



The Martlet

Issue Number 4

April 2001

Dear Members

I am embarking on my final year in office as Chairman and it is my hope and intent to leave a legacy of a thriving Club, with an exciting and strong future. Of course this would not be of my personal doing but rather from the continued support of the Committee and a real commitment from all members to support the Club in every way.

In my review at the Annual Dinner, I alluded to the problems facing Wandering Cricket Clubs going into the 21st Century. These included the difficulties in raising sides for their fixtures and a declining membership.

We know that time is a precious commodity these days and that there is considerable pressure on us all in our working lives. Little or no job security results in the need to maintain longer working hours than ever before. This results in less hours to devote to our families who, quite rightly, demand more quality time with us.

Many good cricketers play league cricket on Saturdays and face the dilemma of whether to play additionally on Sundays and mid-week. Added to this scenario is the fact that we all have an abundance of choice in the modern era of other activities in which we can participate, such as the myriad of other sport and leisure pursuits plus the ever-growing and diverse computer generated offerings!

Thus there is a need for Wandering Clubs to re-examine their modus-operandi and to determine the means by which they can uphold their traditions whilst providing for the needs of the modern game and players. There is no club better placed to do this than the Sussex Martlets. We have all the ingredients at our disposal to build upon an already sound infrastructure to counter the adversities that face others and remain in the vanguard as a strong and successful Wandering Club.

The modern age in which we live requires modern thinking and I detail below my blueprint for the Club, using the modern idioms of 'Our Goal' and 'Our Mission Statement'.

Our Goal

'To provide our membership with a professionally managed and successful cricket club whilst upholding our valued traditions'.

Our Mission Statement

The Sussex Martlets will provide all playing members with quality cricket managed by proficient Match Managers.

We will ensure this provision of quality cricket through the on-going development and encouragement of the Match Managers.

The Committee of the Sussex Martlets will be a proactive, balanced representation of past and present playing members combining experience with youth and being cogniscent of the need to adapt and provide for the requirements of the modern game.

We will place great emphasis on the development of the Junior Martlets in the knowledge that this sector will provide the 'life blood' for the Club's future.

We will strive to uphold the privilege of playing at our 'spiritual' home at the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club by maintaining both our valued friendship with FACCC and the standard of our sides that play there.

We will continue to forge close links with the Sussex County Cricket Club and maintain our sponsorship of the Sussex County Cricket Academy for as long as it may be possible and prudent to do so.

We will continue to encourage all members (both playing and non-playing) to commit themselves to the Club in support of its' cricketing and social activities.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy and successful season.

Yours sincerely

Adrian R Ford

Chairman

MARTLETS CRICKET 2000

By Richard Gutteridge

It was a season starting in Australia and ending in East Grinstead; we saw many close matches with some excellent Martlet victories.

Australia was obviously a huge success, and games were played at the finest venues against some extremely tough opposition, but returning to familiar territory in Sussex we were not blessed with the same weather conditions! Rain disrupted many fixtures; Eastbourne College's visit to Arundel was rain affected, and Wisborough Green followed suit.

We had a good win at Midhurst. An outstanding performance from the two Lancing School openers Wood, with an unbeaten 106, and Wakeford, with 117, saw off the Martlets bowlers at Lancing. Rain was then to blame for the loss of the MCC, the Stragglers of Asia, and then the HAC. The Sussex Academy beat us this year but we look forward to next season when the match is to be held at the County Ground Hove: an exciting prospect!

Anthony McAlister did well in his inaugural match as manager of the game with Christ's Hospital which finished in a draw.

We had a fine victory over the Forty Club chasing 270 at Lancing College, and then victory (at last – Ed!) over Bradfield Waifs where the seasons best bowling figures came from Alistair Awcock, a Junior Martlet, with 7-53.

