



# The Martlet

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## 2006 – ANNUS MIRABILIS



*Willie Bicket*

What a year for Sussex cricket. County Champions AGAIN and winners of the C & G Trophy. And what a day that was, not only for the team itself, but also for all those Martlets who bit their nails to the quick on the ground for what turned out to be a memorable victory. Some may have also attended that classic match between Sussex and Warwickshire, when

Martin Speight (a Martlet, of course) set the scene by going down the wicket to Tim Munton, when most were still finishing off the breakfast bacon butties. But we lost...

This time the Sussex score was a lot more modest and I am sure I was not alone in deciding that a longer lunch hour was in order so as not to be even more depressed by the sight of Lancashire cashing in on the improving conditions. Lunchtime analysis carried out by the likes of Sandy Ross, Nigel Russell, Philip Lough, Derek Semmence, Ham Whitty, Adrian Ford, Charlie Hartridge and even Willie Bicket indicated that Mrs Russell's excellent hamper was a better bet for a trophy than Sussex.

Then came those eruptions of applause and by standing on a bench and looking sideways through a gap it emerged that James Kirtley had put us back in the match. I am afraid that the clearing up was rapidly abandoned in an unseemly rush back to our seats.

The rest, as they say, is history and I am delighted to say that James Kirtley has kindly contributed to this edition of *The Martlet* (see p.2-3).

But the County XI were not the only Sussex people to have put in noteworthy performances at Lord's in 2006. Ex. Sussex captain and Eastbourne College schoolmaster Roger Knight retired after 13 years as the Secretary of the M.C.C.

In addition, Martlets John Barclay and Tim O'Gorman served on M.C.C. committees and lastly, Robin Marlar became the sixth President of M.C.C. to have played in Martlet colours (after the Duke of Norfolk, Arthur Gilligan, Billy Griffith, Hubert Doggart & Ted Dexter).



*Robin Marlar*

Cap that, you Hampshire Hogs, Band of Brothers and Grasshoppers!!

*Desmond Devitt*



*The home of the Martlets — Arundel Castle*

## BELIEF AND SPIRIT

James Kirtley's reflections on an historic season for Sussex



James Kirtley

As I sit in my house sheltering from the horizontal rain, I decide that this is the time, and rather belatedly, to write this article. I have been asked to reflect on the past year. For me there are two journeys to focus on: that of the Sussex CCC team, and that of my own.

I entered 2006 suspended from bowling by the ECB with the prospect of playing little or no cricket for the season. Fortunately, after 2 hours a day 5 days a week and incredible support

from Sussex, Brighton University and many others (particularly Sussex's new coach Mark Robinson), I was cleared to bowl a week before the season started. This allowed me to focus on the season and what might lie ahead.

Since winning the Championship in 2003, there has been a degree of expectation, and as a team we have had to deal with this. One of the greatest moves we made was in realisation. A team such as ours, with a group of individuals coming together, doesn't happen in every player's career and we had to make the most of this. You owe it to yourself, the team and the supporters to deliver. Sussex has never had a more successful era, having won 4 trophies including the Championship. We realised we had to make the most of this time and have the desire and the confidence to believe we would win every game – easier said than done. Sussex have notoriously started slowly, but have been great finishers. After drawing the first game with a fantastic day of batting by Mike Yardy and Murray Goodwin, we got off to a flying start with Mushtaq, Rana and Lewry then rolling teams out for fun. Our batters gave us something to bowl at.

Although I was playing in the one day team I hadn't broken into the championship side, and I was getting frustrated. It was going to be difficult to break into a winning side. We had some great team performances, winning games when many thought we would be up against it. This bred confidence and belief, and any time we were up against it we knew someone would stick up their hand and deliver a match winning performance. There wasn't anybody who didn't make a contribution.

Things were hotting up after a thrilling game against Hampshire. We chased down their total and booked our place in the Lord's Final. We were also flying neck and neck with our Lord's opponents Lancashire in the Championship. Twenty20 cricket fortnight arrived and we missed out at the quarter final stages again, after

looking pretty secure of a place having won our early games. For me, I had a disaster in Twenty20 and self doubt took over. The biggest thing sports people have to deal with is the fear of failure; I was doubting myself and some of the anger and frustration started to show. I was judging myself unnecessarily harshly and this affected my performances. Soon my place was in jeopardy in all forms of the game. After a period of reflection and some in-depth chats with the coach and the team's psychologist, I relaxed and started to perform again.

The C&G Final arrived and my place was secure. On the eve of the game I got many messages wishing the team and me good luck. Many who knew me well said it was going to be my day. I had belief and was thinking positively. I boldly proclaimed that it was going to be my day after just a few balls in the warm up. The ball was just coming out right; I was so sure of things that I believed we had won the toss and that we were bowling first. Well, after wondering why everyone else hadn't got the same idea, I was then corrected. The rest is history.

All the performances were born out of a team believing in themselves and others in the team. There was honesty and a care factor in the side, from a team that revelled in each other's and the team's success. Another factor was that feedback was honest and factual, and not always what you wanted to hear.

We narrowly missed out on the Pro 40 League and the treble, but wrapped up the Championship at Trent Bridge after nervously beating Kent at Canterbury. I missed out in 2003 when we last won the Championship as I was injured, but to be on the pitch at that moment was amazing and something of which I was extremely proud.

