (101), Oscar Jago-Lewis (102), Marcus Campopiano (100). There were a further 19 scores of 50+.

BOWLING AVERAGES

(Qualification: 25 overs/ 7 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
M. Murray	78	22	224	22	13.04
J. Shaw	40.3	9	141	9	15.66
M. Trubshaw	51	1	323	18	17.94
P. Walker	47	5	223	11	20.27
B. Davies	42	6	168	7	24

5 wkts in an innings: Mark Trubshaw (5-46), Ben Whelpton (5-61).

OVER-40s CRICKET

Played 7, won 3, lost 3, drawn 1.



As ever Alan had done a wonderful job with the fixtures and at the start of the season we had 12 games lined up.

In the event, it became a year slightly blighted by new and creative reasons for cancelling cricket. Yes, we had the weather do for a couple and a bit of Covid here and there, but that was spiced up with a new fixture secretary who hadn't been told we were coming and the classic "fixture on the same day as the Euros final". To be fair to Alan, you can't legislate for England failing to go out in the quarters. In the end then we played seven, but what a seven they were!

We started off with Sussex Over-50s at Madehurst C.C., the venue being one of Paul Lack's recommendations. It should be noted that there are many of these (Jersey, Latvia, Spain, Thailand to name a few), but in the end we figured that Sussex Over-50s would be happier playing just outside Arundel. This was our second outing against the Sussex XI and it is a fixture which hopefully will be in the planner for good. As one would expect, they are always a challenge, but we did pretty well to keep them to 173-8. It was looking good at 100-6, but in the end we couldn't quite keep up with the rate and their excellent 'keeper Baker stumped four of us in the chase, leaving us 52 runs short.

On to Cuckfield (my favourite – a beautiful ground and a great bunch) and a real pleasure to have some quality Simons in the side. We might well have won without Warrender and Shivnarain, but their quality was at the very least a major bonus. In the end it was a pleasure to stand at the other end and watch the Chairman tidy things up with an unbeaten 31.

Then the unforgettable Streat fixture. Batting first, Sam Carter and Dave Messenger both retired post 50 and 229 off 38 overs looked pretty solid. The only blight on our innings was me calling Bush through for a quickish single and his exploding hamstring causing him to go down as if shot by a sniper. Hope you're fully better now Bush and ready for 2022! In the end we just couldn't get them out though, so a draw it was. Another memorable moment was everyone's favourite octogenarian, Stan Spiegel shouting, "Here comes my bunny" as I walked to the crease. He had a point.

On to St. James' and we were taken apart by the man in the dayglo hat. If anyone has R. Chettleburgh's phone number, please forward! A splendid effort from Alan Newman (35*) could not, I'm afraid, cancel out the boundary fest from St. James' in the first innings.

Ah, the 40 club. This time we came armed! They looked good for their 237, but hadn't figured on our secret weapons. Simon Shivnarain was magnificent for his 128*. It was a genuine pleasure to watch. At the other end there aren't many 20-year-olds that you can try to pass off as over 40, but we gave it a go with Luke Nelson! His 72 from 43 supported Shiv's heroics. In our defence, they took us down in 2020 with some younger guys.

Petworth Park is really the marquee fixture in our calendar and this year didn't disappoint. It seems that Petworth now traditionally put this fixture in the calendar the day after their annual fund raiser and that does tend to have an effect on their overall state of wellbeing, but that aside it was another fabulous day.

We bowled so well (Michael Murray in particular) that we had them all out for exactly 100, with the highlight being the Captain/Chairman's miracle catch. I highly recommend his write-up on the website, including his recollections of the event.

The cricketing gods then decided that on such a lovely day in such a lovely setting we should at least prolong things and make a stab at not getting the runs. With the exception of Stuart Ritchie, who was calm and patient for his 37, the rest of us did our best to throw it away.

The Chairman, batting at 11, had showered, changed and settled in for a beer before realising the horror that was unfolding, but once he had eventually thrown his pads on he managed to block a couple and let Michael finish things off. Our second win of the season.

Finally, on the 19th September, Damien Cashinella and I set off from Horsham in a typhoon on our way to Warnford to play Hampshire Hogs. Warnford though was dry as a bone.

Jeremy McGahan and I co-managed this one, so we ended up with 12 players. Imagine my surprise then when having lost the toss we took the field with 9 after a couple got lost and Jeremy had written his car off a stone's throw away.

The Hogs are a great bunch though and classy cricketers. Pick of their batting was Peter Richards (111*) and all will remember not only his excellent innings, but also his constant battle to get his son on the boundary to stop shouting at him.

Michael Loveday was magnificent that day and deserved more than his 56 on top of a fabulous run out. It turned out that Phil Spencer off the telly's 'Location Location' was half way up my off stump and I wasn't the only one. He bowled nicely. Peter Fielding then showed why he should have batted at 4 and not 9, as he smeared it beautifully all over the park. In the end though the Hogs were worthy winners and I hope we see them again.

Just like last year, writing this report reminds me how special this side is and what a pleasure it is to play for it. It's the shortest day of the year as I write this and I am hoping you are all wintering well and that we see old faces and new in the side in 2022.

Oh, and we are going on our first tour over the May bank holiday weekend! Fixture details to follow, but it will be a long weekend in Oxford. Can't wait!

Phil Savage

OVER-40s AVERAGES

Batting	Innings	N.Os.	H.S.	Runs	Average
S. Shivnarain	2	0	128	167	83.50
D. Messenger	3	1	50*	77	38.50
M. Loveday	6	0	56	171	28.50
P. Savage	5	1	22	64	16.00

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
D. Christmas	30	5	113	5	22.60
D. Messenger	16	1	113	5	22.60
J. McGahan	38	1	168	5	33.60

JUNIOR MARTLETS 2021



Overall, it was a good year for the Juniors: they won four of the six games played and only lost one game to the dreaded Covid dropouts (also coinciding with the end of the school term and lots away on holiday for the first time in a while).

