



The Martlet

Issue Number 2

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Australia 2000 – Will you be there?

From the Chairman



Chairman Adrian Ford

This is the exciting prospect for The Sussex Martlets in February 2000. Plans are now under way for this tour of a lifetime. The provisional itinerary follows this forward.

The 1998 season is behind us and from a cricketing perspective it can be best described as a mixed bag with eight matches lost to inclement weather, 10 wins, 6 draws and 12 losses. More detail on these results follows later in this issue.

The developments taking place within the Club have resulted in many more issues needing to be addressed by the Committee. Indeed, too many for all to be placed on one agenda per meeting. Consequently, we have devised a new calendarisation of full Committee meetings that will now take place in January, March and September of each year. The prime function of the January meeting will be to receive the Cricket sub-Committee's report on fixtures, match managers, umpires and to sign-off on the publication of our handbook. The March meeting will finalise pre-season activity whilst the September meeting will review the season just finished. Interspersed between these full Committee meetings will be the Sub-Committee meetings which will address and progress the numerous issues pertaining to their individual remits. The sub-Committee Chairmen report on their activities in this issue of the Martlet.

Your Committee and the three Sub-Committees have worked extremely hard over the past months to maintain the forward impetus of the Club. May I take this opportunity to thank them most sincerely for their magnificent support and devotion to the Club.

Australia 2000

Looking ahead to our Australian tour in 2000 and in an attempt to whet your appetites and encourage you to sign up now, I am delighted to outline the itinerary below. Please note that it is in outline form only and a number of fixtures and activities have to be confirmed.

The Tour will commence on Saturday 12 February and end on Sunday 6 March 2000.

- Day 1 - Depart Heathrow, 1130
- Day 2 - Arrive Perth, Western Australia, 1430
Afternoon free in Perth
- Day 3 - At leisure in Perth – Golf optional
- Day 4 - First match of the Tour Perth
- Day 5 - Tour of Fremantle
Evening – Barbecue and Winery tour,
Houghton Winery (Perth)
- Day 6 - Tour of Margaret River Region, South of Western
Australia. Swim with the Dolphins and Barbecue
at Voyager Estate Winery
- Day 7 - Second match of Tour Perth
- Day 8 - Depart Perth for Adelaide 1025. Arrive 1705.
- Day 9 - Third match of Tour Adelaide
- Day 10 - am Tour of Adelaide and Glenelg.
pm/evening Tour of BRL Hardy Winery HQ and
Barbecue
- Day 11 - Fourth match of Tour (Berri, Riverland Region).
Evening/overnight – Houseboats on River Murray,
moor at Banrock Station for Barbecue
- Day 12 - am – water skiing on River Murray (optional)
Return Houseboats to Renmark
pm – Golf at Denmark Country Club (optional)
Sand buggy racing (optional)
Tennis/sightseeing (optional)
- Day 13 - Depart Adelaide for Sydney 1050. Arrive 1310.
Free afternoon in Sydney
- Day 14 - Fifth match of Tour v. Eastern Suburbs CC
(Sydney)

- Day 15- Free day sightseeing in Sydney
- Day 16- Day on Sydney Harbour aboard Nerida skippered by Sir James Hardy
- Day 17- Sixth Match of Tour v. Parramatta District CC (Sydney)
- Day 18- Seventh Match of Tour v Penrith CC (Sydney)
- Day 19- Tour of Blue Mountains
- Day 20- Eighth Match of Tour at the Bradman Oval, Bowral
- Day 21- Free day in Sydney
1710 Depart Sydney for Heathrow
- Day 22- 0540 Arrive Heathrow

We have formed a Tour Committee comprised of the following members:

Adrian Ford
Nigel Russell
Neil Bushell
Charlie Hartridge

What a splendid itinerary – please use the enclosed form to sign up post haste!

The Dinner - 3rd April 1998

Eighty six, a record number for modern times, attended the re-vamped Annual Dinner in early April. The Old Ship Hotel, which had been a regular venue for Martlets Dinners in past years, was selected and they did us well: excellent facilities, good food and thoughtful service provided an ideal atmosphere which was enjoyed by everyone.