This was a journey of 64 days, a team coming together over 7 years and the greatest team spirit. The reward was the double and leaving a fantastic legacy. Hopefully over the next couple of years this team can add even more to this.

**James Kirtley**

*Congratulations to James on being called up for the England A tour to Bangladesh, joining Sussex team mates Mike Yardy (capt.) and Matt Prior. Ed*

## PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT



Geoffrey Wills

This is the first formal opportunity I have had of acknowledging the very great honour bestowed on me by the members at the A.G.M. Such an honour was accompanied by a combination of surprise, pleasure, and, I suppose, a feeling of humility, especially when considering the names of other eminent V-Ps and Presidential

predecessors.

**A hard act to follow**, I was told by many when I was elected at the beginning of the 2006 season. There was no need for such a comment to be conveyed to me as I was only too well aware of the considerable attributes possessed by my immediate predecessor in whose footsteps I would be following. **Chris Saunders** – an all round sportsman of the highest level, scholar and former Head of two leading Sussex public schools, a forward thinking administrator in various fields, an articulate and humorous raconteur, a bon viveur, a modest and good looking fellow – the list is endless!

Be **positive** I thought, and be **committed**. Remember that you've been involved in Martlet cricket for many years both as a player, V-P and committee member. Also part producer of an infamous report back in the early 80's and probably the only Martlet in living history to run out an opposing batsmen at the bowler's end for premature backing up – and without a warning! Yes, I have bowled in "grown-up" cricket.

I first played for the Martlets in 1958 at Bognor, as, I suppose, a part-time professional. I had been working in London and was "head hunted" by Mike Pearce – a Martlet and then captain of Bognor – to join his firm in Bognor Regis as a surveyor. More importantly, however, from my point of view, one of the conditions of employment was that I played cricket for the various teams which he ran during the season!

My early Martlet cricket led to numerous international tours in addition to the considerable pleasures of playing on home grounds, which of course included every cricketer's dream of playing at the Castle. Allow me to digress at this moment to record the very great debt which all Martlets owe to the late Duke Bernard in allowing his ground to be recognised as the Martlets' home ground, and to Lady Mary for her ongoing interest and graciously consenting to act as our Patron.

Memories of matches in Sussex included the Whit Monday game at Steyning, which included participation in a lunch hamper generously provided by Sandy and Di Ross. Sandy had problems in raising teams in those days! The game itself was accompanied by a test match being played in the corner of the field by Messrs O'Gorman Jnr and Wills Jnr. There were also games at various village and senior club grounds such as Horsham, Bognor, Cuckfield, the Arundel Town Club, Brighton, Sandhurst on one occasion, and of course the various schools – all too numerous to enumerate. In recent years, the all Fathers and Sons XI took on Newick.

Matches at Arundel have provided so many memories including the best opening spell of club bowling which I have had the privilege of keeping wicket to. Messrs Ross and Wadey shared the wickets in combining swing and seam to such effect that our oppo-

nents, Toronto, were dismissed for 32. Our opening batsmen scored the required number of runs without loss, all before lunch, and the morning's activities were followed after lunch with a 40 over game, which the Martlets succeeded in losing!

International tours included trips to **France**. In Paris we stayed at the appropriately named Hotel Baldie, chosen by manager Bushell (snr) of course and, more recently, we visited the south west region under the management of Colin Oliver-Redgate. Then there was the tour to **Berlin**, when the wall was still in place and younger members of the team were disgracefully exposed to the delights of Berlin night club life, much to maternal displeasure in one instance I can confirm. This was organised by Herr Devitt, assisted by Major Fuhrer Russell. In 1972, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the Grange Cricket Club, we went to **Scotland**. And of course there was that wonderful (words fail me) three week plus trip to **Australia**, thanks very much to Adrian Ford's incredibly efficient and time consuming organisation. Visits to **Alderney** and **Jersey** must also not be forgotten, especially when remembering the team meeting and socialising with John Arlott at a reception in Alderney one year.

Such trips were all the icing on the cake when one considers the numerous home matches enjoyed during the last century, all with so many individual Martlet memories. Inevitably, changing patterns of life were reflected in changes at national, county, and senior club levels during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Such significant changes also inevitably led to reorganisation at club level. League cricket was introduced at senior club level (in Sussex in 1971), and later amongst village clubs. Overseas professional players were recruited. "Friendly" matches declined in number, club cricket weeks became fewer, and the annual tours of wandering and other clubs significantly reduced.

Sadly, however, levels of sportsmanship also declined. A lack of acceptance of the umpire's decisions on occasions was accompanied by personal abuse between players on the field of play. The era of "sledging" had arrived.

Martlet cricket, despite initial setbacks, has recognised and adapted itself to such changing circumstances. It provides a full fixture list, so ably prepared by Keith Manning, for cricketers who wish to enjoy competitive cricket played on attractive grounds and, more importantly, in the intended and long established spirit of the game.

