



# The Martlet

Issue Number 11

February 2008



*The Martlet big guns – nearly 1000 runs between*

For the first time, the annual Martlet dinner saw the awarding of three trophies. The Sussex Martlet of 2007 was **Michael Murray**. Mike scored 401 runs for the club and took 16 wickets. For good measure he was dubbed as “Man of the Tour” in Jersey by tour manager Patrick Goodwin.

An award was also made to Batsman of the Year, **Ed McGregor**, who topped the 500 runs for the season, including two very big hundreds. The Bowler of the Year was an up and coming off-spinner, **Sandy Ross** (!) who sadly was unable to be present to receive his trophy.

Young Martlet of the Year. This award went to **Nick Seager**. Nick’s contribution to the Martlets this year has been outstanding both at Junior and Senior levels. Nick captained the Junior Martlets and scored nearly 400 runs for the Seniors.



*Junior Martlet captain Nick Seager*

## MONTY MOVES ON

Eighteen years as a professional cricketer – what a privilege and what memories!

I have been lucky to play with and against the best: from childhood heroes Ian Botham and David Gower to current stars such as Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen.

I have faced Muralitharan, Warne, Lee and Donald and not always got out (although Donald did once break my middle stump in half)! Fortunately Ambrose, Kumble and Mushtaq have been on my side – to field shortleg for this trio was not as nerve-racking as for most!

For the last nine years I have been honoured to play for Sussex, proud to wear the six Martlets on my jumper. I feel very fortunate to have been involved in what is undoubtedly the Club's most successful era.

Back in 2000 we were bottom of everything but the Club stuck with the Adams-Moores alliance and what a great decision it proved to be when it won the Championship for the first time in its 164 year history. Four seasons later and we have won two further Championship medals and also had success at a Lords' final. The only difference now is Peter Moores has gone off to coach England and Mark Robinson has ably filled his shoes. Chris Adams has had an incredible decade of captaincy and still continues.

There are many others in the story though – perennial performers, locals James Kirtley, Jason Lewry and Robin Martin-Jenkins have been around from the start. More locals have joined – Matthew Prior, Michael Yardy and now Andrew Hodd, Carl Hopkinson and Chris Nash. There have, of course, been the odd outstanding additions from outside the County: we would never have won these competitions without Mushtaq Ahmed's 450 wickets in five years and Murray Goodwin's thousands of runs. I am sure I have forgotten several contributors I should have mentioned.

I have been fortunate to retire at the end of a successful year on the field for me personally and for the Club. I could not have chosen a more dramatic day to finish my first class career – the tension waiting to see whether Lancashire could chase down Surrey's score at the Oval was unbearable and the relief when we were confirmed as Champions was palpable. Although originally a Midlander, it has been incredible to have been part of Sussex's amazing journey and found a cricketing home.

I am also extremely grateful for all the support I have

received during my Benefit Year in 2007. It has been a very humbling experience and I hope the events have been fun and in the spirit that they should be. It is Sussex stalwart, Robin Martin-Jenkins' Benefit



*Monty with the C&G trophy after Sussex's 2007 success.*

Year in 2008 – an extremely worthy beneficiary not least because, as an all-rounder, he does twice as much work as the rest of us.

So what now? For Sussex, it is hopefully three Championships in three years and another one-day win. Also the wonderful Hove ground should be developed sooner rather than later.

And for me, a new challenge: first a year of teacher training with the Open University and then, from September the chemistry classroom and cricket pitches at Eton. Oh, and some wonderful memories.

Good luck to the Sussex Martlets in 2008.

**Richard Montgomery**

*The Martlets are very grateful to Richard for all his support at Martlet golf days and dinners over recent years. and we wish him the very best for the future. Ed.*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Introduction

What a season! As you will read elsewhere, the weather was doing its best to conspire against our fixture list but we nevertheless turned in some great results, producing one of our best ever seasons. The accolades for this success properly rest with those playing members who have supported the Martlets on the field with great enthusiasm and skill and particularly with the match managers, who have consistently produced good sides playing quality, competitive cricket. This is the essence of the Martlet style and I sincerely thank all those who have given their time so freely, and unselfishly ensured that the high reputation of our Club is maintained.

The task of assuming the mantle of chairmanship has been made easy by the diligence and energy of my predecessor, Sandy Ross. The Club is not only in great shape but its heart also beats strongly and this is due to the hard work of your committee, chaired enthusiastically by Sandy over the past 6 years. We all owe him a great debt of thanks and I'm pleased to say that he continues his good work for the Club looking after the cricket sub-committee.