It all started with a 40 over game against Eastbourne U18s. The Martlets posted 281-7, thanks to a solid 26 from Will Nolan at the top of the order and an explosive 45 ball 102 from Aiden Drew coming in at number eight. Drew's first 50 runs took a ponderous 30 balls in comparison to his 15-ball second 50! Eastbourne managed a respectable 204-9 in return. The Martlets took wickets on a regular basis to keep a lid on the Eastbourne run rate before Captain Trotter came on to take 4-38 to kill off any outside chance of them mounting a late charge.

The Band of Brothers provided the next opposition in a home game at Hurstpierpoint College. Playing a timed game, the Juniors declared at 199-5, leaving 42 overs for the Band of Brothers to chase for victory. An impressive 122 from Joe Willis containing 17 4s and 3 6s provided most of the runs for the Martlets; Will Nolan was the next highest scorer on 25. An under-strength Band of Brothers team (they could only field 9 men) were bowled out for 165 with 3 overs to spare. Nathan Buckeridge picked up 2-30 and Ryan Trotter 4-29 as both leg-spinners proved too much for the opposition batters. It was disappointing that we were unable to play a full-strength opposition, but credit has to be given to the boys present on the day for putting up a good fight.

The Chris Snell T20 Salver was won by the Martlets with wins over both the Band of Brothers and the Hoggets. 39 from Alex Heasman, 25 from Harry Gutteridge and an unbeaten 28 from Wilf Pickard saw the Martlets reach 137-7 in their 20 overs, in their first game against the Band of Brothers on a sunny day at Hurst. Things were not looking good for the Martlets at one stage with the Band of Brothers passing 80 for the loss of only two wickets with overs in hand. The boys kept on working away and some tight bowling in the middle period started a batting collapse and resulted in a six-run victory, after reducing the opposition to 130-8. A very competitive game of cricket and some good character shown by the players.

The second game, against the Hoggets, became the decider after they had overcome the Band of Brothers in their earlier game. Batting first again, the Martlets posted 139-8, with Pickard and Oliver Das being the only batters to pass 20 before Fergus Kenyon, batting at 9, hit a 28 ball 37 to get us to a respectable score. After 13 overs the Hoggets were coasting to victory at 104-2 with 7 overs remaining. Up steps Felix Holt and Wilf Pickard to pull a remarkable victory out of the bag. Pickard got the breakthrough with the final ball of his first over, but the Hoggets still needed only 29 off 6 overs. Kenyon then took 2 wickets in 2 balls in his first over and Pickard struck again in his second over. With them now six down and in disarray, Holt's second over only went for a single off the last ball and Pickard struck again in the next over. The penultimate over went for 5, leaving Hoggets with 12 to win off the last and the game started to look like it was finally going to the Martlets. Then a 4 off the fifth ball of the over left the opposition needing 4 to win off the final ball. Once again Pickard produced the goods and bowled the danger man with the final ball. Pickard 4-24 and Holt 2-7 had delivered a 3-run victory and 2021 Salver victory.

The game with Brighton City XI ended up in a 4-wicket defeat. We owe a great deal of thanks to St. James' for getting the game on in very wet conditions. It was a very young and inexperienced Martlets' team that batted first on a very soft wicket and managed to post 79 runs. Only Jamie Hatt (13), and Theo Barker (12) were able to make double figures on a difficult day for batting. A spirited bowling performance saw the boys take 6 wickets before the much more experienced side managed to pass the Martlets' total. Barker took 3-12 in his first game with Kenyon and both Hatt brothers taking a wicket each. It was a great learning experience for the boys and showed them how valuable runs are in a low scoring game; if one of the top order had managed to find a way to dig in and get to 20 or 30, it could have been a different result all together.

The season closed with the Senior Martlets' game at Arundel Castle. It was a great day and the boys all enjoyed the chance to play at such a great venue. The game itself was one that Will Rogers probably won't forget in a hurry. Benefiting from a slightly late declaration (the break for tea having not been factored in by the Juniors when working out the overs remaining) he hit a 48-ball 54 to help the Juniors declare on 234-8. It was a good total from quite comfortably the strongest side we put out all year. Bertie Foreman made 34, Alex Heasman 32 and Ben Whelpton 29*. Then came Rogers' second contribution of the afternoon, an opening spell of 3-12 off 4 overs and the Seniors were 17-3 with the top three all back in the shed. Bertie Foreman bowled some very promising off-spin to record figures of 3-20 off 7.3 overs and Ollie Haines took 2-12 to help bowl the Seniors out for 132 before the close of play.

It was a successful summer overall, but a couple of uncontrollable factors lead to the cancellation of our game with the Hoggets and to the Band of Brothers only having 9 men. Firstly, the Covid self-isolation was a problem for all teams and always lead to some last-minute drop-outs. Secondly, families were making the most of the chance to get away after being locked up the previous year. These problems will be a thing of the past and hopefully the 2022 season can run much more smoothly.

Jimmy Anyon

MARTLETS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The annual awards of the Club are announced, to be awarded at the Annual Dinner held in the Pavilion at Arundel Castle on March 25th.

Best Batter – Jordan Shaw



Toby Pullan's (almost) double ton v Hurlingham was perhaps the great Martlet innings of recent years. Toby technically topped the averages — helped by the Chairman's wild slash in that HC match which left his partner not out. However Toby played in just 4 games. Jordan's batting in 2021 for the Martlets in 15 innings was superb. He is one of the most talented young men ever to represent our club and is always a pleasure to play with. Sporting, encouraging, humble and (unlike many exceptional sportsmen) a real team-player.

Best Bowler – Michael Murray



Mr Consistency strikes again. Not just consistent in taking wicket after wicket, but even more importantly consistent in upholding Martlet values by his unfailing sportsmanship in every match he plays. Michael involves every player in the game. He plays the game hard but always with grace. A true Martlet great, who seems to get younger every season! Must be Tina’s magic cakes.