It is pleasing to record that the Martlets' administrative team, not to be named in person but readily identified by reference to the newly launched website, are well aware of the need to move **positively** into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Critical issues have been addressed and new management structures introduced. Current success stories include the various events of

the Centenary celebrations and David Gibbs' publication of *Summers by the Sea*. In addition, Junior Martlet membership has increased and there are proposals for an increased fixture list – all due in no small measure to Chris Snell's enthusiastic input. All augurs well for the future.

All of this, however, requires **commitment**. Such commitment is both time consuming and has personal financial implications. All members of the Martlets, whether of an historical or current nature, should recognise the need to display such commitment by promoting the wellbeing of the Club in whatever form they consider appropriate.

Members becoming officers of the Club take on additional responsibilities and accept a higher level of accountability in discharging their duties. It is again pleasing to record that the current Committee members are well aware of the need to display such commitment to ensure that the future of Martlet cricket is safeguarded, and that the highest levels of sportsmanship are maintained. It is difficult, however, to find adequate words of praise in respect of the commitment and dedicated efforts of our Secretary Charlie Hartridge and Treasurer Richard Moore, over 15 and 25 years service respectively.

In my three years of Presidency, therefore, you will doubtless appreciate that I shall strive to keep two words foremost in my mind – to be **positive** and to be **committed**. I only wish that I had had the foresight in earlier years to relate these two words to my batting performances! I had referred initially to the term – a **hard act to follow**. I shall do my utmost to ensure that my successor in three years time has similar thoughts.

*Geoffrey Wills*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We have had another exciting year in Sussex. The County have done the double of the C&G Trophy and the Championship – our warmest congratulations to everyone at Hove. What a terrific TEAM effort. We were delighted to have their Chief Executive, Gus Mackay, Robin Martin-Jenkins and Richard Montgomerie as our guests at the annual dinner, just three weeks after that great win at Trent Bridge! Robin spoke most eloquently and interestingly, recalling Sussex's great summer. Richard has a well earned Benefit in 2007— please support him whenever you can. Our thanks go to Neil Bushell, who organised this very happy evening and to Nigel Russell, whose G.P. Committee arranged things at West Hove Golf Club. As always we are so grateful to our friends at Arundel Castle for all their unending support, enabling us to enjoy 8 fixtures at this most beautiful of grounds. If you are not already a member, please consider supporting this most worthy cause.

My traditional thanks go, as always, to all our supporters: wives, umpires, scorers, match managers, offi-

cers and the Committee. 2006 saw our Presidency handed over from Chris Saunders to Geoff Wills – our grateful thanks to them both for everything they have done for us all. 2006 has also seen the launch of our website. If you have not yet visited it, please do so and you will appreciate what a splendid job Rob Walker has done. It will be a terrific support to us in the future. Also, Chris Snell has had a fantastic first season looking after the Junior Martlets. Thank you Chris for all your great enthusiasm.

Charlie Hartridge has been a truly superb Secretary since 1991 and has decided to hand over his duties at the AGM. We have been blessed with some great people in this post – none more so than Charlie. We are forever grateful for everything you have done for us, Charlie. We will be welcoming Matthew Lowndes on to the Committee in his place.

Finally, I shall be standing down from the Chair at the AGM in March. I have been both proud and privileged to serve as your Chairman since 2001, with the highlight of our centenary year in 2005 – a year I shall always treasure. I first played for this great club in 1964, have been a match manager since 1968, and on the Committee since 1979. I have taken over the Chair of the Cricket Sub-committee from Adrian Ford, and greatly look forward to seeing the Martlets going forward still further in the years ahead. Thank you to all those who have supported me.

2007 promises to be another vibrant summer. Abeer Janmohamed, Nick Creed, James Chadburn, Richard Allum and Tim Dodd are just some of the League cricketers who have joined the ranks of our match managers – the strongest team of match managers we have had for years. We have arranged for a few more afternoon starts, which will hopefully go down well with both players and their partners, and make our cricket a little more cost efficient! And last but not least, we are off on tour to Jersey over the August Bank Holiday. Please contact Patrick Goodwin for details. More fun and friendship for all who visit the home island of our President!

*Sandy Ross.*

## THE 2006 SEASON

2006 was a highly enjoyable season, punctuated with much very exciting cricket, some notable individual performances and some extremely tense finishes, particularly at Arundel Castle. We drew with Lady Mary Mumford's XI. We wanted three wickets and they needed three runs. We lost by one run to Midhurst, celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We lost to Band of Brothers by three wickets with three balls remaining and we won by two runs against the Junior Martlets – all compulsive viewing!



In addition, we had excellent wins against Brighton College, Eastbourne College (Krishner Singh 111), Brighton Brunswick, Lancing Rovers (Richard Allum's 6-32 the best Martlet bowling analysis of 2006), Cuckfield, Yellow Hammers, Bluemantles (Nick Seager 121\*) and Frogs at Arundel, who were 33-8 at one stage!

Our only abandoned game was sadly against the MCC at Arundel, when rain won the day.



Chris Hammond

125 played for us in our 32 matches, and other individual highlights included 125\* by recent Junior Martlet captain Chris Hammond against the Stragglers of Asia at Fletching. He scored his runs off 87 balls, including 9 fours and ten sixes! Later in the season Chris played for Tonbridge in the Cricketer Cup Final. Congratulations!