### Some Hellos and Goodbyes



*Charlie Hartridge. Martlets' Secretary 1992 - 2007*

Another great servant of the Club, **Charlie Hartridge**, also handed over his reins last March. As Secretary, Charlie spent endless hours ensuring that we were all kept up to speed with the Club's day to day business; his commitment has been second to none but how he found the time to act as Secretary so efficiently and to commute weekly to York (latterly to Norwich), beggars belief. Luckily for us Charlie has agreed to remain on the committee where his wisdom and experience will continue to be relished by us all. Stepping into those big boots we have been fortunate indeed to welcome **Matthew Lowndes** whom many will recall as a deft high order batsman (of the Hurstpierpoint mould) and an all

round good egg!

Mathew has taken to his new role, appropriately for



*Matthew Lowndes – our new Secretary.*

the perverse nature of the weather, like a duck to water and his robust contribution will help shape the future of our Club in a most positive way.

### Special Thanks

The strength of any cricket club can be gauged by the spirit of those who work so tirelessly for this great game in support their members, and there are two individuals in particular whom I would like to highlight. We have been fortunate indeed that in Lady Mary Mumford we have a Patron whose proactive encouragement has been unstinting throughout this last season, not only at many Arundel games but also at our social events. She has established a huge rapport with the Martlets and her support, particularly for the Juniors, has earned the respect and affection of us all. Geoff Wills, our President, visited nearly all the Arundel games and was highly visible all season (not least because of the rather bright colour of his summer trousers!). His support of all the committee, and of me personally, has been fantastic and the Club is lucky to have two such stalwart and supportive friends.

### Vice Presidents' Day

Thanks to the initiative of John Bartlett and his old school chum Geoff Wills, we have now established a "Vice Presidents' Day" to coincide with the Juniors match at the end of August each year at Arundel. 20 of our 33 VPs came along for the inaugural day in 2007 and this marvellous turnout witnessed a reunion of old friends and the recounting of old stories (some of which I had actually heard before!) On the back of such a success, we will be repeating the experience in 2008 and I do encourage our VPs to come back and join in the fun once more.

### Let's Help The Match Managers

Could I make a plea? We are very fortunate to have



an enthusiastic band of experienced match managers who effectively run our season for us. We depend on them for maintaining the Martlet reputation for producing quality, fun sides but we do place upon them a significant responsibility. It is not unusual for a manager to make in excess of 50 phone calls to pull a side together and then, increasingly, they have to deal with replacements as players fall out, often as late as the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. More and more this experience is having a negative impact on our managers who give up so much of their own time in support of the Martlets and we need to do all we can to help them. Could I ask players to observe two golden rules which will make life easier for everyone?

1. Book your games early

The Club asks playing members to volunteer their services to match managers for games and not to wait to be asked. Plan your season early and if you e-mail or 'phone a manager you will receive his undying thanks for your enterprise! We have a playing membership of about 150, but it may surprise you to know that on average less than 50 of those turn out for the Martlets during the season and we need to improve that statistic. *Please apply for games – you never know, you might just enjoy yourself!*

2. If you cannot play after all, find a replacement

As a reminder to all, it is a Club rule that if you have to back out of a fixture, and that does happen quite understandably from time to time, it is up to you, not the manager, to find a replacement of similar quality and skill. Observance of this custom will significantly ease the manager's burden. Thank you.

**...And Finally**

Well done to the winners of the season's awards, but particularly to Mike Murray as the inaugural Sussex Martlet of the Year. Good luck for the coming 2008 season which promises much – a welcome to New Zealand and South Africa on the international scene at home – a chance for Sussex to make it 3 in a row – and a great Martlet fixture card including the return of the Club day which will see a Twenty20 tournament at Fletching in August. Enjoy!

**Nigel Russell**

## THE 2007 SEASON



Sandy Ross

2007 was our best season statistically since 1954! In 1954 we played 42 matches, won 24 and lost 7. In 2007 we played 35 matches, won 12, and lost only 5! And this was despite it being a wet summer, with five matches being abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Three of our losses were to Sussex School sides. Well done Brighton, Lancing, and Ardingly Colleges. The Brighton game was a very high scoring game with a total of 631 runs scored.

We had notable wins against M.C.C. (by 8 wks), Lancing Rovers, Yellowhammers, Lady Mary Mumford's XI, Junior Martlets and Cryptics, where we scored 323-3 declared, to win by 131 runs.

There were two of the highest individual scores in the history of the Club: Nick Seager's 167 at St. George's Weybridge, and Ed McGregor's 161 not out on the lovely Midhurst ground. In addition, there were five other centuries, while Ed (with a further 146 at Horsham), Mike Murray and Nick scored most runs: 500, 401 and 387 respectively.

Nick Seager also captained the Juniors admirably, and we shall watch his progress with great interest. On thirteen occasions bowlers captured 4 wickets or more: Sandy Ross on 3 days, and Willie Bicket on 2. They finished with 18 and 11 wickets each, while Mike Murray fully deserved Martlet of the 2007 Season, capturing 16 victims as well! Ryan Wadey's 5-21 turned the game around for a win at Christ's Hospital, the best analysis of the summer.