Best Junior – Ben Whelpton



The high standard of Junior performances in recent years continued in 2021 under the excellent tutelage of Jimmy Anyon. There were numerous candidates for this award, but Ben was the stand-out candidate. A seriously impressive off-spinner and solid batsman, Ben has the talent and attitude to go all the way in cricket. Consistent performances for the Juniors with bat and ball, but the clincher was his seniors debut: a match-winning 5-for v Lancing Rovers.

Best Over-40s Player – Michael Loveday



Michael topped the run-scoring this year, but his contribution goes beyond that. He has been the stalwart of our top order for a number of years and his contribution on the field and off it make him a very worthy recipient of this award.

Martlet of the Year – Alan Newman



The Martlets, like all amateur cricket clubs throughout the world depend on a hard core of committed volunteers. Alan Newman has shouldered the responsibility of being the secretary of our club for a number of years. His organizing of our fixtures means we continue to play wonderful opponents at stunning venues. The connections he has nurtured and fostered are priceless to the present and future of our club. This has been particularly vital over the course of the last 2 testing summers. I have found his assistance with a host of topics a constant reassurance in my first year in office, as I know Stuart did before me. His teamwork with Mike Charman has evolved and we should be truly grateful for both of them. Alan thoroughly deserves not only this award but the thanks of each and every Martlet member.

Paul Walker

CAMPO’S CRICKET

Marcus Campopiano has been a regular for the Martlets over many years. He was Junior Martlet of the Year in 2012, and won the Club Batting Award in 2013 and 2016. He has also scored four centuries for us between 2013-2021. This year he has gone on to greater things, playing for both S.C.C.C 2nd XI and Oxfordshire.



Summer 2021 was an eventful one and I’ve been asked to share how my season developed.

After a full lockdown of training and hitting cricket balls between the months of March 2020 and April 2021, I really didn’t know what the result of this season would be. I had been very fortunate to have had James Kirtley on the phone in March 2021 and he was positive that I may get a chance in the 2nd team for Sussex and instructed me to keep working on my game and build on my success of the Summer of 2019. Off I went...

The season started horribly with scores of 7, 9, 4 and 15 off plenty of balls. I felt in the worst touch of my life. This was including playing Worth on a beautiful, but frightfully cold day for the Sussex Martlets. The wind was bitter and perhaps it was a sign of things to come. I was also unfortunate enough to pick up another concussion whilst attempting to keep wicket in a 3rd team game whilst filling in for East Molesey. A setback...

After missing a few training sessions and a game for East Molesey in preparation for the season, I had all but given up on the first set of 2nd team games for Sussex. As soon as I had let go of that thought the phone buzzes. “Campo, you around next week? Vs Surrey at Hove? JK.”

Before this, I was fortunate enough to play for the Sussex Martlets at the Wormsley Estate, an experience that was new to me. It was quite simply the most stunning ground I had seen – after Arundel of course! The Martlets bowled tightly with the St. James’ duo of Murray and Shaw going at less than one an over before lunch. Having restricted the Getty XI to 170, we went about the chase. It was a perfect day to prepare for the week ahead on a flat wicket and the Martlets won by 6 wickets.

On to Hove and the track was flat and with good pace, wind still bitter. As a team, we managed to accumulate 471 in a day and a half of play and, opening the batting, I was pleased to contribute 61. I thought to myself, “This 2s stuff is easy!” Unfortunately, this was my last real score of note in the Sussex strip, but it was a highlight of my summer and I still look back with

fond memories of that day. The game ended in a draw, with Sussex needing 5 wickets to win. Even with the fire power of Jofra Archer, looking to make his return to the English summer, we found the pitch was indeed too flat!

The half century earned me a few more games and the 2nd team moved on to Hampshire. I was thrilled to see another Martlet on the team sheet, in the person of Jordan Shaw. However, this was not to be the finest day for the 2nd team bowlers, as one of the most bizarre moments on a cricket field unfolded in front of my eyes.

Hampshire were 240 odd for the loss of one wicket when Jordan Shaw, who was the pick of the bowlers thus far, charges into Tom Prest who is currently sitting pretty on 113*. It's a ball around off stump, full of a length that Prest tries to flick through straight mid-wicket. He stumbles trying to play the shot and the ball narrowly misses the bat and, in a flash, it looks as if the slip has dropped a catch.

It was then apparent that there was a bail on the floor and that the ball had surely trimmed the off stump. The ground stood still, shocked that a wicket had been prised out of the Hampshire XI. But it all looked ominous when the umpires started to converge in the middle of the pitch. They hadn't seen the bail being taken off by the ball and deemed it not out!!! Long story short, Prest went on to get 303* and Hampshire declared for 600 with a 200 lead.... We ended up losing that game with only 9 balls remaining in the day, and only 4 runs behind; Mason Crane the pick of the bowlers, taking 7 in the last session.

It was another tough four days at Essex the week after with Chopra scoring a double hundred, but Shaw again was the pick of the bowlers. It was a fantastic experience playing for Sussex and I was very grateful for the opportunity to play amongst some talented youngsters.

* * * * *

The East Molesey season was in full flow, and we were 4 from 4 at the top of the league. I had scored heavily against Banstead, making 150* in the one-day format and winning the game by nearly 200 runs. The season went from strength to strength as Henry Cope's Sussex Martlets side went to play the Eastbourne Thursday XI. We amassed a huge 390 off our 40 overs, Campopiano 100*, Jago-Lewis 100, T Pullan 100+ and Shaw 80 off 35 balls. We won that game...

It was a lean spell through July for me, but East Molesey kept winning games and some great performances by all the bowlers, who started to dominate in the red ball format, meant that we retained our top of the league status. The rain seemed to affect every game, week after week, but we

soldiered on getting the ground fit to play. The Surrey league provided decent company and there was plenty of good opposition with the likes of Nick Compton, Shane Snater and old Sussex Premier league wizard Michael Munday still terrorising cricketers with his leg-spin.