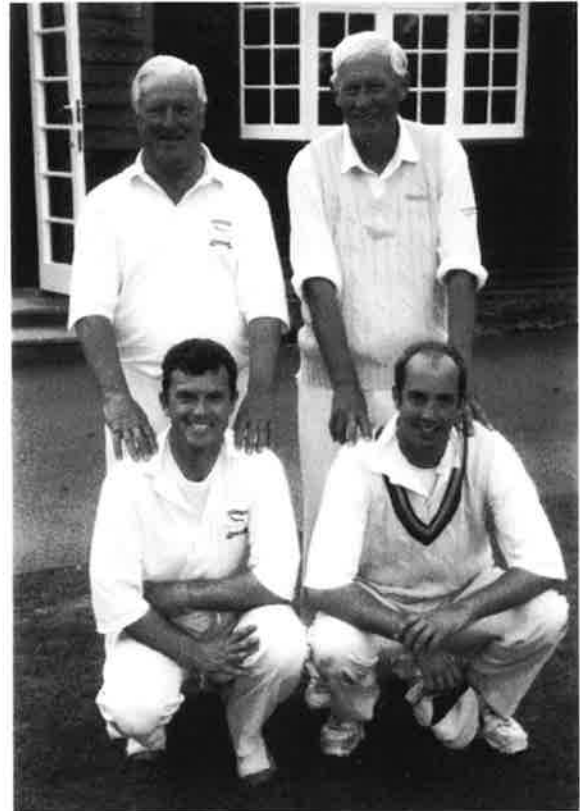
On a steaming hot day in August, the Martlets had one of their highest points of the season with a sensational victory over the Earl of Arundel's XI. A buzzing Arundel saw Tim O'Gorman at his best with an unbeaten 120, and victory came off the last ball!

It was a fun season for all those who took part. A big thank you to the match managers who put in so much time raising sides. It would be great to see more people applying for matches so that teams can be planned several weeks ahead of the game and this would make the managers' job so much easier.

Next season is almost upon us. The match against The Sussex Academy at Hove on Monday 2nd July is certainly one to look forward to. Hopefully the sun will shine for Eastbourne College's visit to Arundel on 29th

April, and we welcome the HAC to Arundel for the first time on Sunday 8th July.

Finally, we are eager to have more players on the candidates' list so don't forget to spread the word wherever possible and do let us know of any likely lads!



Two Generations of Wills, Geoff and Johnny, (left) and Semmences, Derek and Mark, (right) at Arundel

THE JUNIOR MARTLETS 2000

By John Bushell

The Junior Martlets played five matches in 2000, drawing four and losing one. The heavy defeat against the Babes of Kent was a disappointment but we had full sides for every match and around thirty young players between the ages of 14 and 17 will be around for next year so the picture is optimistic. The Junior Martlets have a crucial role to play in the Club as a whole potentially providing a supply of keen young cricketers and ensuring a balance between young and old, or should I say mature, at the Senior level. A classic example of this was the success of Alistair Awcock who at 17 on debut for the Seniors took 7 wickets at Goodwood. We can no longer expect young players these days to automatically gravitate to the senior ranks. They need to

be nurtured and encouraged to play and that is something that all club members can assist in.

I should like to thank Dennis McAlister and Derek Semmence for all their help with sides this year and hope that a recruiting campaign in the spring will encourage both old and new Juniors to represent the Club this summer. It is worthwhile indicating that the following schools provided players in 2000 and I hope that they will again do so:

Brighton College, Christ's Hospital, Hurstpierpoint College, Lancing College, Northbrook College, HaywardsHeath College, The Weald School, Our Lady of Sion at Worthing, Lewes Grammar, Worthing Vith Form College, Downlands, St Andrews High School, Eton, Tonbridge and Sherborne.

MARTLETS IN THE 1950s

By Keith Jenkin

Two articles recently reminded me of my early Martlets days. The first by Dan Matthews in the recent "The Martlet" and secondly the obituary of Bob Stainton our senior Vice President (*also in this edition - ed*).

I spent all my spare time at the County Ground (annual sub 5/6d, or about 26 pence now) from about 1937 onwards, so must have seen Bob play then and in 1946. I played several times for him in Martlet matches. He thought nothing of my batting, but twice or more I found myself bowling anything up to 30 overs, non-stop. Running between the wickets was a nightmare as he was not the quickest of runners and he was over 40 then.