The evening was graced with a star-studded guest list including a very good turnout from Sussex CCC. County Chairman Robin Marlar was the principal speaker and he told

us of his wide ranging ambitions for Sussex; it was also a pleasure to host Chief Executive Tony Pigott together with the now 1st team coach, Peter Moores whose benefit year this is. We were particularly delighted to welcome for the first time the newly appointed Captain, Chris Adams, and his wife; we witnessed from Chris a determination to succeed on and off the field and we took the opportunity to wish him the very best of luck in his raising the profile of Sussex cricket. How encouraging it was to see such a positive and buoyant attitude amongst the Sussex staff (and how long overdue!).



John Barclay (left) and Sandy Ross

Our own Chairman Adrian Ford outlined the Martlet year in his "State of the Nation" speech and he described the much needed changes he has bought about in our Club. Members raised over £600 in the raffle which included, amongst other generously donated gifts, London and Brighton theatre tickets, wine and champagne courtesy of Adrian Ford and Richard Moore, dinner for two at the four star Ashdown Park Hotel, a day with Channel 4 Racing donated by Lynne Callaway and vouchers from Nick Wisdom and Holmewoods Insurance Services (via David Collard). Our grateful thanks to all those who gave raffle gifts. We were pleased also to make a donation of £100 to Peter Moores's benefit for which he graciously thanked the Martlets.

The Committee now feels that the right formula has been achieved for our Dinner, and in future it will continue to be held on an annual basis after the season in October. Because



Tony Pigott, Sir Michael Marshall and Sussex Captain Chris Adams

it would have followed hot on the heels of the April Dinner, it was decided not to hold another event in October this year, but to wait until October 1999. As a pre-Australia tour Dinner this one will be a very special occasion - watch out for further announcements!

1998 SEASON By John Newton

Of the 40 fixtures scheduled, 10 were won, 6 were drawn and 12 were lost. 8 were cancelled or affected by the rain and 4

other games were not played – Lancing College, Ardingly College, Warwickshire Pilgrims and Cryptics.

Rain affected 20% of games, however the old problem of members dropping out at the last minute was most evident and the cricket sub-committee will be monitoring this problem next year. The sub-committee were disappointed with the number of losses and again this will be addressed next season.

On a brighter note there were some fine performances by members with 'Bat and Ball' which resulted in wins against Midhurst, Christ's Hospital, Stragglers of Asia, Incogs, Forty Club, Bluemantles and Yellowhammers.

In superb games we just lost to the M. C. C. and drew with the Earl of Arundel's XI at the Castle.

Charlie Hartridge, John Goodacre and Richard Seager were the main run makers this season, being well supported by Richard and David Gutteridge, John Carr and Johnny Wills. Centuries were scored by Richard Seager and James Sadler.

On the bowling front Michael Harrison bowled consistently well in his first year as a senior. Ben Newton took 6 for 41 against Midhurst, Nigel Russell 5 for 90 against the Juniors and Ian Faulkner 5 for 14 against Newick. However, the outstanding performance was one Colin Oliver-Redgate against S.Y.C. with figures of 4.1 overs, 3 maidens, 1 run for 5 wickets against the cream of Sussex youth. Not bad for 50+!

The Club ran a mini-tour to the West Country and played 2 games and won 2 games !

Keith Manning, Charlie Hartridge and John Newton managed to persuade 11 members to tour. First day 17th June at North Perrott against Dorset Rangers – Sussex Martlets batted first with Neil Bushell and Alex Hoare putting on 61 for the first wicket. Alex continued to bat aggressively and shared in a partnership of 73 with Charlie Hartridge, eventually being out for a well hit 63. Charlie went on to stroke 90 not out. John Goodacre, John Newton and Mike Harrison chipped in with useful support to Charlie and the innings was declared at 262 for 5. Dorset Rangers, not helped by the rain, were never up with the run rate and were bowled out for 123 by the Martlets. Martin Krause 3 for 52, Colin Oliver-Redgate 2 for 10 and Keith Manning 3 for 11 did the damage. We then adjourned to the Hotel and enjoyed a very pleasant dinner together.