* * * * *

The next venture was a very suprising call-up from Oxfordshire cricket to represent them in their 3-day competition in the National Counties West Division 1. This came about through the partnership between Oxfordshire and Sussex County Cricket Club. Sussex are attempting to cast their net wider, on the lookout for new cricketing talent.

The first challenge involved a trip to Banbury C.C to play Cheshire on the 1st day of the Competition. It was a top game of cricket, with Oxfordshire working hard to get 330 on the first day of play in what were testing conditions for batting. Cheshire replied with a steady 260 off their first 80 overs. They then applied some heavy pressure, scoring 100 off their last 10 overs and getting a handy 50 run lead. We were then under the pump, but again battled hard to score 280 runs on a pitch that was beginning to turn. Cheshire proved unflappable, as they calmly knocked off our total for 4 down and with 15 overs left in the day. It was my first experience at this level, and I was impressed from start to finish.

The next trip was down to Southampton to play Wiltshire. It was another rain-affected game, but our seamers were bowling with real pace and control. Ex Worcestershire and Somerset player Gareth Andrews was irresistible, beating the bat at will moving it both ways and we bowled Wiltshire out for 97 inside of 50 overs. Unfortunately we then failed to capitalise on our good start to the game and were ourselves bowled out for 204. With time an issue for both teams, Wiltshire then looked to set up a declaration by scoring freely. They set Oxfordshire a very odd 210 off 28 overs. With no result likely it seemed an odd decision to give us a sniff of winning the game.

Fresh off a 'golden duck' in the first innings, I was revved up to chase this total down. It seemed to be my day, with everything I touched racing to the boundary and likewise for my partners at the other end. As the asking rate began to exceed 10s and with all nine Wiltshire players on the boundary, it became difficult to score at any rate. I turned to scooping the spinners and seamer and, along with some reverse sweeps and pull shots, got us to needing 30 off the last three overs. I unfortunately then holed out to long on for 86, but the middle order struck the ball well to bring us home with five balls to spare. A truly remarkable chase – could we win the league?!

The next fixture was a home game against Berkshire, who were unbeaten in seven years in the National

Counties Competition. We won the toss on a good deck at Thame C.C. and made a respectable 280 in our first innings. Berkshire replied with 150, our seamers again being untouchable. In one of my favourite days of cricket we then went on to score another 280, reaching a beautiful 400 lead. As you can imagine, a team unbeaten in 7 years was beginning to sweat and it is always nice to be on the side setting a big score. We ended up winning comfortably by 200 runs and the team knew one more win would win the league.

We moved to a slow scoring affair at Bournemouth where Dorset, batting first, squirmed their way to 130 off their 90 overs. Scoring was equally as awkward for us as we amassed 230 off our allocated 90 overs. M Campopiano batted for 5 hours scoring 90 runs off 250 balls – a very different innings from the Wiltshire one, but just as enjoyable. We continued to restrict Dorset's scoring in the second innings and ended up scoring 130 runs to win off the final 60 overs.

This winning of the division set up a final against Suffolk at Tring Park. This was a fiercely contested match with both teams coming hard with the ball and with good spin options to back it up on a tiring square. It was a very enjoyable game and was completely in the balance until a sensational 9th wicket partnership took our second innings lead to 345 on the final day. This was always going to be too much for Suffolk as the pitch became increasingly difficult to score on. Oxfordshire were victorious and became the National County Champions after 32 years.

* * * * *

East Molesey ended up winning the Surrey Premier League without too much hassle; other results went our way plus rained off fixtures ended up making our tally insurmountable at the top. The icing on the cake was the Bertie Joel Final in Brentwood against Sandwich Town. This was a top fixture with East Molesey making 193 off their 45 overs, M Campo scoring 77. It seemed as if Sandwich Town were cruising to victory, scoring 92 off the first 10 overs. However, we kept taking wickets at crucial intervals. Sandwich needed 4 an over for the last 10 overs with 4 wickets remaining. It was an absolute nail-biter, but the old saying, "runs on the board in a final" rang true on this occasion. East Molesey held it together to become triumphant and secure the double for the year.

It was a truly remarkable season and hopefully a breakthrough year for both Jordy and me. Some invaluable friendly fixtures at the start of the year for Sussex Martlets gave me the confidence I needed to push on. I would like to pass my gratitude onto the Committee for everything they do to get the matches on.

Marcus Campopiano

TED DEXTER

Radio 4's 'Today' programme, announcing the death of Ted Dexter on the morning of 26 August 2021, interviewed two Sussex Martlets, Robin Marlar and our Patron, John Barclay, for comment. It was Robin who, on seeing Dexter score 118 for Cambridge against his Sussex side at the Fenners ground in May 1956, took it upon himself to persuade Dexter to join Sussex in 1957. Johnny Barclay, on the other hand, knew him later in life, having been a lifelong fan:*



Ted was my hero. The first time I remember setting eyes on him for real was at Lord's where, with my brother and Godfather, I saw him lead Sussex to victory against Worcestershire in the first one-day final in 1963. Even though he didn't score many runs that day, trapped early on by Norman Gifford, it was his walk to the crease that captured my imagination – brisk, commanding and with the air of someone keen to get on with the job. Whilst it wasn't his day with the bat, I was told later it was as much his tactical skill in the field as anything else that ultimately brought Worcestershire to its knees.

Without doubt there was something majestic about the way Ted moved and his assault upon bowlers, particularly fast ones and with a lightish bat, knew no bounds. Hall and Griffith, as fast and menacing as they got, were not spared along with many others. Above all else it was so exciting to watch, the outcome uncertain and hearts always beating fast.