The end of our season will be remembered for an excellent tour to Jersey, where we had two very close matches, both ending in draws. The tourists were warmly welcomed and entertained by our Resident President, who is so enjoying his involvement; great thanks are due to Geoff, and to our Jersey hosts.

Finally, I would like to thank my Cricket Sub Committee, and all our Match Managers, Umpires and Scorers for all their help in making 2007 so successful and highly enjoyable for all our members. We must never forget our great friends at Arundel, on whose beautiful ground we play. We just need a few more new members joining to help us continue the story! Roll on 2008!

**Sandy Ross**

## **The Martlet asked Michael Murray for his personal highlights of 2007:**

The season commenced, as usual, with a run-fest at Brighton College. The fact that there were well over 600 runs scored in a 50-overs-a-side match at the end of April is testament to the groundstaff at the College, the strokeplay of the boys (who don't half give it a whack!), and also to Nick Seager, Sam Carter, and George Martin, who all contributed half-centuries for the Martlets, as we finished 13 runs

short. Special mention must also go to the cunning off-spin of "freshman" Martlet Paul Lack, who somehow escaped the carnage to take 3 for 30 from his allotted 10 overs.

The match against a strong Lady Mary Mumford's XI at The Castle was a superbly contested game of cricket, which appeared to be heading for a draw until the intervention of Rob Wakeford, who cracked a majestic 79, and Abeed Janmohamed, who saw us home with an unbeaten 60-odd. Rich "Swampy" Allum also distinguished himself by taking 5 wickets, never an easy task at The Castle, to help keep the Lady Mary's XI total to manageable proportions.

On a number of levels, the highlight of my Martlet summer was undoubtedly the two-match tour to Jersey in August, and not just for the usual off-field tour escapades. My two half-centuries and seven wickets elicited a mention in the Jersey press (not to mention from the tour fines committee!), but even more gratifying was the discovery of a Martlet capable of scoring even more slowly than I. There have been calls to put the video of Paul Walker and me batting together on the Martlets website, viewing of which is a must for serious students of the game (and insomniacs!).

I would like to wish everyone the best of luck for the 2008 season, which is now just a few months away, and I look forward to seeing you during the course of the summer.

*Michael Murray*

## **JUNIOR MARTLETS 2007**

**Played 7 Won 4 Lost 3**

### **16<sup>th</sup> July v Babes of Kent at Linden Park, Tunbridge Wells**

Junior Martlets 222 for 7 declared (Nick Seager 101, Adam Davies 44). Babes of Kent 138 (Alex Nielsen 4 for 16, James Silk 4 for 45, Philip Roper 2 for 7). Won by 84 runs.

After losing our first two wickets for 11 runs on a dampish wicket, Nick Seager, with an admirable century, and Adam Davies batted very sensibly and skilfully and together with the help of some useful runs from Andrew Hartridge and Philip Roper in the middle order the Junior Martlets declared after 45 overs. The Babes of Kent were blown away by a hostile opening spell by Alex Nielsen and with good support from James Silk and Philip Roper they soon found themselves 50 for 5. Only an excellent innings of by Paget, the opening batsman, enabled the Babes of Kent to reach 138. Altogether an admirable start to the season!

### **24<sup>th</sup> July v. Junior Hogs at Littlehampton.**

Junior Hogs 222 (Bradley Hatchett 4 for 13, Philip Roper 3 for 59). Junior Martlets 69 (Nick Seager 27). Lost by 153 runs.

After losing 3 wickets for 24 runs the Junior Hogs batted well in their middle order to reach 222 off 56 overs. In his first game for the Junior Martlets Bradley Hatchett bowled off spin very accurately, and well deserved his fine analysis of 4 for 13. Unfortunately the Junior Martlets lost two wickets in the opening over and never really recovered, as the total score of 69 proves. In spite of the Junior Hogs using two over age players, this was a disappointing result for us.

### **25<sup>th</sup> July v. Brighton & Hove at The Nevill Ground, Hove (35 over game).**

Brighton & Hove 135 for 9 (Jack Parsons 3 for 13, James Silk 2 for 32). Junior Martlets 138 for 4 off 19 overs (Michael Chapman 92 not out). Won by 6 wickets.

This was an Under 16 fixture which was a good experience for the younger players and resulted in an admirable win for the Junior Martlets. All four of our slow bowlers, two leg break and two off spinners, bowled very tightly restricting Brighton and Hove to 135. After losing four wickets for 58 runs Michael Chapman hit a superb captain's innings for the Junior Martlets scoring 92 not out. He was well supported by Josh Levene 21 not out and they saw us home to a convincing win.