It was one name in Dan Matthew's articles, that of Cecil Somerset, which stirred my memory. He had white hair (not much), a lovely Edwardian moustache and always wore a very faded cap. He adopted the Edwardian age batting style, "drive forward" at every opportunity. Perspiring bowlers found themselves despatched regularly anywhere between cover and third man, depending on the length of their bowling. Two stories, and I can vouch for the truth of neither. His father, or grandfather took a first class side to the West Indies when Cecil was about 15 and he went as the baggage boy. Internal disorders promoted him into the side so he

claimed to have played for an England X1. In later years he was told he was putting on weight and should take up jogging. He did and had a heart attack!

Other names from that era, all well-known Martlets of my vintage. Bill Kenning who drove a vintage car and held up notices saying "no brakes". I asked him once if he had ever worked. "Tried the City in 1919 for a few weeks, and didn't like it." He died up a tree (genuine) bird watching. Leslie Beeson, another non-worker, always with a long cigarette holder, in his open Rolls Royce. In later years, a wicket keeper of variable efficiency, and one had to reckon on at least 50 byes in one's declaration. Keeping to Paul Winslow who went on the South African tour side as a fast bowler, the fine leg and third man were really two long stops!

Immediate post war cricket was a bit haphazard. We often did not get the fixture card until mid May. Two years of being thrashed at Christ's Hospital led to a threat to drop the fixture, but David Dickinson took over and we won the next six in a row. At one of those games, Peter Rushden (uncle of Willie) arrived with his hands metaphorically dripping in blood having beaten his record for extracting tonsils.

At Winchester, Eddy Harrison invited me to open the batting with him. In about the third over I called for a sharp single, changed my mind, and he was run out comfortably. The incoming batsman suggested I stay in for at least an hour to allow him to cool down! In 1946, he was described in the press as the promising fast medium bowler who had played for Sussex. He twice took eight for very few against us at Hurst, and accepted the cricket master's suggestion that he stayed away for a bit.

One Martlet who had better remain nameless suddenly featured in the more lurid Sunday press having been stabbed in the backside with a carving fork when in a vulnerable position whilst playing away from home.

Martlet cricket really was great fun then (league cricket was something rather nasty played north of Watford). Great characters hold so many memories for me. Most of them have probably gone now. It would be interesting if one of my contemporaries could come up with other names and other anecdotes.

THE MARTLETS IN 2000 - A COACHES VIEW**By Ben Green**

Sitting here, watching the rain pouring down, brings my memories of early May flooding back! It was the wettest summer on record and I am sure that this pleased the bowling members of the club rather than the batters!

It was a season for many memories both on and off the field within the club, and also on the international stage. We saw signs that the England revival was more than just media speculation with consistently good performances against Zimbabwe and the West Indies, who whilst not being of the same standing of Australia or Pakistan, still had their own World Class players to trouble us.

My own favourite recollections consisted of a faultless century by Alec Stewart at Old Trafford on his 100th appearance for England and the sustained rejuvenation of Craig White who proved a lot of people wrong about his ability in the international Test arena.

From the touring sides, obviously the pairing of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose was awesome, and I know that a few opening batsmen will heave a sigh of relief now that Curtly has hung up his boots. I am sure that many people will hope Courtney gets to the magic total of 500 wickets this winter, as it will be just reward for the most humble of West Indian Cricketers. (Watch Out Oz)

Back to the Martlets' season - after a wet start with many games suffering from the weather, there was the odd sunny day which brought out the best in the Martlets' players. On the batting front, an unbroken stand of 250 + by Derek Semmence and Richard Seager against Hurstpierpoint College was a wonderful effort by both men. On the bowling front Sandy Ross again dominated and bowled superbly well to take many wickets, and when not bowling had time to keep control of any unruly dogs that happened to be watching.

Mark Semmence produced a great three over spell at Goodwood to dismiss the tail enders and finish the innings very quickly, and Saqlain Mushtaq has nothing on the spinner that was unearthed at Cuckfield who turned the ball sideways and looked very much like the editor of this Newsletter!