James Dahl top scored for the Martlets in 2006 with 133 against St George's Weybridge. James has been an super Martlet and our very best wishes are with him in his first year as a housemaster at Repton. Come back and see us in the summer holidays, James! Rob Wakeford scored 130 against the Old Eastbournians in 68 balls, including 20 fours and 5 sixes! Rob contested the all-rounder top-spot with Nick Creed and Mike Murray, who topped the batting averages. Ollie Rogers and Richard Iago put on 175 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket against the Cryptics (Ollie 100\* and Richard 110), contributing to our total of 315-4 declared in 55 overs at Worth. James Lamb topped the bowling averages, and was the only

bowler to have 2 four wicket hauls, including 6-56 against Seafood College.

I will remember 2006 as the year of the youngster. In all my Martlet years I do not recall so many good youngsters playing so often for us. It was a delight to see them enjoy their cricket, and the friendship off the field often finished late in some friendly country pub. There were many newcomers and league cricketers who had come and experienced Martlet cricket for the first time. With our Junior Martlet cricket thriving, the future is extremely bright. Long may this continue. With twelve matches won and 8 centuries scored, it was the best season since 1996.

*Sandy Ross*

## JUNIOR MARTLETS 2006

Played 5, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 2

### 31<sup>st</sup> May v. Rajasthan U15 at Hurstpierpoint.

Junior Martlets 194, (James Askew 60, Alasdair Wilson 52). Rajasthan 126 for 8 (Jordan Rollings 3 for 20, Matthew Silk 3 for 21), Match Drawn

After half centuries by James Askew and Alasdair Wilson and a good innings of 37 by Ollie Gatting, the Junior Martlets collapsed to 194 all out, having been 154 for 2. Rajasthan, who had only been in the Country for 24 hours, started well and were 56 for 1. They then lost wickets steadily and at 100 for 7 a win looked a distinct possibility for the Junior Martlets. A stubborn 8<sup>th</sup> wicket stand prevented this and Rajasthan ended up 126 for 8. It was a

*(Continued on page 8)*



Martlets batting v XL Club at Lancing College.

## Martlets v XL Club in pictures



- 1) *As befits a match between ageing cricketers (but ageing gracefully of course) the match was held in the shadow of the historic chapel.*



- 4) *The driver drives, but the scoreboard tells its own story...*



- 2) *A chance for Sandy Ross to open the batting for a change. Going out to bat with his driver (sorry Colin!) intent on a big stand...*



- 5) *Driver deceived by bowler with flag in head*



- 3) *A steady start is necessary and here Sandy demonstrates good use of the feet (the bat being kept in reserve...)*



- 6) *Derek Semmence raises the tempo...*





7) *The runs start to flow...*



10) *Geoff Cole (101\*) off to undergo the routine drugs test*



8) *Bowlers begin to show signs of the strain...*



11) *The Martlets are counted back in. Some made it up more steps than others..*



9) *Well, you would be feeling a bit groggy if hit by a ton of Cole..*

But pictures don't always tell the whole truth. The Martlets total of 214—4 declared, off 51 overs, was not quite enough. The XL Club openers knocked off the runs in 33 overs, with both scoring unbeaten hundreds.

Ah well, we can't win them all.

real pleasure to play against this Indian touring side so ably coached by the eminent Derek Semmence.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> July v. Babes of Kent at Hurstpierpoint.

Babes of Kent 100 (Casey Lee 3 for 11, Jordan Rollings 3 for 32). Junior Martlets 102 for 1 (Cameron Ballard 71 not out.). Won by 9 wickets.

A very convincing win by the Junior Martlets. An excellent performance in the field with tight bowling backed up by good catching dismissed the Babes of Kent for just 100 runs. Cameron Ballard then launched the Junior Martlet innings with a blistering 71 not out off just 34 balls, and the match was over by mid-afternoon.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> July v. Junior Hogs at Warnford.

Junior Hogs 248 (Philip Roper 5 for 97). Junior Martlets 243 (Chris Kirkham 107). Lost by 5 runs.

A splendid game of cricket on a wonderful summer's day on a beautiful ground. The Junior Hogs were indebted to an excellent innings of 115 by their opening batsman and made 248 in 58 overs. Philip Roper bowled an admirable spell of left arm spin to take 5 for 97. The Junior Martlets had a shaky start and were soon 22 for 3 and then 125 for 7, facing a daunting task. A magnificent innings of 107 off 75 balls by Chris Kirkham ably supported by James Austin (25) and Philip Roper (26) kept our hopes alive. Chris Kirkham was dismissed eventually with 5 overs left. The Junior Martlets kept going right up to the end and needed 7 to win off the last over. A superb catch on the boundary gave the Junior Hogs victory by just 5 runs. Considering we had 12 overs less than the opposition to get the runs, I feel this was a very creditable performance by the Junior Martlets. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all!

#### 26<sup>th</sup> July v. Brighton & Hove U16 at Nevill Ground, Hove.

Brighton & Hove 181 for 8. Junior Martlets 183 for 4 (Alasdair Wilson 73). Won by 6 wickets.