### **1<sup>st</sup> August v. Preston Nomads at Preston Nomads (40 over game).**

Junior Martlets 177 for 9 (James Askew 53). Preston Nomads 180 for 2. Lost by 8 wickets.

This was an under 17 game against a very strong Preston Nomads side, three of whom were also members of the Junior Martlets. Batting against a formidable bowling attack the Junior Martlets did very well to reach a total of 177. James Askew batted resolutely for his 53 runs with good support from Tom Merrien (29), Matthew Silk (24). Preston Nomads batted splendidly, winning the match with 20 balls to spare. Michael Chapman, our match winner and captain in our previous match, scored 68 not out against us!

### **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> August v. St. James' Montefiore at Ditchling (40 over match)**

St. James' Montefiore 155 (Alex Nielsen 3 for 42, Amit Midha 3 for 32). Junior Martlets 157 for 0 off 23.3 overs (James Austin 75 not out, Ollie Gatting 72 not out. Won by 10 wkts.

A very good win for the Junior Martlets, although we were up against an under strength St. James' side. We bowled and fielded well to restrict St. James' to

155 runs and then a fine and undefeated opening partnership between James Austin and Ollie Gatting saw us home with 16 overs to spare.

**22<sup>nd</sup> August v. Western Warriors at Bognor (35 over match).**

Western Warriors 129 for 9 (James Askew 2 for 21, Philip Roper 2 for 22, Ryan Budd 2 for 29). Junior Martlets 130 for 7 (Matt Sewell 50 not out). Won by 3 wickets.

A very good game of cricket on a slowish wicket. The Western Warriors got off to a slow start with the first 25 overs producing just 58 runs for 3 wickets. However, in the final 10 overs they managed to add a further 71 runs to their total to reach 129.

In reply, the Junior Martlets were soon in trouble and at 74 for 7 in the 23rd over they still needed to score 55 runs off the last 12 overs. A first class innings by Matt Sewell of 50 not out, well supported by Ryan Budd with 10 not out, saw us home with 9 balls to spare.

**24<sup>th</sup> August v. Sussex Martlets at Arundel Castle.**

Sussex Martlets 201 for 7 declared (Philip Roper 3 for 42). Junior Martlets 141 (Nick Seager 40, Michael Chapman 37. Lost by 60 runs.

Our final game of the season was against the Seniors on the beautiful ground at Arundel Castle and ended in defeat. The Sussex Martlets, due to a magnificent innings from Chris Kirkham of 135, reached 201 for 7 off 57 overs. Our opening bowler Matt Parnell bowled very well, taking 2 for 30 off 13 overs, and the two spinners Philip Roper (3 for 42) and Seren Walters (2 for 21), both at Cranleigh, supported him well. Despite a strong batting line up on paper, the Juniors could only muster 141, having been 117 for 4 at one stage with Nick Seager (40) and Michael Chapman (37) batting well. With some good bowling by Johnny Wills and Mike Murray and slightly poor shot selection by the batsmen, the Juniors fell 60 runs short with 10 overs to spare.

Forty one boys played for the Junior Martlets this year and I hope they enjoyed their cricket as much as I enjoyed the season. Congratulations are due to Nick Seager, our excellent Captain who has been a wonderful ambassador for the Juniors, and also to James Austin, Matt Parnell, Alex Nielsen and Lawrence Wisdom on their election to the Seniors.

**Chris Snell**

**SUSSEX MARTLETS TOUR TO JERSEY**



*L-R (standing): Keith Manning, James Maxwell, Stuart Ritchie, Patrick Goodwin, Rob Woods, Ed McGregor, Ron Pateman (umpire), Patrick Walker, Willie Bicket  
(Kneeling): Nick Seager, Mike Harrison, Michael Murray, Johnny Wills, Ollie Saxby.*



On a very sunny Saturday morning a group of athletic excited cricketers met at London Gatwick (the Jersey Island Ladies cricket team were returning home) but in another part of the airport a mixed crowd of young, very young and old Sussex Martlets gathered in varying states of hangover to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour to Jersey. After a serious delay at the airport, which seemed shorter after a few beers, everyone arrived to a hot and windy Jersey and got themselves (after a few wrong turns) to our lovely hotel – the Pomme D'Or in the centre of St Helier.

Having fed and watered in the hotel bar everyone departed for Geoff and Molly's beautiful house, where they were kind enough to host a delightful afternoon with a few of the Jersey players, and allow most of the children a swim in their lovely pool. There was a real sense of anticipation brewing for the 2 games of cricket to come. Should we bat first? Bowl first? Where's the best nightclub? Etc etc. Directly after dinner many of the touring party accepted Harry's kind invitation to join him for his birthday celebrations in most of the bars and clubs not too far from the hotel, and by the end of the evening we believed that we could have beaten most of the major cricketing nations in the world!