I was just nine years old when that great West Indies team toured England in 1963. Never could a series have inspired a young boy more or thrown up more characters who constantly appeared in my 'Howzat' scorebooks in which, unsurprisingly, Dexter was remarkably successful. I remember too my mother telling me that his eyes were rather close together, a bit too near his nose she said. So for some time I would try to push my own eyes in closer to each other wishing, as any hero worshipper would, to emulate the features of one so admired.

As it turned out, I never did get to know Ted very well – perhaps best to keep heroes at a distance – but I did know him well enough to know there was nothing 'run of the mill' about him. Some found him a little remote, a touch shy maybe, but this I felt was most likely because his mind was on something else, a new theory perhaps.

But get him onto something that interested him and he was away. My wife used to unlock the door with much success. She discovered he loved the warmth and joyful atmosphere of Nice and loved dancing too.

Only once, I believe, did cricket crop up in their conversation and that was when Mohammad Amir overstepped the line at Lord's for that infamous no-ball. Ted simply could not believe such skulduggery could occur in a Test Match, and at Lord's. He was shocked; his face gave the appearance of one who had been stabbed.

For Ted integrity sat high on the batting order. So it was with the help of his friend, Colin Cowdrey, that he prepared a draft of ideas which later gave M.C.C. the framework from which its preamble to the laws of cricket emerged. The concept of 'The Spirit of Cricket' was the brainchild of these two great cricketers and has served the game well.

I find it interesting that, out of the swashbuckle and virtuosity of his cricket and life, came a sensitive and deeply thoughtful and spiritual person far removed from the dashing image of motorbikes, aeroplanes, fast cars, race horses and golf. Like the bowling of the Pakistan spinner, Abdul Qadir, Ted was not always easy to read, often a suggestion of mystery; an enigma perhaps who juggled a myriad of interests and pursuits very successfully.

John Barclay

GEOFFREY DAVISON-BROWN

Sussex Martlets' President (1927-1928)



Geoffrey Davison-Brown in 1925

When I embarked on researching this article, it was aimed at writing about the person I thought was the Club's third President, **Geoffrey Davison-Brown**. However, he has transpired that he was in fact our fourth President, it having been established that A.W.F. Somerset was our third President (1912-1914 and 1919-1927) – as covered in the 2020 issue of *The Martlet*.

Peter Hartland discovered that the Club's second President was **Lord Willingdon** (1909-1912). Lord

Willingdon played for Eton, Cambridge and Sussex (he made 20 appearances for the County) using the rather unusual name of Freeman Freeman-Thomas. He was a person of some fame, who served with distinction in diplomatic and political fields. He became M.P. for Hastings in 1906 and was subsequently raised to the peerage after serving as Governor of Madras, Viceroy of India and then Governor General of Canada. Yet another distinguished Martlet!

Originally, little could be discovered about the Club's first President and one of our founder members, **The Reverend W.A. Carr**. One of the early matches of The Hove Long Vacation Club, as the Sussex Martlets were then called, was against the Suffolk Regiment, played at Cottesmore School (then in Hove) on 8th August 1906. In a two innings match he scored 20 and (keeping wicket) took one catch and made 2 stumpings. He was Vicar of Christ Church, Brighton. He died suddenly in April 1915, aged only 39. It is interesting (at least to me!) that his funeral was attended by my grandparents (his cousins) and his brother, Douglas Carr, well known at the time as a successful leg-break and googly bowler for Kent, who played one Test Match against Australia in 1909.

Another historical gem discovered is the only appearance for the Club of Ranjitsinhji. It was against C.E. Hambro's XI at The Saffrons Eastbourne on 29th and 30th July 1912. Ranji, then aged 39, scored only 1 and 7 as the Martlets suffered a 9 wicket defeat. He was an occasional bowler and took one wicket in the game.

Now I come to the main subject of this article **Geoffrey Davison-Brown**, a schoolmaster, who founded Cottesmore School in Hove. It subsequently moved to Buchan Hill near Pease Pottage and took over a magnificent Victorian country house, where it continues to flourish.

The coastal towns along the Sussex and Kent coast were favourite locations for preparatory schools in the second half of the 19th Century and amazingly at one time numbered as many as 150. One of these was Cottesmore School founded by Geoffrey Davison-Brown in 1894, as already mentioned, at 50 The Drive, Hove. He was the first Headmaster, a position he held until his sudden death in 1929. He doesn't appear to have played for the Martlets, but allowed the Martlets to play matches on the School ground – very convenient, seeing that the Club was initially based in Hove. The Martlets played Old Rossallians there in a two day match in 1928. He was a well-respected headmaster and it seems that in recognition of allowing Martlet games on the school ground he was appointed President in 1927-1928.

A bit like a Boycott innings, Cottesmore School made a slow start but soon flourished under the flair and

dedication Geoffrey Davison-Brown (always known by his staff and pupils as 'The Baron'). He was greatly assisted by his deputy, Harry Strong Forster, who happened to be a member of the Martlets and appeared for them between 1928 and 1935.

The School's alumni who played First Class cricket included Woolf Barnato, who kept wicket in a few matches for Surrey between 1928 and 1930 (usually deputising for the regular keeper, Brooks) and who was a racing driver of some fame, winning the 24 hour Le Mans race in 1928 and 1929. Another was Alan Hilder, who had gone on to Lancing and scored a century on debut for Kent in 1924. Interestingly, he worked as a railway porter at Paddington and Reading railway stations during the 1926 General Strike and the following year went to Jamaica with Lord Tennyson's team, which included well-known cricketers of that time like Ernest Tyldesley, Jack O'Connor and Percy Fender. Alan Hilder commented on how enthusiastic the Jamaican crowds were and that Lord Tennyson, having hit a massive six, was about to receive the next ball when an excited spectator shouted "Send us another ball from Heaven O Lord".

Alan Hilder taught at the school as did Reginald Pinfield, who scored 1000 runs for the Martlets in 1921 (and was called up by Sussex the following year). The only record of another batsman scoring a thousand runs in a season for the Martlets was Robin Walters in 1959.