The next day we travelled into Devon to play the Dumplings at Knightshayes, a National Trust House and Gardens near Tiverton. The Martlets batted first and made 242 for 6 declared. David Gutteridge made 28, but a great stand between Charlie Hartridge, who made 73 not out and John Goodacre 87, enabled the side to amass a respectable total. Steady bowling on a wet wicket kept the Dumplings restricted and they were all out for 162. Good performances from Sandy Ross 3 for 43, Martin Krouse 3 for 3 and John Newton 2 for

26 were recorded. The Tour was judged a great success despite the rain and should be repeated.

The touring party below were: Back Row - David Gutteridge, John Goodacre, Keith Manning, John Newton, Charlie Hartridge, Sandy Ross, Michael Wingfield Digby Maurice Charman (umpire). Front Row - Colin Oliver-Redgate, Alex Hoare, Martin Krause and Michael Harrison. Neil Bushell is not pictured.



The cricket sub-committee urge members to play more often, not to cry off once committed and to recruit good quality, compatible candidates to ensure we meet the club's responsibilities when playing other sides.

Junior Martlets By John Bushell

The Junior Martlets played their customary 4 fixtures against The Bluemantles, Babes of Kent, Hampshire Hoggets and the Senior Club (below) at Arundel.



Although three matches were lost and only one won, the boys impressed with their standard of play and general conduct, particularly at Arundel. It was still difficult to raise sides and as always members are asked to help by submitting names of possible players from all areas of education, ages 14-17. In 1999 some matches at under 15 level are being planned and Ham Whitty, a welcome addition to the Junior sub-committee, is taking this on board.

On a bright note, 4 excellent young Junior Martlets have been elected to the Senior Club for 1999.

Free coaching for promising juniors is going to be made available at the Arundel Cricket School, so let us see some submissions

Non-Playing Membership

By Peter Collymore

The Club's lunch for non-playing members at Arundel was held on Sunday 16th August when the Martlets were playing the Earl of Arundel's XI. It was a wonderful sunny day and about 18 people turned up for lunch and several others appeared from time to time during the day. Many thanks to Mike Charman for his help.

We were able to sit down at a long table, consume a delicious lunch and discuss fantastic feats of cricket prowess through hazy memories. Hubert Doggart welcomed us and wrote the following celebratory ode printed on the match card.

Hail, Sussex Martlets ! 'Welcome' from the Earl.

Your triple-coloured ensign here unfurl,

Your tents here pitch, your steeds caparison,

Beneath the Presidential flag of Harrison.

Prepare your cannon, culverin and cartridge

Upon the word of Secretary Hartridge.

Maybe the Earl's side to the foe will yield,

Maybe we'll watch the Martlets flee the field.

Whate'er the score, we'll savour, as we sip,

The combat and the close companionship.

We thank him very much for the ode and suspect it is the first poem concerning the Martlets. By the way, in case it had slipped your memory, my dictionary reminds me that a culverin is a 'large cannon or small firearm'. This seems imprecise but I suppose that the Martlets have some of both!

We are now working on other ways to celebrate by perhaps visiting the Varsity rugby match or having a day or evening at Goodwood. However, I hope that we will be able to have another lunch up at Arundel castle next year.

Down Memory Lane

It is the intention of this slot to take a trip down memory lane to remember some Martlet 'greats'. I am indebted to Brian O'Gorman, who qualifies on his own account, for the following.

M.D.Nelligan 1930-1954

M.D.Nelligan was a splendid bowler, firstly for Horsham in the 1920's, Worthing in the 1930's and for Middleton subsequently, at medium-fast and later, medium pace.

He approached the stumps with an upright strutting gait and delivered in-swingers with a deadly leg-cutter as a wicket taking variation. Many the batsman who related playing against him and feeling that the bowling posed no obvious difficulty until edging the perfectly pitched cutter to slip. (The leg-cutter seems to have a particular affinity to Sussex bowlers, the seaside grounds offering assistance with a touch of dampness allowing the seam to grip and the ball to do more than merely hold its line.)