The following morning, after an excellent breakfast in the hotel and with Johnny's excellent guidance, we arrived at the beautiful JICC Ground. On winning the toss it was decided to run off the hangovers and chase a bit of leather. After just three overs our skipper and 'strike bowler' had had enough so retired to the slips, which enabled him to turn to his trump card Michael Murray, who immediately snared both of the

openers with his pace and movement, superbly stumped by Nick Seager! With both Willie Bicket and Rob Woods extracting huge swing and turn, JICC really struggled to up the tempo and wickets started to fall, including a wonderful in-ducker from Willie to bowl their leading bat – Ward Jenner. JICC then consolidated through N.Crocker and A. Brown before Mike struck again. After some superb boundary hits from R. Driver, JICC were able to declare at 222-6 leaving the Martlets a tough chase. Ollie Saxby and Ed McGregor set off at a great rate before Ollie and then Nick Seager fell together and when Ed was out for an excellent 34, the Martlets were starting to slip behind the pace at 67-3 after 22 overs. Then followed a wonderful partnership of 141 between James Maxwell and Mike Murray. Having played strokes all round the ground, Mike was unfortunately run out with us needing 13 off the last 2 overs and although Max and Harry tried their best, we finished up two runs short of victory on 221-5. A really wonderful game of cricket, played in excellent spirit and set up by a superb declaration by JICC. After a few beers in the clubhouse, everyone found various ways of entertaining themselves around the attractions of St Helier.

Monday morning arrived a bit early for some, but everyone made it to the ground on time and many were relieved when we won the toss again, but this time batted. Unfortunately at 50-5 this didn't seem to be the best decision of the tour, but we were then rescued by a partnership of 35 by 'Man of the Tour' Mike Murray and his willing partner Paul Walker (who contributed 4 runs off 80 balls). With some lusty blows towards the end the Martlets were finally



*Willie bowling Bicket-to-wicket...*

bowled out for 177, with Mike ending 64 not out.

The JICC reply started well, and it was only after a wonderful spell of 3-31 by one of our young spinners (Johnny Wills) did we get control. (*Oh please, not that old chestnut again! Ed*). With both Rob Woods and Mike Murray bowling with great control and skill, taking four wickets between them, we closed in on victory, needing two wickets in the last two overs. Unluckily we just couldn't dislodge the final JICC batsmen. It was another hugely enjoyable game of cricket in which everyone from both sides had contributed.



Presidents Dennis & Wills

A huge thank you must go to all the players and representatives of JICC who enabled us to play two such excellent games of cricket, and we look forward to playing against them over the years to come.

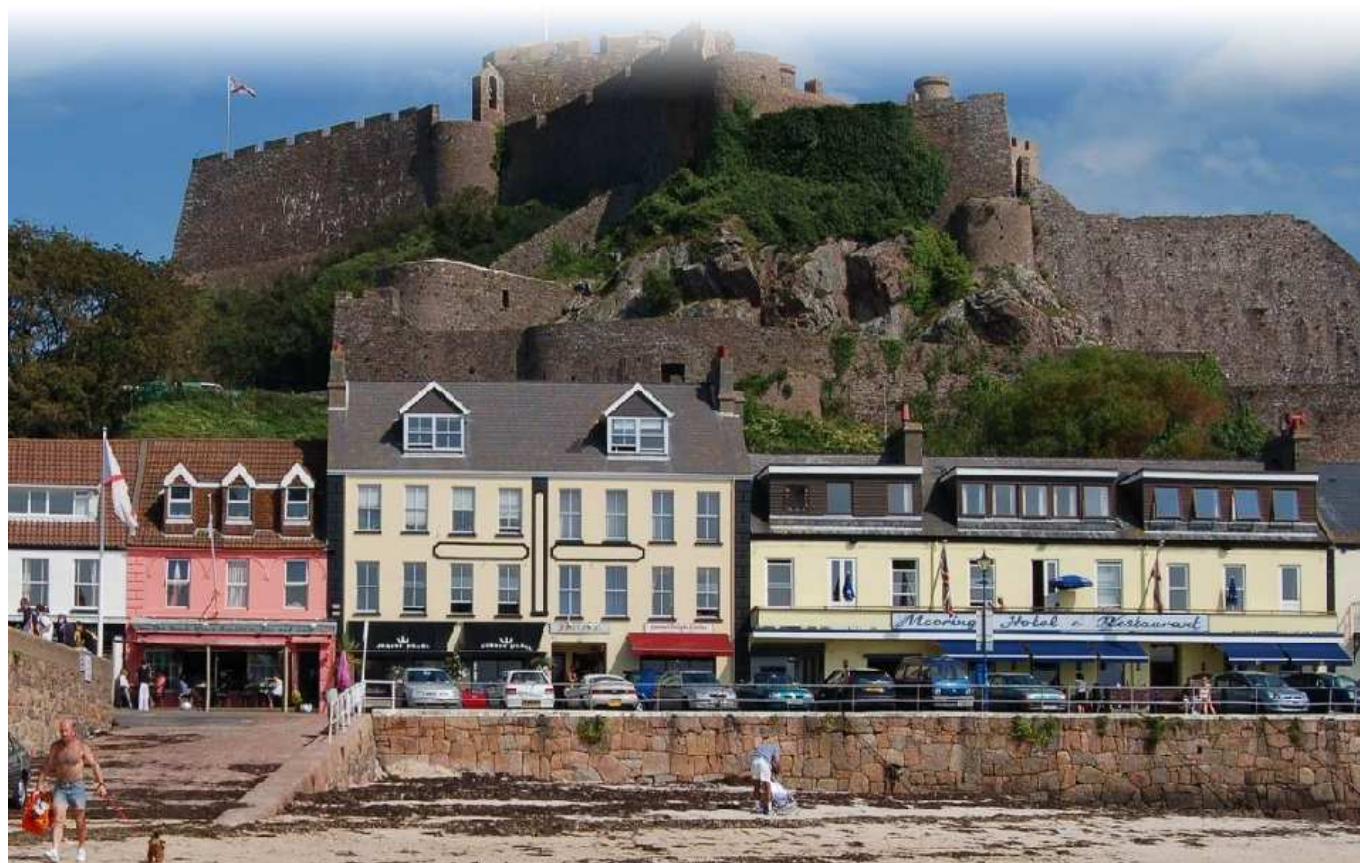
Having changed back at the hotel, everyone jumped in taxis to our end of tour dinner at Borsalino Rocque, where we were joined by many of the people who had made our trip so enjoyable. After an eloquent and entertaining speech from Keith Dennis, without whom the tour would not have run as smoothly as it did, everyone returned back to the hotel looking forward to the return fixtures in Sussex in 2008.