A further word about Lord Tennyson. He was a fearless batsman who captained England in three Tests against Australia in 1921 and was captain of Hampshire for 14 seasons from 1919. He and Livsey, who happened to be his valet, were members of the Hants side which against Warwickshire in 1922 was dismissed for 15, but went on to win the match by scoring over 500 in their second innings. Remarkably, his Lordship is said to have been so confident of the result that he laid some heavy bets, which came good at extremely advantageous odds.

Lord Tennyson was involved in an amusing incident in a county match at Southampton. He became increasingly exasperated when batting with Livsey and the umpires refused his third appeal against the light, which to him seemed exceptionally murky. He called down the pitch in his overbearing way to Livsey and well within the hearing of the two umpires "Look here Livsey, we shall have to stick this out somehow till the close." To which Livsey called back loudly, "I can hear you, my Lord, but I can't see you."

Robin Carr

REAL TENNIS



The renaissance of real tennis for the Sussex Martlets continues at Petworth House Tennis Court. In the year past, as for many sports, the ability to arrange sessions has been hampered by the pandemic, but those times where we have been able to gather have been well supported.

Three courts are typically taken from 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning, and conclude with a light lunch sourced from 'The Hungry Guest' bakery and deli and Charles Hennings (wine merchants). The arrangement works well and several cricketers are emerging as serious real tennis players, signing up with the club professional for lessons and further matches. It is suspected that they are intent on extending their sporting lives!

Stuart Ritchie



Peter Baxter, Michael Murray, Paul & James Walker

THE GOLFING SOCIETY 2021



After the near total cancellation of our 2020 fixtures, apart from the match v Rye G.C., 2021 was a wholly better year for Martlet golf matches and a fine year for results. We were fortunate to be able to play eight matches, winning seven and losing one. This is the best year in terms of matches won and lost in recent times.

As the country's Covid restrictions lifted, the Sussex Martlets Golf Society returned to playing, albeit our first fixture of 2021 against the Sussex Martlets Cricketers was sadly a casualty, as we lost the fixture slot at West Sussex due to the club not accepting societies in April. However, the match v West Sussex managed by Stuart Ritchie (standing in for Mark Bowden) was rescheduled to 30th October.

Once Covid restrictions were lifted, matches got underway and we were able to play our fixture against Royal Ashdown G.C., managed by Peter Scaramanga, where we came away with a 3-1 victory. The second outing of the year was not until the 18th June, when we held the Martlets' golf day at Mannings Heath G.C. After a superb lunch, following heavy overnight rain, eight hardy souls ventured out playing Singles Stableford over a shortened course, which saw James Goddard take the honours.

With Covid restrictions lifted, we were able to enjoy a super year of golf with two visits to Piltdown, first of which was for the match v The Purchasers in June, managed by Adrian White, whereupon the Martlets ran out winners 5-1. The match v Piltdown in September, managed by Simon Baillie-Hamilton, saw the Martlets come away with a hard-fought win. The match v Crowborough Beacon G.C., managed by James Goddard, was played on 11th July and was the Martlets' only loss of the year: 2½-3½.

The next fixture, managed by William Forster, was against The Hampshire Hogs, who we had not played for a few years. We were away at Rowlands Castle G.C. and, after a very pleasant lunch, the Martlets ran out winners 3½-1½. At the end of September, the Martlets hosted 'match managers plus 1' from our host clubs at West Sussex. Running a different format of team foursomes Stableford, Peter Scaramanga's team from Royal Ashdown G.C. ran out winners on a count back.

October saw three matches completed; first up was Rye G.C. The Martlets took a particularly strong side down to East Sussex and, for the first time in five years, we came away with a narrow 7½-6½ victory. We just lunched better than the Rye members on this occasion!

The penultimate match of 2021 saw Mike Stewart take a team of eight Martlets to Cooden Beach G.C., who as always were most welcoming. The match was played over 18 holes whereupon the Martlets won their 6th match of the year 4-1.

As mentioned earlier, the final match of the year was closed out with a victory against West Sussex, with the Martlets prevailing 3-2 to conclude a very good season's golf.

2021 was also a good year for new members joining the Golf Society, as we welcomed four new Martlets into the fold. The quest for more new members will continue into 2022 with two very good golfers' applications to process. The future of Sussex Martlets Golf Society looks very bright, and we are working on adding two new fixtures to the 2022 fixture list with the Band of Brothers (of Kent origins) and East Brighton G.C. The Martlets have also entered a team into the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation Golf Day at Swinley Forest G.C.

Robert Forster



Rye Match Manager, Patrick Hole, and his partner heading west towards the 16th green, after a very convivial lunch (or was it south?)

DEREK SEMMENCE MEMORIAL DAY



On August 6th 2021, Hurstpierpoint College hosted both the OHJ XI v Sussex Martlets and a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Derek Semmence, attended by a large number of Martlets. His son Mark gave the eulogy, part of which is printed here:

"I know that many of you were with us in the school dining room, for his wonderful surprise retirement party following the Sussex Martlets game on this very day eighteen years ago, in 2003. It was a very hot day, the ground was scorched, and the game came at the end of a very high scoring cricket week.

Chasing a large total, my father, aged 65 and batting without a helmet and thigh pad facing the likes of Nick Creed and Michael Harrison in their pomp, played the anchor role of his team's innings and scored 85. Sadly, he did not get the hundred he deserved, but it showed his skill, determination, and competitiveness, and he was delighted to have been able to enjoy a sizeable partnership with Martin Speight – his great protégé...

He lived an extraordinarily colourful, broad, and interesting life. When he joined Sussex in 1954, he befriended the Maharajah of Nawanagar, and this great friendship changed his life, as it led him to visit India nearly thirty times. He was lucky to travel to India by land, air and sea, and he took a central role in the Maharajah's royal wedding when 350,000 people lined the streets and he met Nehru, the prime minister of India.