This game was good experience for the younger players and resulted in an admirable win for the Junior Martlets. The wickets were shared by 6 different bowlers, with Philip Roper being the pick of the bunch. After heavy rain held up the Junior Martlets innings for 25 minutes and Brighton and Hove sportingly extended the finishing time, the match resumed and the Junior Martlets won with 4 balls to spare. Alasdair Wilson scored 73 off 72 balls and the captain Philip Roper was 35 not out off 31 balls.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August v. Sussex Martlets at Arundel Castle.

Sussex Martlets 227 for 6. Junior Martlets 225 (Chris Kirkham 57). Lost by 2 runs.

A wonderful game to end the season. After bowling and fielding well the Junior Martlets, after losing a couple of early wickets, had a good third wicket partnership of 92 between Nick Campion (36) and Chris

Kirkham (57). Needing 124 runs off the last 20 overs the Junior Martlets reached the final over requiring 3 runs to win with 2 wickets in hand. Two run outs from direct hits resulted in a win for the Seniors with 3 balls to spare – what a finish!

Congratulations are due to Jumbo Jupp (captain), Nick Campion, Henry Gane, Alexander Ham, Jonathan Haynes, Chris Kirkham, Casey Lee, Ed Miller, Oliver Rogers, Michael Roper and Daniel Saunders on their election to the Senior Club.

*Chris Snell*

## THE DINNER



*Robin Martin-Jenkins*

Following the gargantuan feast to celebrate our centenary, this year's dinner was a more informal and intimate gathering at the West Hove Golf Club on 14 October. Neil Bushell, the Martlets' own Gordon Ramsey, kindly arranged an outstanding menu and a sympathetic ambiance for an evening of delight and good company amongst friends. We were honoured to have Robin Martin-Jenkins as our guest speaker and he

gave us a close feel for and a humorous perspective of the pressures and thrills of being the double-champion County of 2006.

We were also delighted to welcome Gus Mackay, Sussex's new Chief Executive, who played ODI cricket for Zimbabwe, and the evergreen Richard Montgomery, who was celebrating the award of his benefit in 2007. All three guests chipped into an informal "Q & A" session at the end of the evening, which elicited a strong sense of pride amongst Martlets present about the County's achievements during this historic season.

It was disappointing not to have had more support from the Club's membership for the Dinner and begs the question about the future of such gatherings. Those who attended this year would attest to an excellent evening's entertainment with extremely good value, but the Club needs to hear members' views before reaching any conclusions about what we may or may not do henceforth. You are invited (and positively encouraged!) to post comments on our website - [www.sussexmartlets.co.uk](http://www.sussexmartlets.co.uk) - in the Members' Area under "General Enquiries."

*Nigel Russell*



## THE MARTLETS ON-LINE

The design and development of the website is now complete. It will show all club fixtures, playing and non playing members and recent scores to keep everyone up to date with what is happening in our club. Playing members will be able to apply to match managers online and to find directions to all the match venues.

In addition you will be able to visit the Martlets shop and there will be regular news bulletins to keep members informed of both the playing and social activities.

If you have not already visited the website, go to [www.sussexmartlets.co.uk](http://www.sussexmartlets.co.uk) Certain areas of the site are password protected, ensuring private information is safeguarded. If you do not know the password email: [info@sussexmartlets.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexmartlets.co.uk)

**Rob Walker**



**2007 MARTLETS' TOUR TO JERSEY.** The Martlets' tour, organised by Patrick Goodwin, visits Jersey from Sat 25<sup>th</sup> August – Tues 28<sup>th</sup> 2007. Our resident – President, Geoff Wills, kicks it all off hosting a reception on the Saturday, prior to matches against Jersey on the Sunday and Monday.

## THE MARTLETS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

As some will be aware, a chance browse revealed that West Sussex Record Office at Chichester held all the original Sussex Martlet scorebooks between 1926-53. I spent many enjoyable hours earlier this year re-searching our past glories.

In the year we re-visit the Channel Islands, it seems appropriate to include here details of our tour of September 1924, when we played twice in Jersey and once in Guernsey. Playing was H. Asa Thomas who was to be our Secretary from 1920-29, and Capt. G.V. Campbell who went on to take 101 wickets in 1927 and 107 in 1929 – I believe the only occasions when anyone has achieved this feat in Martlet colours.

**Sandy Ross**

**Jersey Island XI 201 & 140.  
Sussex Martlets 170 & 64.**

*The Cricketer* of 1924-25 kindly provided a slight excuse for the Martlet collapse, "but in extenuation it should be explained that the light was very difficult – the sun shining on the sea beyond the bowler's arm causing trouble." (*Patrick Goodwin take note, Sandy*

*will want the sea end. Ed*). How else could Ward (a professional, presumably) possibly have knocked over 11 Martlet gentlemen for a mere 92?

The match was attended by the Lieut.-Governor, Sir Francis Bingham. He lunched with the teams and spoke about the improvement of the cricket of the Island. H. Asa Thomas "made a suitable reply." (? *Ed*.)

**Jersey Garrison XI 221  
Sussex Martlets 98**

In the second match against the Jersey Garrison, the Martlets were again put to the sword, scoring only 93 against the Garrison's 221. In typically generous spirit common amongst good winners of those days, the Garrison's Major Carey considered the Sussex Martlets the finest fielding side that had ever been over from the mainland (*Perhaps the Martlets thought it was a fielding practice? Ed*).