With many of us were glued to the television to see how England performed this winter, it can be said that Cricket is now beginning to re-emerge from the depths of the last ten years, and I can assure readers, that things are

moving in the right direction. Working in the coaching environment with Surrey CCC, it is very pleasing to hear people, both young and old, be positive about the game.

To bring this article to a close we must also highlight how well the Junior Martlets have done and also to say that we must continue their development to strengthen the club in future years. So, all in all, the club is in very good hands and, in this day, that is no mean achievement with other clubs struggling more and more. Here's to a very productive 2001 season.

THE DINNER - 28th OCTOBER 2000**By Nigel Russell**

Despite the best efforts of the wind and the sea to gate-crash the party in Brighton on a very blustery evening, the Old Ship Hotel provided a warm refuge for record numbers on this October Saturday. In fact although 90 had originally booked in, 'flu and floods prevented 8 from attending on the night. The great pleasure of these evenings is meeting up with old chums, and thanks to Chris Snell and Nick Rimmer who organised a table each of "golden oldies", stories of Martlet heroics of yesteryear became quite embellished as the evening wore on - some of us were a little surprised that more weren't considered for an England cap!

The hotel staff excelled themselves with the quality of the food this year, and thanks to the generosity of BRL Hardy Wines who provided the evening's wine, we were indeed fortunate in having such a gourmet dinner. BRL Hardy have been great supporters of the Martlets, particularly of course in connection with the tour to Oz, and we were delighted to welcome a group of 10 ladies and gentlemen from the company as our guests. It is always a pleasure to invite friends from Arundel, and John Barclay with Colin and Veronica Dick represented a strong team from the Castle! This year we invited two guest speakers; first, to propose the health of the Club, was Dave Gilbert, the Chief Executive at Sussex, who painted a forthright picture of the problems and aspirations at Hove. Despite being disappointed with the County's performance, the Martlets listened sympathetically to his perceptive analysis of the season, and with encouragement for his unenviable "to do" list for next season. Chris Saunders, a Vice President himself, entertained us with great humour to some outrageous school reminiscences before proposing a toast to the guests.

Once again the table organisers distinguished themselves, and much of the credit for the evening's success must go their way for their hard work in producing a strong gathering. Those who gave so generously toward the raffle will be pleased to know that we raised nearly £500 on the night; Jeremy Blanchard was particularly pleased with the bottle which he won and then so generously passed round the room – only when the ingredients caused a severe burn on a table napkin, did sense prevail and he kindly donated the poor bottle to the kitchen as a scouring substitute!

Your committee met recently to reflect on the dinner's future and while they readily accepted that this year's event had been a great success, particularly for the older members, there was concern that we were not doing enough for the younger element who appear not to support this annual meeting enthusiastically. It has been decided therefore to trial a new system which envisages holding a formal Dinner biannually, with a less formal gathering for the boys in the intervening year. This year will be the first of the less formal parties and we will advertise the date and location shortly; as always we will look forward to seeing you there!

THE GOLFING YEAR

By Ham Whitty

The first year of the new millennium proved to be a good one for the golfing Martlets. A total of 44 Martlets took part in 9 matches and the Golf Day in April, which is very encouraging and evidence of the popularity of this hugely enjoyable form of golf. We are indeed privileged to continue to play on such wonderful courses and fortunate to enjoy the warm welcome and generous hospitality of so many of the leading Sussex Clubs; we are most grateful.

Statistically speaking the record was disappointing, for out of the 9 matches, the Martlets lost 6, tied 2 at Piltown and Brighton & Hove, and scored one notable victory at Hankley Common under Gordon Smyth's stirring leadership. Invariably however in the lost games many of the individual matches were decided on the 18th hole. We were mostly lucky with the weather.

Highlights of the season were perhaps a most successful tied inaugural match on the downs at Brighton & Hove, a brilliant day at West Sussex where no less than 20

Martlets took part, and an excellent turnout of 14 Martlets for the last and always enjoyable day at Rye.

John Whittaker organised the third annual golf day at the Mid Sussex Club near Ditchling in April, when 15 Martlets turned out, and the competition was won by Dennis McAlister who does so much for the Junior Martlet cricketers, with the younger Seaton, Matt, a welcome runner-up.