These friendships formed in India combined with his generosity of spirit, meant that from the late 1970s onwards, a handful of talented young Indian cricketers would arrive in Sussex every April. Invariably they would stay with us for a few weeks before they were billeted out to various cricket clubs around Sussex. There were not very many Indians playing league cricket in England at that time, so everyone knew that if they met an Indian cricketer the chances were that Derek Semmence had been involved in some way...

The hundreds of letters and emails that we received last year and the countless tributes that have been paid to him told us what we already knew, that he was a kind, gentle, caring man with an enormous amount of integrity.

And this is what so many people have reflected upon in different ways – [he] showed people how to live a better life – cricket was [his] vehicle to do that...

My father was a mentor, friend and an inspiration to many, but he was also a devoted husband, father and grandfather. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had him as my father..."

Mike Griffith was one of a number of ex Sussex players who attended the event. Mike first played for S.C.C.C. in 1962, captaining the side (1967-72). He scored nearly 9000 runs for the County, including 5 centuries and 42 50s. He was President of the M.C.C. (2012/13). In addition – and obviously more importantly – he is a Sussex Martlet and scorer of three centuries in our colours.



Derek was a very special person. I recall an early visit to Hove and watching Derek in the nets, which used to be on the outfield to the left of the main scoreboard, and thinking to myself how anyone could have so many shots played with such ease. He encapsulated for me the step up to professional cricket. The fact that he did not quite fulfil this potential was down to a lack of confidence in the middle, which the modern players overcome with skilful coaching. He certainly had the class to be an England player.

He was such a respected person as well as an excellent cricketer. He had a great love of India, taking many young players there on tours. At a time when cricket is in the dock for racism, it is good to recall how much Derek did for racial harmony during his time with Sussex. He did much to encourage Indians to play for Sussex – one even captaining the County.

It came as no surprise to me to see so many at the Memorial Service. Tony Buss and John Snow, two fiery fast bowlers, were there to pay their respects. Peter Graves, also there, seems to look younger each time I see him – another Sussex player who was underrated and, but for being injury prone, would have played for England. He caught Sobers at gully with the best gully catch I ever saw!

Derek's son Mark did an excellent eulogy, which must be a very difficult thing to do. All in all, it was a richly deserved send-off, carried out quite excellently by Hurstpierpoint College.

The service was just a few days after dear old Tommy's death [*Jan Thomson*], which leaves Jimmy Parks as the oldest living England player.

Mike Griffith

OBITUARIES

BARRY PEAY (1943-2021)



Tuesday 14th September 2021 saw the sad passing of Barry after a long and bravely fought battle against cancer and our thoughts are with his wife Sarah, daughters Kirsty and Lindsey and his 3 grandchildren.

I first “met” Barry at Collyers Grammar School in Horsham where his time as a scholar, prefect and member of the Combined Cadet Force between 1953 and 1961 overlapped my time there from 1957 to 1962, but at that time I did not know him that well and was not aware of his cricketing ability.

We met again and got to know each other very well after I joined the staff at Sussex Cricket in 1989 when of course Sussex still had their Horsham Week, for which Barry marshalled his troops to make sure everything ran smoothly for the visitors. By this time Barry had made his mark as a skilled batsman with Horsham C.C. and was progressing rapidly through the Sussex Seniors ranks as well as being a tourist with the XL Club to India, New Zealand, South Africa, Malta, Singapore, Australia and Italy. His ability for the Seniors was recognised when he represented both England Over-60s and Sussex Over-60s against the touring Australian Over-60s. By this time Barry was dividing his time between playing and umpiring and, not surprisingly, went on to be a highly respected member of the Sussex League umpires’ panel.

Barry only played a few Sussex Martlets matches – he always jokingly maintained that match managers refused to play him in case he showed up his fellow batsmen – but he served for many years as an umpire on the Martlets’ panel and in recognition of his services to the Club and cricket in general he was elected an Honorary Life Member in 2016. He served also in a number of positions, including chairman of Horsham C.C. and was their club president at the time of his untimely death.

Barry was a one-off and his dry wit and sense of humour, combined with his cricket ability and knowledge, will be sadly missed.

Mike Charman

TONY SAUL (1936-2021)

Tony, whose passing we mourn, was a prominent cricketer for Middleton and the Martlets, though playing rather less for the Club. He was a most capable batsman and always a doughty opponent.

He was a great supporter of his school, Prior Park, Bath, and kept abreast of its successes. Prime amongst these was the winning of the Rosslyn Park Schools’ Sevens in 1973 and he knew the form and performance of all likely school opponents in the tournament.

Following one’s team through the long programme of knock-out matches and rounds is a heart-stopping experience and winning it, for players and supporters, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. When Prior Park ran out as winners I cannot but recall the look of triumph, relief, joy and euphoria passing over Tony’s face.

He was a competent and most determined batsman. I recall particularly a half century, not out, against Old Georgians for Middleton (1965) when the innings had declined from 100-0 to 130-6. This enabled a target of 231 to be set.

A glance at the Martlet reports of various years quickly reveals other important innings over time: 59 v Brighton College in 1970 and 57 v Bank of England a year or so later. The spread of years shows a helpful and positive support for the Martlets. It was always a pleasure and a positive advantage to have him on the team. One of life’s enthusiasts, we always had items to discuss when we met. A proper Martlet who will be greatly missed.

Brian O’Gorman

PETER JOHNSTON (1929-2021)

How terribly sad to hear that Peter is no longer with us, after passing away peacefully at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital in June.

Peter and I had many mutual interests, over more than 50 years, from cricket with the Sussex Martlets to golf at Goodwood and investing in the stock-market.

Our one special game of cricket each year was at Lancing College, when I captained the Sussex Martlets and we played The Forty Club. On the team sheet against his name I put “Peter Johnston: Chelsea & Selsey”, which he liked.