**Guernsey Island XI 170 & 73  
Sussex Martlets 252**

The match against Guernsey provided the Martlets with a victory by an innings and 9 runs with which to end the tour. Guernsey were shot out for 140 and 73 with W.F. Lord getting 11 wickets in the match "at very little cost." In the Martlets' total of 252, Peter Williams scored 104, marred only by running out three of his team mates.

Of course cricket isn't the only thing on a good tour and *The Cricketer* reported that "socially the tour was a tremendous success. Everyone was most hospitable, but nobody more so than the Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, who arranged dinner parties and dances, and contrived to make all very happy; in fact the tourists had such a good time in Guernsey that several of them stayed over the weekend." (*So, no pressure Geoff! Ed*).

In conclusion, it was noted that apart from being a rather expensive trip, "there is no fault to be found with a tour in the Channel Islands... (and) the accommodation at Guernsey is excellent."

## MICHAEL WINGFIELD-DIGBY

*One of the more colourful players to have donned Martlet colours has finally decided to hang up his jockstrap and retire. (Picture withheld).*

*He is possibly the most capped Jazz-hatter in captivity, having turned out in his time for Sherborne Pilgrims, Dorset Rangers, Free Foresters, Somerset Stragglers, Cryptics, Sussex Martlets, Gemini, IZ, Harlequins, Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, North Devon, Oxford University Authentics and his own side The Cavaliers (amongst many others). A fearless wicket-keeper, al-*

ways happiest up at the wicket, he captured some notable scalps over the years. For example, on one occasion a young Radleian, Andrew Strauss, was dismissed, stumped Wingfield-Digby, bowled C. Martin-Jenkins.

Question 45 in the 2005 edition of *The Martlet* was: Which Martlet is famously quoted in Mike Atherton's autobiography as saying: "Colin Cowdrey last week, Michael Atherton this week. A former England captain and a future England captain. How marvellous!"? Which alleged incident is he describing?



Michael Wingfield-Digby

The answer? Michael Wingfield-Digby, one of whose whippets is alleged to have defecated on Atherton's shoes in the pavilion at Fenner's a week after paying Sir Colin the same compliment.

Nor has Michael's life been solely one of cricket. He continues to ride out every morning, his mount being his Welsh Grand National winner, Kendall Cavalier.

## JMW-D – a brief recollection

When I was about 15 I was telephoned by my unknown second cousin Michael, and he asked me to play in his Dorset Rangers match v Somerset Stragglers at the famous County Ground in Taunton. Imagine my excitement as we drove in through the old gates behind the Pavilion. It had of course been a terrifying drive from Sherborne, but at that stage I did not realise that a car for Michael could also be a residence. I also just assumed that everyone occasionally drove on the wrong side of the road. He stopped the car and greeted an old man in the Car Park.

"Good morning, Padre Venn," called out Michael, "you had better not give me out this year," before whispering to me, "The Umpire – blind as a bat."

"No need for you to worry," came the reply, "I have been to the umpiring school."

The Rangers batted first and in went Michael in his preferred position of No 1. Half way through the first over, he took two steps down the pitch and tried to sweep the opening bowler. The ball thudded into his front pad.

"Howzat!" Up went the Padre's finger in a flash. There was silence, the world stopped turning for a moment as Michael remained motionless on one knee in the middle of the pitch. Slowly he raised two fingers at the Umpire.

"Back to school, Padre!" he shouted as he headed for the pavilion.

So began a long and continuing cricketing friendship. We have played numerous times together over the next 40 years. Often he has batted and kept wicket beautifully. Usually there has been at least one "incident" – clothes split revealing capacious long johns and an astonishing version of the male anatomy, batsmen not walking subjected to appalling abuse, bowlers who spray it around harangued by the keeper as they run in.

I have seen him given out arrested – speeding on the way to the ground leading to a police invasion of pitch. Once at Sherborne he ran someone out on the seventh run.

But perhaps my favourite memory is the first time I played against him. Dorset Rangers (again!) v Sherborne School. My first game for the 1st X1 on the Upper. The school field first and I am standing at mid-on as the openers approach the wicket. Mike comes over to me.

"Don't know who this bugger is, but I am going to run him out," he tells me to my astonishment. (My father had always told me cricket was a game for gentlemen).

First ball Michael hits firmly to cover point. "Come on Tom, Dick, Harry – whatever your name is ...run."

The non-striker instantly sprints to the other end. Michael has not moved a muscle. As his opening partner withdraws to the pavilion, puce with rage, Mike shouts after him. "That'll teach you, you bastard!"

Somehow the game always continued.

Andrew Wingfield-Digby

## GOLF REPORT 2007

Once again this year's golfing has been mostly blessed by the weather, so it has been shirt sleeve order more or less from Royal Ashdown Forest in early April through to our last match at Rye in mid October. And what a finale that was, losing by the final putt of the last match to a strong home side.

Overall the year's results were not quite as impressive as in 2005, but nevertheless we won four, lost three and halved an excellent match at Ashdown, always a difficult side to beat on their own course.