Keith Manning

The next morning brought another beautiful day and apart from a long delay on the return flight, it was agreed by all that we were all looking forward to the return trip in 2009. An enormous thank you to all who toured and in particular to Ron Pate-man, who umpired with great skill and to Keith Manning, who helped both with the scoring and tour organisation.

**Patrick Goodwin**





## MARTLET DINNER AT JEREMY'S.



*Rob Walker on to the third bottle...*



*The Chairman tells one of those risqué army stories, to the obvious embarrassment of Kim Wisdom*



*Nick Wisdom turns his back on himself...*



*Derek Semmence plotting his comeback from hip surgery.*



*Chris Kirkham, Lady Sarah Clutton, Matt Parnell, Michael Roper*



## MARTLET DINNERS PAST

When I came out of the Army in 1952 and started playing Martlet cricket again, the dinner in those days was always well attended – between 80 and 100 members being present. Three such dinners stand out in my mind. First, when the menu from the first dinner of the Hove Long Vacation Club (as the Club was first known) was replicated. It consisted of about eight courses.

The second dinner was that of 1962. The Duke was billed as the principal speaker, but when he rose to speak revealed that until he had seen it on the menu he had been unaware of the fact. Fortunately it was the winter after the MCC tour to Australia and he kept us enthralled with his ad lib recollections of his surprise appointment as manager.

The third was in 1964 I think. I was told by Eddie Harrison to look out for the principal speaker, Ian McLeod, and ply him with drink etc. He started his speech by announcing that he only had one speech for sporting dinners and that anyone at the Harlequins dinner the previous week might as well retire to the bar. He ended his speech by showing his remarkable memory (a pre-requisite for the great bridge player that he was) by reciting the last 25 Derby winners, owners and trainers. As he neared the end we suddenly realised the point: that year's Derby winner had been won by a horse owned by the Duke of Norfolk, trained by Gordon Smythe and both were present at the dinner.

**Keith Jenkin**

## A 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On 12<sup>th</sup> September the 1957 Sussex Young Cricketers team held a reunion.

I am pretty sure that nearly all were Junior Martlets as well. The only doubts are Nick Treadaway and Robin Garran. Tiger Pataudi and John Snow were unable to make the reunion and Prince Sat (now the Maharajah of Nawangar) excused himself due to floods in Nawangar. Sadly the following (also Junior Martlets) are no longer with us: Tim Coghlan, Peter Jagger, David Foster, Robert Sclater and Nigel Naumann.