We might have first met at The Hurlingham Club, playing for the Martlets v Gentlemen of Essex, with a young John Snow (later of Sussex and the England) in the team. Peter continued to play cricket well into his 70s, and his mobility and athleticism were remarkable for a player of his age. He had so much humour and charisma to go with his loyalty to the Club and he played at Arundel Castle many times. He also proudly played for the M.C.C., and his all-round sporting prowess clearly gave him much pleasure and satisfaction over the years.

We will all wonder how such a charming, sincere and active person can no longer be with us; but relieved in the knowledge that his spirit is alive and well, and looking down on us from Heaven's peaceful pastures. It's been such a privilege to have known Peter; the epitome of an English gentleman.

Colin Oliver Redgate

Peter bowled slow off-breaks and was one of those whose keenness was legendary. He truly loved the game and the people who played it – hence his longevity as a player. He often came to play for Martlets v St George's and was an admirable person to have on a team for a school match – anxious to know the boys and their performances.

In 1979 he took 10 wickets at 17.6; in 1980 9 wickets at 19.6 and of individual feats we may note 3-7 v V.O.C. (Rotterdam) and 5-14 v Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1972.

Brian O'Gorman



Peter Johnston – who played 200 times for the M.C.C.

In 2015, at a dinner hosted by the M.C.C., Peter was one of a number who were awarded with a special M.C.C. cap by Mike Gatting for having played over 100 times for the Club. Similarly honoured were Brian and Tim O'Gorman.

Whilst playing for the M.C.C. v King's Canterbury, Peter took the wicket of a teenage David Gower, albeit caught in the boundary after hitting a century! Peter's cricketing career was a long one, topping the bowling average for Selsey aged 80.

We are also sorry to learn of the deaths of **Peter Marson**, who played for us 1955-60 and who died in February 2021, and **Peter Ross**, who played for our golfing society and was a member of Littlestone G.C and died in March 2021.

NEW MEMBERS 2021/22

The Club welcomes into membership:
 Cricket: **Arran Aris** (Great Brickhill C.C.), **Neil Billing** (Tenterden C.C., Forty Club), **Damien Cashinella** (Warnham C.C.), **Simon Shivnarain** (Sutton C.C., Roffey C.C., Lindfield C.C.)

Golf: **Kevin Bartlett** (formerly of Slinfold & Royal Blackheath G.C.), **Steve Hartridge** (East Brighton G.C.), **Dan Jackson** (Reigate Heath G.C.), **James Stedman** (Goodwood G.C.), **Tim Woodcock** (West Sussex G.C.)

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

Paul Walker

CHAMPAGNE MOMENTS



In December S.C.C.C. announced the names of nine selected to join their Boys Academy under Mike Yardy (incidentally an honorary member of the Sussex Martlets).

One of them was **Bertie Foreman**, of whom John Bettridge writes:

“Being hit by a ball that lifted unexpectedly on an interesting pitch, while playing against the Junior Martlets at the age of about 11, didn't turn Bertie away from Martlets cricket. Far from it, in fact, he made his debut as a late replacement two years later in the Arundel game and has been a firm enthusiast for the Junior Martlet cricket ever since and has encouraged a large number of his cricketing friends to follow him. He is a natural with both bat and ball and in the field. Much water has passed under the bridge since that Arundel game in 2017. He arrived at Hurstpierpoint College after that summer, was a full time member of the 1st XI in his second year, while following the Sussex age groups through, along with playing at St. James's. He made his debut for the Sussex 2nd XI last season, took 11 wickets in the game v Hampshire U.19s and these days is a regular member of the Preston Nomads 1st XI. Many followers of the game

will be anticipating the opportunity to watch his variations of pace and flight as he weaves his spells of the off-spinner's wizardry around the county and beyond."



Like Bertie, **Charlie Tear** played in John Bettridge's last Junior Martlet season of 2020, and of whom John writes:

"Charlie joined the Junior Martlet ranks as a 14-year-old, who had just completed his first cricket season at Seaford College and showed himself immediately to have great potential both with the gloves and the bat. Now, like Bertie Foreman, he is in his final year at school, having played through the Covid cricket seasons and played when possible for the Juniors. With Scottish family links he has played for Scotland Under-19s as well as in Sussex age groups over the years and notably made 97* v Surrey U.18s last year. He made his 2nd XI debut for Sussex last season. He is a product of West Chiltington Club." On top of this, Charlie was selected to play for Scotland in the recent I.C.C. U19 World Cup qualifiers in the West Indies.

Bertie and Charlie are joined at the Academy by **Henry Rogers**, who also played a game for the Juniors in 2021. His highly successful season included a century against Kent Under-15s and he was selected for London & East in the Under-15 Bunbury tournament.

Marcus Smith, ex Brighton College and one time Junior Martlet, made his international rugby debut against the United States in July 2021. He subsequently played against Canada and then in the autumn home internationals against Tonga, Australia and South Africa.



Jofra Archer with Paul Walker

A definite champagne moment for our Chairman, Paul Walker, was this meeting at Arundel Castle, when

supporting an A.C.E Foundation match against the Duke's XI.

If only he had been available for the Ashes... (Jofra that is – sorry, Paul!)



Will Rydon got lucky in the 'Heads or Tails' at the Sussex Cricket Foundation's fundraising lunch at the Hilton Metropole in Brighton in November. He left with his prize intact, leaving fellow Martlets with severe mental health issues and wondering as to his future "wellbeing".

AND FINALLY...



The eagle-eyed amongst you might have noticed on p.7 that Michael Murray was not looking quite himself. It seems that The Armadillos had not taken kindly to his metronomic accuracy and in retaliation decided to render him (h)armless.

Nonetheless, my money is still on Michael being top of the bowling averages in 2022

P.S. This picture is totally genuine and has NOT been doctored in 'Photoshop'!

Photo credits: Malcolm Lamb (p.1), John Ashworth (p.6, 15), Robert Forster (p.16), Mark Semmence (p.17), Johnston family (p.19)

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