John Whittaker again ran a most enjoyable golf day at the Mid Sussex course in May. About twenty Martlets turned out and the Martlet trophy was won for the first time by Terence Coghlin, captain elect at Pilt-down. This is a fun day and I would encourage any Martlet who wields a golf club to join us next year on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

There has been only one change in match managers this year. Simon Baillie-Hamilton has taken over the running of the Piltdown match and I would like to express my thanks to him and all our match managers for the time and effort they put in to the organization of their days. Our thanks are also due to Richard Gutteridge for managing the Piltdown match before Simon.

Do come and join us in 2007, any Martlet who plays golf, even for one day. You will enjoy yourself and will certainly be most welcome. The list of fixtures and managers is in the Handbook and on the website, so just pick up the phone or email us.

*Ham Whitty*

## OBITUARY

### Sir Michael Marshall.

The Sussex Martlets have always been fortunate in having as members, notable people who have the concerns of the Club close to their heart. Of these we mourn the passing of Michael Marshall, a man who touched life at so many points and had a great influence on all of them.

Michael's love and knowledge of Cricket were extensive and deep. He was one who had immersed himself in the very fabric of the game, its deeds and its players. He knew, from his journalistic and broadcasting experience, virtually all of them. His appreciation of all cricketers, from Test Match star to the humblest, was profound. His books *Cricket at the Castle*, so full of references to Martlets and our matches, and *Gentlemen and Players*, also containing much Sussex lore of players and personalities, are exemplary in their research and fascination.

His writings on Arundel capture the unique charm and atmosphere of the ground and surroundings we value so highly and for which we are so grateful. In the midst of a heavy schedule of Political and Business life, he truly cherished the game.

Michael's other great interest was the theatre and his TV programme about the legendary musical comedy star, Jack Buchanan, was an opportunity for shared moments.

It was my privilege to be his guest at Hove when Sussex won the Championship for the first time and many have been the talks we have had about cricket and theatre on Sunday mornings over a cup of coffee.

His funeral at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Slindon was on an Autumn day of mellow sunshine, packed to overflowing, with many cricketers among the congregation. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to Caroline, his widow, and daughters.

*Brian O'Gorman.*

## Ron Hounsell

Much of Ron's early life was spent in North London, around Wood Green. It was with soccer that he first became associated. Indeed, Ron was a triple Life Vice-President, of 1) the *AFA Referees Society*, 2) a founder member of the *North Middlesex Referees Society*, and 3) of *LONSAR*, the London Society of Referees. His devotion to training and teaching other referees, and as a 'ref-assessor' has left its mark on many people's lives, who were both proud and grateful to have known him.

In banking, he worked with the Bank Of Adelaide, later to become the Australia & New Zealand Bank, and he played for the bank's team as an all-rounder; a sound batsman in the mould of Trevor Bailey whilst, as a bowler, he always gave the ball plenty of air!

During the Second World War, he trained as a pilot in South Africa. On gaining his 'Pilot's Wings' he went to Israel and the Middle East. He flew Halifax bombers, and attained the heights of Squadron Leader with '620' Squadron, where the 'flack' was very real!

In soccer, his career as a referee started in South Africa where he gained his referee's certificate from the South African F.A. He then refereed in Services football in Israel and the Middle East, including refereeing the match between British Services and Combined Services in Cairo. Back in 'civvies' after the war he went on to referee in the Middlesex County, Corinthian, SE Counties, and Athenian Leagues. In 1959, Ron was promoted to the Football League Linesmen's List.

It was not until later in his life that he became a 'serious' cricket umpire, becoming a full member of the Umpires' Association in 1977. He was called upon by many cricketing organisations, including the Sussex Martlets of course: Club Cricket Conference, the Sussex County, Surrey County, and Middlesex County Leagues respectively; the Army, the R.A.F., the M.C.C., the Frogs, and for many school matches including Eton and Harrow. His most enjoyable time of all was spent with Club Cricket Conference on their 7-week tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1983; possibly enhanced by his previous association with those countries through his work. Ron was a life member of the RAFA Cricket Association, stemming from his service with the RAF.

Ron was married twice, first to Deborah, who died in 1972. They had a son, Neal, who remains an active AFA referee and Society member, and a daughter, Deborah. Twelve years later he married Maureen in 1984, who still lives in the East Preston home, and with whom he regularly visited the Arundel Castle cricket ground after his retirement from umpiring.

On a personal note, Ron always encouraged me to 'bowl straight', counting the times per over that I made the batsman play the ball! At the end of an



over he would gently raise his hand and give me a finger-count . Less than three fingers was not a pretty sight! (Harmison take note!) His influence on countless players' games was a positive one, and his legacy can be seen all over the soccer pitches and the cricket fields of the Home Counties.

*Colin Oliver-Redgate*

## Peter Jagger

Peter came from a sporting family. His Mother played ice hockey for England and tennis for Sussex. His Father played cricket for Worcestershire and Sussex, tennis for North Wales and squash for Sussex. He also worked as a teacher, cricket and squash coach at Lancing College, and the family lived there until 1963.

Peter went to the Prep School, St. Ronans, in Hawkhurst in Kent, where he excelled at cricket and soccer. One day against Boarzell, Peter scored 163 not out with an avalanche of sixes. He developed his hallmark bowling style of a short slow run-up and a surprisingly fast delivery. Peter went on to Malvern College.