**David Evans**

*(Owners of our excellent centenary book, Summers by the Sea, by David Gibbs, can see the team in all its youthful glory on page 46. Still available from Nick Wisdom. Ed)*



*L to R. Back row: Tony White, Richard Roberts, Nick Treadaway, Robin Garran, Hubert Reid, David Glynn, Simon Compton, Tony Merrifield  
Middle row L to R: David Hill, Dale Vargas, David Evans, Tony Beadles, Chris Snell, Derek Pickering  
In front: Graham Stephenson, Chris Saunders*



## A MARTLET'S MEMORIES...



*John with Lady Mary  
Mumford at V.P.'s day.*

Almost certainly the most enjoyable cricket match I ever watched was England v The Dominions in the Victory Test in 1945. For England, Walter Hammond scored majestic hundreds in both innings and for the Dominions, Keith Miller and Martin Donnelly scored hundreds. There was also great spin bowling by DVP Wright (Kent) and Christofani (Australia). How was it that such wonderful cricket was produced after six years of war with no first class cricket since the summer of 1939? The answer of course is that cricket continued in the clubs throughout the war.

I went to Chichester High School in 1940 when it was an excellent grammar school, and played in the cricket XI from 1942 when I was fourteen until I went up to Oxford in the autumn of 1945. Before that, I played for Bognor both junior in the summer holidays, and in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI from the age of fifteen onwards. In spite of the war, there was plenty of cricket at school on poor wickets, and on good wickets at Bognor on Sundays. There were many very good local players like Chitty and Meek of Pagham, Stevens and Randall of Priory Park, Bridger of Havant, Lock, Fuente, Doggart, Haig, Rushden, Nelligan of Middleton, and everywhere Eddie Harrison bowling away swing at a brisk pace wearing his Harrow colours. In those days he raised local teams to play London Counties (mostly Middlesex players in the Fire Service), Services elevens and so on. Bognor's fixtures too had a good mixture of Service sides such as RAF (T), easily identified as Tangmere, RAF Regiment, and after Dunkirk army Hussar regiments.

Many from these teams played for Bognor when on leave. Our team was not very agile in the field because of age and frequently had to cry off to be fire

service, lifeboats or air raid wardens. However, all had played good club cricket before the war and knew what was what. Wickets were looked after by the players and in those days wickets were not covered. So when they were drying you had to bat very well and bowlers got their just reward.

The Sussex Cricket Association invited me in 1944 to play for them against an Australian XI at Hastings. Here we were slaughtered by C S Pepper with the bat, CS Pepper with leg breaks and googlies and Price of Western Australia with Chinamen and googlies, which few of us had seen before. I believe a Mr Walker and a Mr David from the Hove Club convened the team and for a Sussex XI v London Counties at Bognor I think A E R Gilligan was the selector and Eddie Harrison, captain. Happily here I took the first wicket, Price (Middlesex) b Bartlett 36.

Next summer, 1946, I was at Oxford and got in the side to play Cambridge at Lords In the university season (all first class) I bowled 439 overs and took 39 wickets, and I have always since felt that bowlers only learn by bowling against good batsmen on good wickets. I bowled about 40 overs a match and was not eighteen until Oxford went on tour and we played Sussex at Priory Park, Chichester where I drank my first legal pint at *The White Horse*. The whole of Chichester High School took three days off to watch the match. After the University Match the Martlets secretary invited me to play for the Martlets against the Blue Mantles, but I was on tour with Sussex and so was unable to play.

In 1946 we, Oxford, beat Lancashire, Middlesex and Sussex, as well as Cambridge by six wickets. My captain was David Macindoe who had won the MC in the war and had played for Oxford in 1938-9. For us, Martin Donnelly of the aforementioned Victory Test scored four centuries. I took five in an innings against Lancashire.

I then had two years in the army where I appeared for the Army and Combined Services, then had three years back at Oxford playing in the university match of 1951, and touring Canada with R W B Robins MCC side.

Then my career with Sussex Martlets began, mostly as a match manager. I remember giving the then very young President a long bowl at I believe Lancing. In spite of that, my connection has always been a most happy one, with Arundel always the icing on the cake. Here always there are contemporaries with whom I can reminisce about the good old days when only the ends of the wicket were covered!

**John Bartlett**



## THE GOLFING SOCIETY and memories of Piltdown



*Anthony Shuttleworth, Simon Baillie-Hamilton, Keith Silk, John Whittaker and Simon Morgan mingle with the opposition.*

2007 has been another good year for the Golfing Society. In terms of results it could be said that we were almost half way up or down a league table (2 wins 7 losses)! All were fun, some of the golf was good and we continue to be indebted to our host Clubs who afford us the privilege of playing on their wonderful courses, and the pleasure of their members' company.

A particularly happy event was the reintroduction, after a gap of nine years, of the match at Crowborough. Played on an extremely wild day in March when it rained, hailed, blew and occasionally shone, the Martlets were somewhat decisively defeated. But never mind, Crowborough was one of the Martlets earliest fixtures, and we are grateful to their committee, to Charles Tankard and Grant Skinner for its return.