Not unnaturally Hove and Middleton were M.D.'s happy hunting grounds. But he had surprised many on the flawless Worthing wickets of pre-war years.

He was very competitive and liked to win, being an ally, at Worthing, of the redoubtable J.K.Mathews. It was something of a double act for them to convince visitors that the pitch hid every devilment and make the mistake of asking Worthing to bat first.

Another 100 for J.K. and five more wickets for M.D.

At Middleton, post War, the process was reversed. Early morning help would reduce the London visitors to 5 or 6 down by lunch, enabling Middleton to do what they were best at chasing a target.

He was always an admirer of the Sussex professionals and often related how he had bowled at John Langridge, then at the height of his powers, keeping him quiet for an hour and a half. "But I bowled him two short ones and he hit them both for four." As a Headmaster M.D. was always vitally aware of the need to develop young players and he took over the running of the Junior Martlets in the early fifties attracting many fine players and giving the team a strong identity of its own and introducing many to the enjoyment of Martlet cricket and the Club. Quite apart from his playing ability this is his enduring legacy and the debt modern players owe him.

Golf.

John Whittaker (pictured below) reports on the Martlets Golf day he organised for members in the spring.



On April 2nd 1998 the inaugural Martlets Golf Day was held at the Mid-Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling. The idea was to bring together Martlet golfers, young and old and irrespective of handicap, to enjoy playing at this relatively new Club situated just below the South Downs over what had once been a stud farm. There was also a serious purpose to the exercise, in that the Martlets Golf Society, run for so many years in such a

dedicated and benignly efficient way by Dan Mathews, needed to recruit younger members for the future, and it was encouraging to find in a field of 24 golfers who appeared for the day several such players.

It was important to find a location that would appeal not only to golfers but to those who enjoy hitting a ball round a course and Mid-Sussex, also being relatively flat, did not sap the energy of those not used to 18 holes of golf. Many of us found the course quite long and the greens tricky with their contours making the lines difficult to read and more than one of us found water on various occasions.

Fortified by delicious bacon sandwiches and coffee on arrival, we teed off at 10 minute intervals in bright and pleasant conditions, which unfortunately deteriorated during the round making playing rather unpleasant for a short while. Nevertheless everyone survived and returned to the clubhouse well-exercised and generally having enjoyed themselves, the competition for the Martlet Trophy having been played on a Stableford basis. The results proved rather successful for two sets of brothers, David Gutteridge with a score of 41 points being the first winner of the Trophy and his brother Richard runner-up with 40 points. The winner of the over 17 handicap was Peter Riddy with 37 points and mention must also be made of his brother Jack who came third with 39 points. Significantly all these four are relatively young and although we have seen David and Richard in Martlet Golf before, it was the first time for Jack and Peter.

The day concluded with an excellent three-course evening meal produced by the Club and the general feeling at the end of the day was that the occasion was one to be repeated. As the organiser it only remains for me to thank those who attended for their enthusiastic support and also all those who sent good wishes for a successful day.



David Gutteridge (right) receives his winners trophy from **Adrian Ford**.

RESULTS

The Martlet Trophy -	David Gutteridge	41 pts.
Runner-up -	Richard Gutteridge	40 pts.
Over 17 handicap -	Peter Riddy	37 pts.

Dan Mathews By Ham Whitty

John Mathews, affectionately known to everyone as Dan, has been Hon. Secretary of the Sussex Martlets Golfing Society for so long that not even he can recall exactly when he took over from his father J.K. Records indicate however that it was 1953, forty five years ago.



Dan is much too modest to admit that in his day he was a formidable match player, and when Felsted reached the semi-final of the Halford Hewitt foursomes he was one of the mainstays of the side. He won countless cups and even managed to carry his younger brother through to winning the Royal Mid-Surrey (where he now plays foursomes) in the late 50's.

Dan served in the RAF during the war and to his amazement found himself, after his plane was shot down, being interrogated by a German who had lived in Brighton and who seemed

unaware that the bomb that was dropped on the county Ground when the Martlets were playing there, failed to explode.