We look forward to more good golf in 2001 and I am sure that all this year's 44 Martlet golfers would join me in encouraging more Martlets, particularly the younger generation, to come and play next year in one or two matches. You will be most welcome and I know how much you will enjoy yourselves.

MARTLETS AND THEIR FRIENDS REMEMBERED

R.G. STANTON

With great sadness we record the death of Bob Stainton who was the Martlets senior Vice President. The article below, written by George Chesterton, is reproduced from the Playfair Cricket magazine:

"RG (Bob) Stainton died on August 15 aged 90. At his best he was an elegant, free scoring batsman, the hallmark of his play being a square drive wide of cover point's left hand. Amongst his finest innings he made 89 in a stand of 210 batting with FGH Clarke for Oxford against the West Indies in 1933. This was the year he won a blue, although he failed in the Varsity match, falling respectively to Jahingir Khan and Ken Farnes. It is interesting to note that over 17,000 spectators came through the turnstiles at Lord's. Oxford hung on for a draw.

He first played for Sussex in 1936. As a schoolmaster most of his appearances were of necessity in the holidays, but in 1938 he played rather more, deputising as captain when AJ Holmes was not available. In that year he made 58 against the Australians, took part in a partnership of 132 in an hour with Hugh Bartlett against Northamptonshire and later in the season contributed a valuable 71 in a 10-wicket win over Gloucestershire. His highest score for the county was 73 in 1947, his last season. He played 45 times for Sussex averaging 24.5.

After his retirement from first-class cricket he played regularly for the Sussex Martlets and Free Foresters. For 20 years he was a loyal supporter of the Old Malvernians cricket tour, at the age of 45 making a hundred in each innings against Old Eastbournians, and his fielding was as sharp as ever. Having also been a football blue, for many years he represented the Malvernians in this sport. He became headmaster of Glengorse Preparatory School in 1955, retiring relatively young in 1967 to become a professional artist. He is survived by his wife and two daughters."

LORD COWDREY OF TONBRIDGE

Many will have heard with sadness about the death of Colin Cowdrey in December 2000, and will have seen since the enormous volume of words written about this great and influential man. He was an enthusiastic friend of the Martlets, and regularly appeared to watch our games at Arundel. Those who had the privilege to know him or simply to talk to him will miss Colin's keen advocacy for the spirit of cricket, particularly at the Castle, his modesty, and his boundless encouragement for all cricketers. Cricket has lost a great ambassador, a wise counsellor and one of life's very finest gentlemen. Sandy Ross was one of several Martlets who attended his recent Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey.

MARY-LOU BARCLAY

Our deepest sympathies go to John Barclay following the passing of Mary-Lou in November 2000. John has the best wishes and support of all Martlets over this very difficult time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Martlets fixtures for 2001 at Arundel Castle are scheduled as follows:

- Sun 29 Apr Eastbourne College
- Sun 20 May MCC
- Sun 8 Jul HAC
- Thu 12 Jul Lancing Rovers
- Sun 29 Jul Earl of Arundel's XI
- Thu 16 Aug Junior Martlets
- Wed 22 Aug Buccaneers
- Wed 29 Aug Hampshire Hogs

Do please make a special effort to support the Martlets at the Earls' game on Sunday 29th July. Peter Collymore organises a splendid party which includes lunch and long lingering (embellished) stories down memory lane. Book early with Peter on 01798-342978.

AND FINALLY....

COMMITTEE NEWS

Congratulations to Sandy Ross who will take over from Adrian Ford as Chairman in September this year for a two year term. We are delighted to report that rather than slipping into oblivion, Adrian has agreed to continue on the Committee!

EDITORIAL

Once again the editor would be delighted to hear from any member young or old, playing or non-playing with comment, criticism and contribution for the next edition. Please contact Chris Gray on 01273-832307, who will be delighted to hear from you.

THE MESSAGE FOR 2001 IS... ..

"Support your Club and make 2001 a year to remember"

To those who don't turn out regularly for the Martlets, surprise yourself and give it a go – you might even enjoy it! Match Managers would be delighted to hear from you, and their phone numbers can be found in the Handbook.