Of the nine Clubs we play, **Piltdown** is probably our oldest fixture and almost our 'twin', being founded in 1904. Although the Martlets Golfing Society was not formed until about 1920, it is recorded in a Piltdown committee minute that a match was arranged with the Martlets in 1910. Since then many a Martlet shot has been played out of the Piltdown heather and many a dram consumed in its delightful Sussex farmhouse style clubhouse.

Famous names appear in the match records – Gilligan, Mathews, Om Scott, Grant-White, Langmead,

Rushton, Underhill, Morgan, Michael Burgess and many more. In recent years Ted Morgan, David Scrivens, Richard Gutteridge and now Simon Baillie-Hamilton have managed the Piltdown match.

An interesting piece of Piltdown/Martlet history concerns a putter which hangs over the bar at Piltdown. In about 1962 Howard White was the professional at Croham Hurst. He had done Bobby Locke a service for which the great man presented him with one of the two putters he used throughout his wonderful run of championship successes. Not knowing what to do with it Howard gave it to Donald Grant-White, a well known Sussex amateur golfer who was then secretary at Eastbourne Downs, asking him to find a suitable home for it. When the Martlets were later playing at Rye Donald G-W came to lunch, bringing the putter with him, and asked Dan Mathews to play with it in the afternoon round. This he did – incidentally 'holing every putt he looked at'.

After the match Donald, Dan, Peter Smith (Piltdown) and some other Martlets thought the putter would be a suitable trophy to be 'presented' to the winners of the annual Piltdown/Martlets match – and this is how it came to reside at Piltdown.

Oh yes – Piltdown won this year's match 6-4, but never mind the score. As with all our matches, win or lose, a good time was had by all.

**Ham Whitty**

## OBITUARY

### Dan Mathews



All Martlets will have been saddened to hear of Dan's death in June last year. For the greater part of his long life he played cricket and golf for the Martlets, being Secretary of the Golfing Society for forty-five years until 1998.

During the last few years of his life when he was grounded at home, it became clear just how great was the affection for him. Meeting all his many friends at his favourite golf clubs, or at Lords on the opening day of a Test match, which was always special to him, the first question his brother Pat was invariably asked was 'How's Dan?' He was able to assure them that although far from well he was his usual cheerful self and was being wonderfully cared for by his incomparable wife Liz and their devoted family.

Everyone thought the world of Dan, a kindly good hearted man of firm principles and perfect manners, who would never hear of his beloved Martlet golfers playing a four ball. He was a man who never complained when he got into a bad lie on the golf course, had an encyclopaedic memory for people and places and an endless fund of amusing stories, often told at his own expense. And yes, he was a chorus girl in his prisoner of war camp Christmas show!

Dan would never have described himself as valiant, but courageous he most certainly was in coping with the traumas of war. He miraculously escaped after his Wellington bomber was shot down, endured the bore-

dom and deprivation of three years in a POW camp, and needed all his courage and determination to survive the 1000 mile trek westwards enforced by the Germans, eventually arriving in London in such a poor state that his brother Tom who went to meet him, failed to recognize him.

Dan and Tom together formed a great foursomes partnership, not losing a match when Felsted reached the semi-final of the Halford Hewitt. Although he won many other trophies, Dan's Hewitt performance was undoubtedly the pinnacle of his career.

As a youngster he was playing in a foursomes partnership with his famous father JK on the course that in those days was on the Downs at the back of Shoreham – long since gone. A fog descended, making it impossible to see more than a few yards ahead, but he always remembered JK telling him in which direction to hit the ball and with what club, which proved unerringly right and they won the match quite easily.

From the cricketing point of view, Dan scored such a fast 100 when playing club cricket in Sussex that JK always referred to him thereafter as the Great Dan. Great he was too as Captain of Hurlingham for many years.

One other nice Dan cricketing story. Already late for a match on the County Ground at Hove during the war in which JK and Tom were playing, as he hurried through the turnstiles he heard the thud of bombs as they landed on the ground. JK was batting and had nonchalantly walked to the outfield in time. There were four craters on the pitch, no one was hurt and the match was reluctantly abandoned. Not everyone agreed and one eminent Martlet demanded rather huffily that the ground staff should fill in the craters so that the match could continue. Fortunately he was eventually persuaded that cricket played over four unexploded bombs might cause a few problems!

A particular highlight of which Dan was justly proud came in 1956 when he was elected Master of the Tilers and Bricklayers.

But the abiding memory of Dan is one of a man strolling happily over his favourite South Downs near Worthing with a golf club as a walking stick, playing the occasional tricky shot and listening to the chortle of a cock pheasant in a nearby wood, hoping to put up a covey of partridges and watch them glide away across the valley.

We miss him and remember him, truly a great Martlet. Dan lived to be 87, not a bad knock. As the Aussies say 'Good on yer Dan' for his was a good innings – well played.

**Ham Whitty**

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).