Peter was a member of the Junior and Senior Martlets and also the M.C.C. For the Martlets, he played regularly during the summer holidays with friends such as Nick Rimmer, Dale Vargas and Chris Snell.

With the onset of rheumatoid arthritis, Peter found it hard to bat and bowl and became a very competent

golfer. Later, he became captain and President of the Brighton and Hove Golf Club.

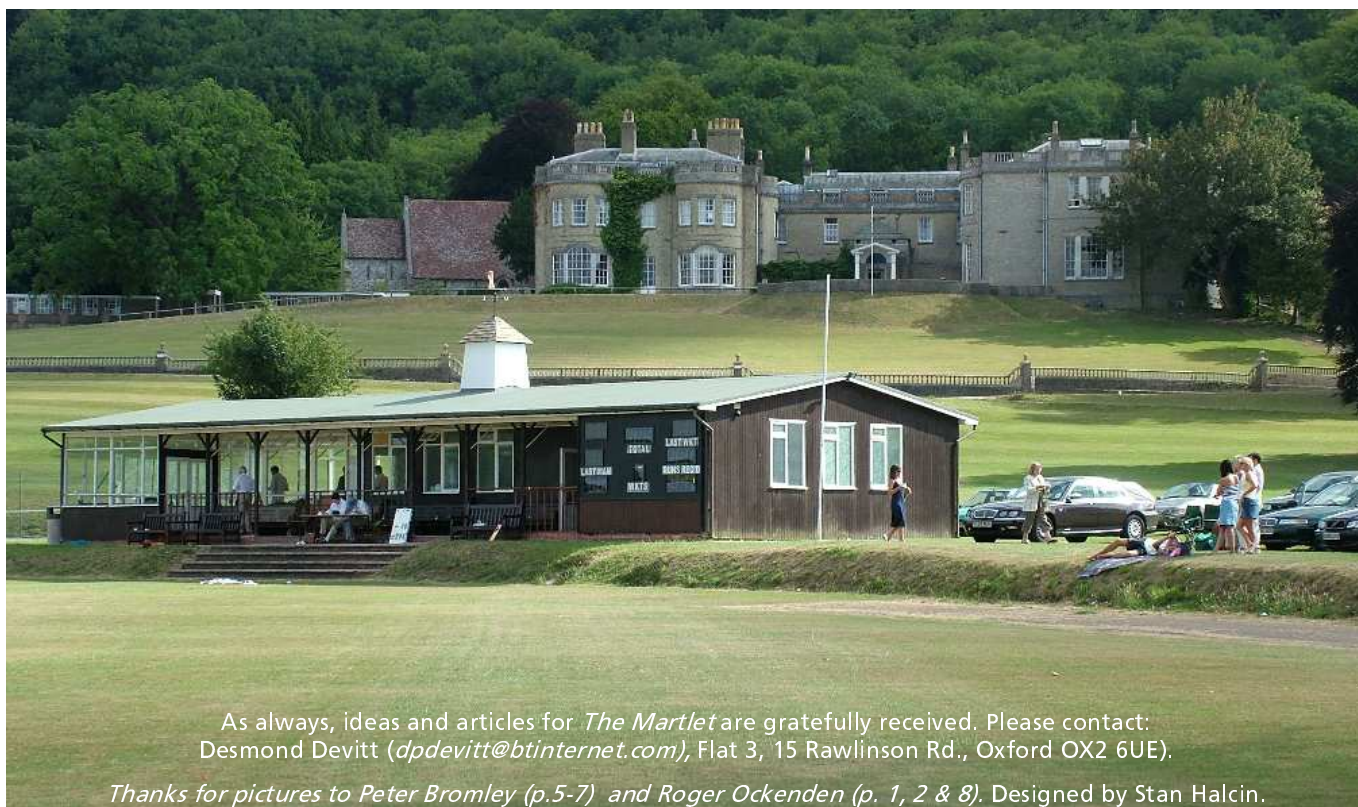
After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, Peter worked for Price Waterhouse and moved, at the age of 23, to their Paris Office. He was promoted to Manager and supervised audits of the Champagne region and wine districts of Bordeaux. He played cricket regularly at the Meurdon Country Club.

On account of his out-going, genial personality and organizational skills, Peter was placed by PW in charge of the European social activities of the company. He organized ski weekends, visits to horse racing events and corporate hospitality. During his years in Paris, Peter developed a large network of close friends. Several of them banded together to form an informal social club entitled "Les Anciens de Paris" which meets regularly.

Peter moved to Panorama Holidays in Hove as Company Secretary and Treasurer. When he left, the Company subsidized a trip for him around the world. He visited his cousin, David Glynn, in Hong Kong, went to China and to India, where he spent time with his old school friend, the Maharajah of Nawanagar. Lastly, Peter joined Spadel, in Hemel Hempstead, the subsidiary of the Belgian mineral water company Spa Monopole, also as Company Secretary and Treasurer. He remained there until his retirement in 2000.

*Colin Oliver-Redgate*

*Martlets v Bradfield Waifs at Seaford College*



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

Thanks for pictures to Peter Bromley (p.5-7) and Roger Ockenden (p. 1, 2 & 8). Designed by Stan Halcin.