As a useful club cricketer Dan was a prolific hitter, once scoring a 100 in rapid time mainly in 4s and 6s, and later won a match against his old school in the last over by lofting the ball out of the ground on to the roof of the local pub, where his feat was duly celebrated after the game.

He also captained Hurlingham for years and initiated the Martlets game there, always managing to raise a good side, worthy of the Club's reputation.

However it is as secretary of the Golf that most of us will remember him. The society continues to flourish, rather differently, perhaps, from the time in the late 1930s when Dan was summoned by JK to appear, or perhaps 'disappear', might be a more appropriate way of describing the match, as it was played in a mist and Dan, with his pencil bag, a spoon, a mashie and a putter was picked to play with his father who was the only one to know his way round the course !

Now that he is retiring we would like to thank him most sincerely for his friendship and firm guidance in keeping the Martlet golfing traditions in such good heart. Dan is held in high regard and with much affection not only by his fellow Martlet golfers, but by all those who play against us for their various clubs. We all therefore hope that we may be able to persuade him to continue to play for the society in some or all of those matches which we now enjoy and which he did so much to maintain.

**THE SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET
CLUB ACADEMY
SPONSORED BY THE SUSSEX
MARTLETS**

The County's Director of Excellence, Chris Waller, last season introduced the Club's Academy which aims to take boys with outstanding potential already playing in various County youth squads on a fast track toward the First Class game. Specialist coaching, tours and fixtures against other Academies all conducted within the professional environment will aim to prepare talent for a rapid introduction to life at the top. Chris hopes that his methods will encourage the cream of Sussex's youth to stay the tough course, particularly at the most vulnerable stage, right at the beginning of their tentative careers.

Having been the benefactors of good fortune in the past, many Martlets felt that more needed to be put back into the game by those of us who continue to gain such pleasure from our sport. After discussing in detail the ambitions of the Academy with Chris Waller, the Committee felt that this was an appropriate direction for sponsorship. Richard Moore's charity, the Sandra Trust, kindly donated on behalf of the Martlets the magnificent sum of £5000, and our thanks go to him for his considerable generosity and commitment to youth Cricket.

In return for this donation the Martlet name will be used in connection with the Academy, thus advertising our presence and commitment widely amongst the County's youth. The scheme is being trialled in 1999, and if successful, it will be repeated annually. We will continue to report on the Academy's progress to you, but in the meantime, I hope all members will join me in thanking Richard Moore once again for his vision.

CLUBWEAR

Nick Wisdom reports a successful first year with the extended Sussex Martlet range of clothing. Members are reminded that

Wisdom Sports carry a good stock of sweaters, sweat shirts, cricket shirts, golf sweaters, T shirts, ties and caps.

Do visit Nick at any time at his shop in South Road, Haywards Heath or call him on 01444 451370.

EVENTS FOR 1999

The AGM will be held on Saturday 20th March at 12.00 in the Old Players Dining Room, at the County Ground, Hove. Please do make every effort to attend this important meeting of the Club which is an excellent opportunity to discuss pre season matters.

The second Martlet Golf Day will be held at the Mid Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling on Friday 9th April. Contact John Whittaker on 01323 491683 to book your place.

A Members Race Day will be held on Thursday 20th May at Goodwood which is Royal Sussex Cup day. Contact either Chris Gray on 01273 832307 or Nigel Russell on 01825 712101.

The Non Playing Members day at Arundel Castle will again take place on the occasion of our match with the Earl of Arundel's XI on Sunday 15th August.

The Dinner will be held once again in Brighton in the Autumn and further details will be circulated shortly.

The Editor invites suggestions, contributions, photographs for use in the next edition.

And finally.....

The Chairman has decided to hang up his Arundel boots and at the start of his final innings at the Castle he was provided with a guard of honour by his team mates. Younger members of the side were concerned that Adrian might not make it to the wicket and Colin Dick obliged by driving him out on a tractor to face his first ball!



Some of your committee hard at work!!

From Left to Right:
Keith Manning,
Sandy Ross,
Derek Semmence,
David Gutteridge,
Mark Lawrence,
Richard Gutteridge
and Adrian Ford